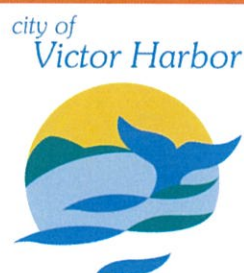
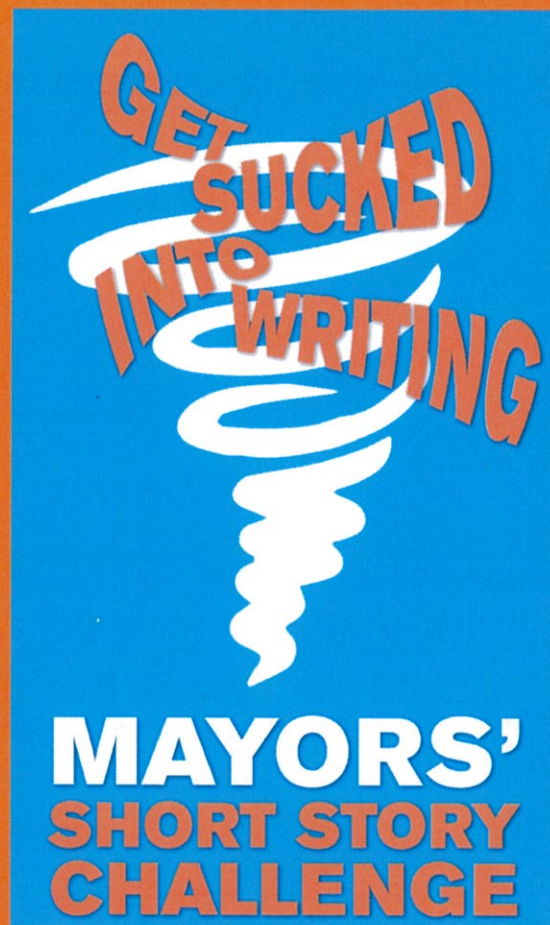


# 2022

## Mayors' Short Story Challenge

Winners & Short Listed Stories  
District Council of Yankalilla



# Mayors' Short Story Challenge

The Mayors' Short Story Challenge is a wonderful collaboration between the City of Victor Harbor, Alexandrina Council and the District Council of Yankalilla and their public libraries to celebrate 'creative' writing. The "Challenge" is held during term two of each year for the participation of school aged children, from reception to year 10. Each year the Mayors' Short Story Challenge gets bigger and better with all councils receiving a significant number of entries this year.

Thank you to all the Principals, Teacher-Librarians, Teachers, Student Services Officers and parents who encouraged their students to enter. This year 208 entries were received from across our district.

Thank you to the District Council of Yankalilla Mayor, Simon Rothwell, the judges and the children for their efforts in "having a go". They have delighted us with their creative and imaginