

# FIRST PRIZE

## The Monkey Goes to School

It was the first day of school. I was so excited to go. I got ready so fast, and my mom dropped me off.

When I got to class, I was so surprised to see a monkey sitting at a desk. I asked my teacher why there was a monkey in our class. She said he was a new student. I started to laugh. Then, all of a sudden, the monkey started to laugh too. I was shocked that he talked.

He said, "My name is Jupitar, and I'm a space monkey. I came here to see how humans learn."

I said, "Wow! That's so cool." I asked Jupitar to sit beside me. We became friends.

I showed Jupitar how we read and write. He taught me all about space. We played every day. He came over to my house to meet my family.

One day, Jupitar said, "I want to take you to an adventure." I was so excited.

We went to space in a rocket ship. I saw the stars, moon, and planets. After we were done, we returned back to Earth. Jupitar said it was time for him to go home, back to his family. I said, "Thank you for everything. I hope we can be friends."

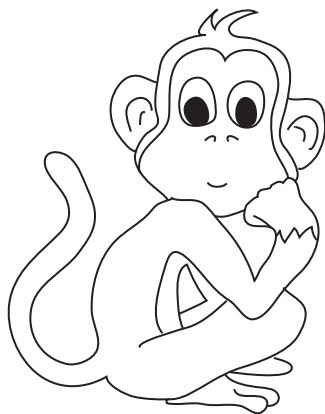
Jupiter said, "Yes, we can." And he gave me a magic phone that we could use to talk.

I kept the phone in a special place. Each week, I called Jupitar.

*by Andersen Chan-Kim* (Kindergarten)

Sidney Ledson Institute

North York, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Ballerina

Once upon a time, there was a girl. She lived in a cottage.

One day, she thought about being a ballerina. She thought it would be very fun. She saw a ballerina place and a sign that said, “How to be a ballerina,” so she walked inside.

There was a person. The person said, “Do you want to be a ballerina?”

The girl said, “Yes, how much is it for ballerina lessons?”

The person said, “Just twenty dollars, and my name is Tracy. You just have to wait for ten minutes. You can walk outside and have some fun. We will call you, and you can come back for the ballerina lesson.”

The girl walked outside, and she saw something shiny. She walked more closely to it, and she saw it was a pair of sparkly ballerina shoes. She tried them on, and they made her dance perfectly like a ballerina. Then she took them off. She looked at her watch, and it had been ten minutes. She walked back to the ballerina place with the sparkly ballerina shoes.

Tracy said, “It’s time to dance!” The girl put on her sparkly ballerina shoes. “Do the plié,” Tracy said, and the girl did it so well that the teacher asked, “Have you done this a million times?”

“No, it’s my first time,” the girl said.

Then Tracy asked, “Will you be my teacher please?”

“Yes, of course,” the girl said. Then Tracy gave the girl a trophy.

*by Katrina McKenna* (Grade One)

South Slope Elementary School

Burnaby, British Columbia



# FIRST PRIZE

## A Hundred Fish

I was fishing early in the morning with Grampa. I had just hooked a fish when the knot came loose, and the fish swam away! I grabbed my net and scooped it up. I put the lure back on and caught another fish. And another. And another. And another, and three more! Before we knew it, we had one hundred fish!

I had so many fish that I didn't know how to get them home. My bait box could only hold a few fish and having the rest on Grampa's car seats would have been disgusting. We didn't want to throw the dead fish back in the lake, but we did have a shovel. So, we started to dig a hole to bury them until we could come back with a big truck.

As we dug, there was a big *clang!* My shovel hit something metal. We dug some more and saw that the metal thing was a missile launcher—how convenient! We dug it up, and I said, "Let's fire the fish home!"

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" Grampa said.

"What could possibly go wrong?" I replied.

So, we loaded the hundred fish into the missile launcher, and I yelled, "Fire!"

"Do you want to aim it first?" asked Grampa.

"Nah—let's just hope for the best," I said. "Fire!"

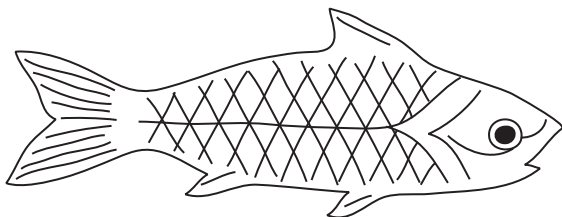
Grampa pushed the "fire" button. The fish went straight up and flew over the lake, over the treetops, almost to our house . . . but not quite. They splattered the houses, the cul-de-sacs, the cars, the sidewalks, the people, and everything else.

Some people enjoyed fresh fish. Others tried chasing us into the lake. I learned never to load fish into missile launchers and fire them home. But I would go fishing again.

by **James Rasmussen** (Grade Two)

Brentwood Elementary School

Brentwood Bay, British Columbia



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Boy

*Crack!*

“What was that?” It sounded like branches breaking!

I was camping in the woods with my family. I met a kid. I asked him what he was doing there. Brown eyes staring straight at me as if he were in the army and I was his captain or something. He looked scared. He said “I—” and disappeared into thin air. So, I began my research about people vanishing.

No one had the answers. I looked everywhere for the mysterious boy. I spoke to people in the nearby village. All of a sudden, I heard the same cracking noise in the trees. I saw the boy and called out. He said, “I am Michael. Sorry I had to disappear, but I am a wizard and my grandfather told me never to talk to a non-magical person. Magical people don’t just use magic; we are magic.”

“Are you lost?” I asked.

“Yes, my grandfather said I wasn’t old enough to learn strong magic, so I ran away. Now I don’t know where to go.”

“Well, you can come with us. We will care for you and keep your secret.”

“Okay, but I have to find a transportation spell to get home. Do you know someone who can help?”

“No! To regular people, magic is fake. But I know magic is real. My family and I leave tomorrow.”

One year later, we were sitting down for dinner. Michael didn’t want to eat. That wasn’t normal because he loved to eat. He got sicker and sicker by the moment. I knew we had to take Michael to the hospital.

I told the doctor that Michael was a wizard. The doctor understood because he was a wizard too. He asked me how long Michael had been here. “A year,” I said.

“Well, then he might *not last a week*,” said the doctor.

My heart was broken. This was the best year of my life. We were best friends. “I can’t let him die, and I have to tell Michael’s family that he is sick. The truth cannot be hidden forever, especially from family.” I planned to ask Michael how to reach his grandfather.

Then I heard yelling. It was Michael’s grandfather. What was he doing here?

“Why is my grandson in the hospital?”

“He wasn’t eating,” I said.

“I can help my grandson. The problem is that he needs to use a little magic every day and build up. I have to take him home to our world so he can get better, but I appreciate you taking care of him.”

“*Nooooo!* You can’t take him.”

“What? Why?”

“Because I can’t be without him! Please take me with you!”

**by Amanda Habert** (Grade Three)

The Toronto Heschel School

Toronto, Ontario

# FIRST PRIZE

## The Thing

In 1930, in space, there was a meteor that was heading to Earth. It landed, and no one noticed.

In 2019, the meteor cracked. A boy named Holoong made a robot named Wow. Meanwhile, a thing came out of the meteor, and a boy named Jacob saw it from his window. The thing ran so fast he didn't see it. He just saw black. Jacob called Holoong and said, "Holoong! Holoong! I saw something run so fast, and it was black. I saw it come to my house. I need help!"

"Okay," said Holoong. Holoong ran and ran all the way to Jacob's house.

When Holoong came to the house, he saw the door slam by itself. He wondered what that was until he saw black ooze on the floor.

Jacob freaked out and screamed. "Holoong, give me your backpack!"

Holoong threw the backpack to Jacob.

When Jacob looked inside, he saw a circle object. Jacob picked it up and said, "What is this, Holoong?"

Holoong said, "It is a robot."

Jacob said, "This is not a robot."

Holoong said, "Oh yes, it is. Drop it then."

"Okay," said Jacob. As he dropped the circle object on the ground, a robot named Wow came out! Jacob said, "What does this thing do?"

Holoong said, "Press the button on his stomach."

Jacob pressed the button, and a laser shot out and hit the black ooze behind him. The black ooze started to transform into this giant creature that had razor-sharp teeth, red eyes, and no hair, just ooze and terror.

The thing had a laser hole in its chest because the robot had shot it, but the ooze filled in and healed the thing. Holoong screamed, "How are we going to kill this thing . . . ?"

*by Jacob Raskin* (Grade Four)  
Delano Academy  
Vaughan, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## A Fluffy

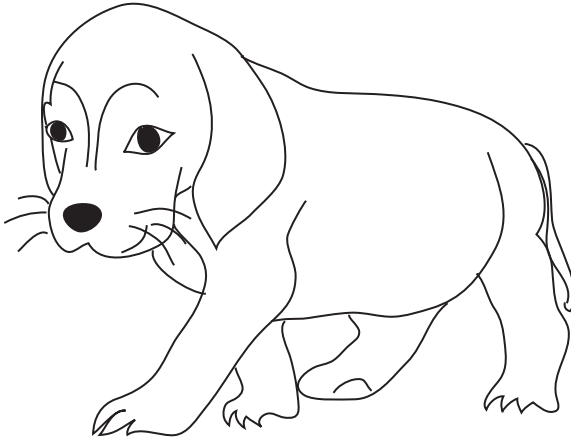
A girl named Isa went to a cottage with three sisters who went to see their granny. Isa was the oldest at the age of fifteen. She saw a cute puppy that ran out into the woods. She was wondering whose puppy it was, but then she noticed that it was her grandma's puppy.

Suddenly, the puppy saw a witch who tried to catch him. Then the puppy shouted, *Woof! Woof!* "Help me!" Isa ran as fast as she could, then grabbed the witch's wand and saved the puppy! After that, Isa named the puppy Fluffy because she was very soft. The puppy felt as soft as a feather and was as white as snow.

When Isa got to her grandma's house, she gave Fluffy to her. Granny promised she was never going to lose her again. Isa gave her a big hug!

by *Nethushi Udumullage* (Kindergarten)

Bairdmore School  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



# SECOND PRIZE

## The Slime Forest Adventure

Once upon a time in a small village, there was a school called Pich. Pich was a very good school. There were only two children in this school. Their names were Anna and Rihanna. They were very good friends.

One day, they were walking to school past a forest. A green snake fell down from a tree and bit Anna. Then, Anna turned evil from the bite, and the snake became her pet.

Rihanna went to save Anna. Rihanna saw a mouse. “*Aaah!*” screamed Rihanna.

The mouse said, “Hi! I can help you to save your friend!” The mouse took both girls to Slime Forest. Slime Forest was made of magic green slime. “If you eat slime the size of a dime, it can reverse any evil spell,” said the mouse.

Rihanna secretly stirred in some slime the size of dime into Anna’s water bottle. Anna didn’t want to drink it at first, but Rihanna said it was fruit punch, so she drank it. She became good again. Both girls hugged and went back to their village.

Every morning, they said “hi” to the mouse that helped them. The mouse eventually decided to go study at Anna and Rihanna’s school and became a scientist of slime.

*by Chloe Zou* (Grade One)  
Central Montessori School  
North York, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

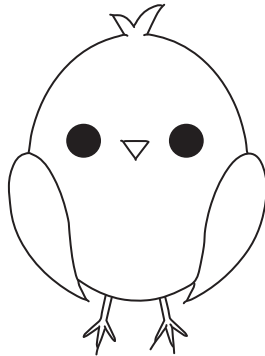
## Chicken World

One day, I was sleeping at home, and suddenly, a chicken came into my room! I was so confused. . . . Then I heard a lot of chicken noises outside my window. So, I looked outside my window, and it was raining chickens! I didn't know what was happening, but then I had an idea. *Why not bring them inside?* My parents were snoring, so I knew they wouldn't wake up.

I quickly ran into the kitchen and grabbed some corn. I quietly opened my front door and placed the corn down so they would come inside. The chickens were so loud that they woke up my parents, and they were really confused! Our whole living room was filled with chickens.

I was able to convince my parents to let them stay because they had nowhere else to go. We built a barn for them to live in, and we all lived happily ever after with our new chicken farm.

**by Benjamin Garton** (Grade Two)  
Central Montessori School  
North York, Ontario





# SECOND PRIZE

## The Stolen Pet

One day, the teacher, Mr. Drew, brought in a new pet for his class. Mr. Drew said, “This is Brownie, our class hamster.” One of the girls in his class named Stephanie said that she really liked Brownie. Stephanie asked to touch Brownie and Mr. Drew said, “Sure.” Brownie was really soft, and Stephanie liked how cute he looked when he was running on the wheel. At the end of the day, Stephanie didn’t want to say goodbye to Brownie. *I wish I could have a pet like Brownie*, thought Stephanie.

That night, Stephanie went home and asked her mom for a pet hamster. Her mother said, “No, no, no.”

When everyone was asleep, Stephanie crept out of her bed and opened her window. She swung a rope across to her tree house and used the ladder to get down. She made her way to school. “That hamster is going to be mine,” whispered Stephanie.

At the school, she saw that the lights were on, and the janitor was cleaning. Stephanie tiptoed to the back door and into her classroom. To her surprise, the hamster cage was empty. *I’m too late*, thought Stephanie. As she crept out of the room, she heard some rustling in the corner. She looked closer and saw Brownie! When she tried to catch him, he ran away. Brownie ran on the desk, and papers scattered all over the room. Then Brownie ran onto the bookshelf. Stephanie took off all the books to find him. Finally, she saw Brownie. She held him in her hands and slipped him into her pocket. When Stephanie got back to her tree house, she was sweaty and tired, so she fell asleep.

The next morning, Mr. Drew announced that Brownie has gone missing. All the children gasped. Stephanie got up and said, “I think it was Billy who did it. Billy was the last one to hold Brownie before we left for school.”

Just then, Jade got up and said, “But that doesn’t make sense. Yesterday, I forgot my pencil after school, and when I came back to get it, Brownie was still in his cage.”

“Then, it was you, Jade!” announced Stephanie.

Then Alex raised his hand and said, “I see a footprint on the floor. Let’s see whose shoe it matches.”

Mr. Drew asked everyone to dip his or her shoes in black paint. Soon enough, it was revealed that Stephanie was the culprit. Her shoes were a perfect fit. “It was you?” the class said at the same time. Stephanie looked down on the floor and took Brownie out of her backpack. She apologized and said she would never do it again.

*by Elise Ng* (Grade Three)  
Trinity Montessori School  
Markham, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## The Lonely Little Boy

Once upon a time, there was a little kid named Tom. Tom lived on a big hill on a farm above all the other kids, so no one knew about him because they had never seen him before. Because of this, Tom didn't know anyone he could play with. Tom's parents didn't have a lot of money, and they couldn't even afford to send him to school.

One day, Tom's parents sold a lot of food, and they had enough money to send Tom to school. Tom was so excited because he could finally meet other kids and play with them.

The next day, Tom's mom took him to class. He gave his mom a big hug because she sent him to school. Tom went to his class, and his teacher and his classmates gave him a warm welcome, something he had never had before.

When they went to recess, Tom was expecting the kids to invite him to play with them, but they didn't; no one asked Tom to play. Tom asked if he could play, but they didn't let him. They told him that they were only nice to him because if they weren't, the teacher would get mad at them, and then they left and continued to play their game.

After that, they were doing math. The teacher asked everybody questions, and when it was Tom's turn, he didn't know what the answer was because he had never been to school before. Everybody laughed at him except for two people, the teacher and a kid named Liam.

When it was lunch, Tom sat by himself in the corner because he knew no one would want to eat with him, but then a familiar face sat next to him; it was Liam. Liam was the only kid who didn't laugh at him when he didn't know the answer.

Then Liam introduced himself. He told Tom, "Hello, I am Liam."

And Tom said, "Hi, I'm Tom."

At the end of the day, Liam invited Tom to come to his house to play, and Tom said he needed to ask his mom before he could go. So, Tom and Liam walked up the big hill to Tom's mom. Once they got there, Tom asked his mom if he could go to Liam's place, and Tom's mom let him, so Liam and Tom walked over to Liam's place. Once they got there, Liam and Tom played with Lego for one hour, then they decided to eat snacks, so they went downstairs and ate. Tom had to leave; they said goodbye.

Once Tom got home, he had a very good sleep knowing he had made his first friend.

*by Ace Alago* (Grade Four)

James Park Elementary School  
Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

# THIRD PRIZE

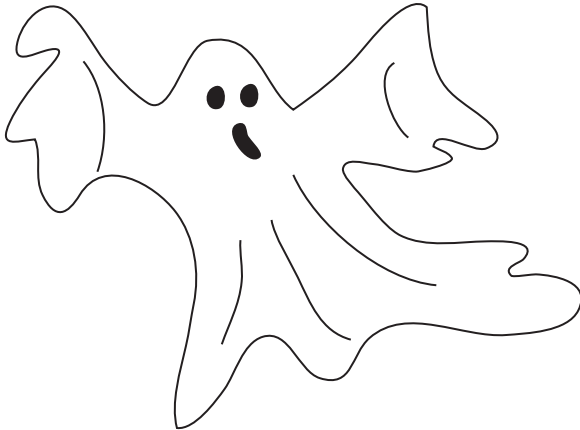
## The Scary Ghost

Lucy loved pumpkins and candles. So, she carved a pumpkin and put a candle inside. That night, she went out to see her pumpkin, but it was mushed!

Next day, she carved another pumpkin, placed a candle inside, and put it out. That night, she went out to see her pumpkin, but it was mushed again! She wondered who was mushing her pumpkins.

The next day, she went to the library and brought home a book to read. That book was magical! It showed her that a ghost was mushing her pumpkins. So, then she carved another pumpkin and made it very scary for ghosts but not for humans. That pumpkin scared the ghost away!

*by Aaryan Mohamed* (Kindergarten)  
The Progressive Montessori Academy  
Stouffville, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## The Two Dragons in Love

Once upon a time, there was a little girl; she was trapped in a castle, but there was a dragon, and that's why she didn't come out of the castle. She climbed down from the castle, and she followed the dragon into the scary cave.

The cave was dark and murky, and she couldn't see anything except the dragon. The dragon fell asleep in the cave, and she went to the back door of the cave entrance. She found a new species of dragon. The new species of dragon didn't notice her. It was blue and had hot pink stripes and, on the face, pink stripes and white. It was turned around, and it noticed her.

The dragon let her ride on its back. The little girl said that there was another black dragon.

The white dragon said, "I would love a husband."

The little girl said, "There is a black dragon right inside the cave."

The white dragon went in the cave, and the black dragon blushed; they fell in love immediately. They married each other and had a baby dragon. Everyone lived happily ever after!

*by Samantha Hammond* (Grade One)  
Terry Fox Public School  
Brampton, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## A Halloween Crash

On Halloween Night, Charlie, Ben, my brother, and I were walking around collecting candy, and then something happened. That something was powerful enough to destroy the entire universe. And, of course, it hit the Earth!

When it hit, it made a huge crater. That something was a massive—and I mean *massive*—spaceship! For a second, I just went still, and then I moved. I ran to the crater.

When I got there, I couldn't believe my eyes! There were millions of little men swarming around their crashed ship. Their ship was very damaged, and the men looked as if they had been hurt. A few of the men had lost arms or legs. I realized that I couldn't handle them. Neither could my brother, nor Ben, nor Charlie. So, I ran to the military base.

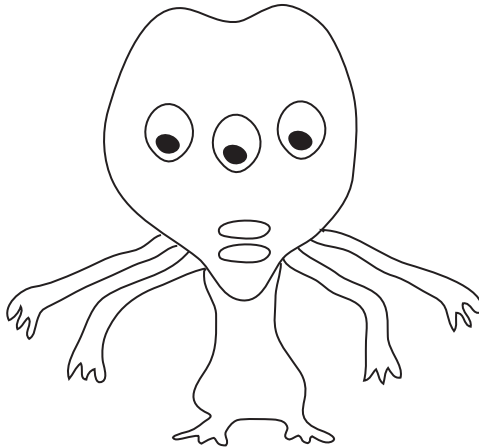
Once inside the military base, I asked if their men could help us. The general said, "Yes."

"Good," I said. I ran back to the crater.

In two minutes, the soldiers arrived, fully armed. I was glad they could help. First, they fired a few artillery guns for fun. Then they launched an attack. I ran with the soldiers, but my brother wouldn't.

When we got close to the spaceship men, we realized that they were friendly. We said sorry, and we left.

**by Grady McAllister** (Grade Two)  
Westmont Montessori School  
Victoria, British Columbia



# THIRD PRIZE

## Princess Aqua and Her Unicorn

Once upon a time, there was a princess named Aqua. She had a horse named Buttercup. This horse was not just any horse. This horse was a unicorn. The unicorn and the princess had been best friends since the princess was a little girl. Then one day, something magical happened.

Aqua and Buttercup danced in the rain. They were having so much fun that they did not realize it was midnight. A few hours later, it was dawn, and they were still dancing.

Three days before, Aqua's dad had passed away. Aqua thought that dancing could get her mind off her dead father. He was only thirty-one years old when he was killed by something really sharp.

Suddenly, Aqua remembered that she never cut Buttercup's nails, and she thought the red nail polish on Buttercup's nails looked like blood. So, she said to Buttercup, "Did you kill my dad?"

Buttercup softly answered, "Yes, because he tried locking me up in a cellar, and I got scared. I am so sorry, Aqua."

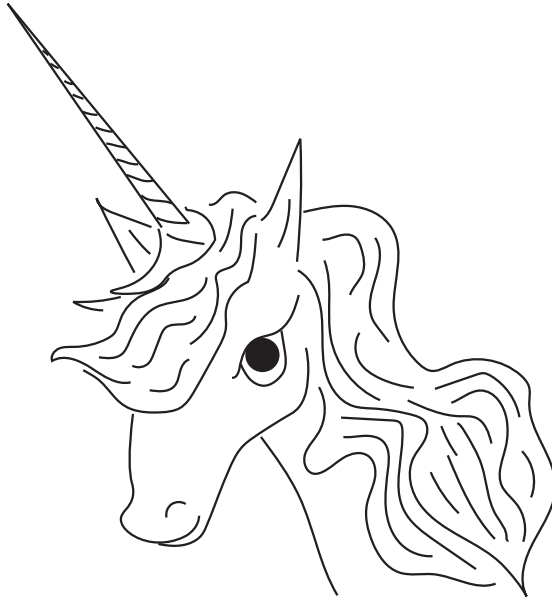
Then Aqua said, "You have to do me a favour. You have to use your magical powers to bring him back alive again."

Buttercup said, "Okay."

Then she brought him back to life, and she took Aqua to him. Then they all danced in the rain and lived happily ever after.

*by Teionkanhnhatenies Giasson* (Grade Three)

Indian Way School  
Kahnawake, Québec



# THIRD PRIZE

## The Horse

Once upon a time, there was a small girl who lived in a cottage with her mother. Their small cottage was located in the middle of a small village full of nice villagers. People loved their food; they were such good bakers that some people traded stuff for the food.

One day, a homeless guy came to their cottage and asked for some food. "I have nothing amazing to trade to you, but I can give you this white horse," said the guy. "My name is Mike." The little girl and her mother agreed to give him some food.

The next day, the little girl named Ruby visited the white horse in the village stables. "I'm going to name you Snowflake. Your nickname is Snowy," said Ruby. From that day on, Ruby always rode Snowy after she came back from school. Her school always ended at one o'clock, so she had plenty of time before she had to go back home and do her chores.

One day, Ruby went to the stables to see Snowy but saw that the stables were empty. "Oh no!" said Ruby. "Where are you, Snowy?" Ruby looked everywhere for Snowflake, but she couldn't find her. Soon she had to go home to do her chores.

When she got home, with tears in her eyes, she told her mother about Snowy and how she had searched everywhere but couldn't find her. "It's all right," her mother had said, but Ruby didn't think it was all right; one way or another, she had to find Snowy.

The next day after school, Ruby came back to the stables to see if Snowflake had returned. She had her fingers crossed, but Snowy was nowhere to be seen. She looked everywhere but couldn't find Snowy; though, she had a feeling she had missed a spot. Then it hit her: she had missed The Enchanted Forest. No one ever dared to enter The Enchanted Forest, and if they did, they never returned! But Ruby had to find Snowflake, so she entered the forest.

She went as far as she dared, putting one foot in front of the other. She slowly made her way around The Enchanted Forest, keeping an eye out for Snowy. She looked everywhere but couldn't find anything, so she turned around and started to make her way back, but she spotted a movement from the corner of her eye. "Is that you, Snowy?" she whispered. She heard a small neigh. Ruby quickly rushed to where the noise was coming from and found that Snowflake was tied up. She untied the knots and quickly rode back home on Snowy's back. They never dared to enter the forest again.

*by Rania Naeem* (Grade Four)  
Hawthorn Public School  
Mississauga, Ontario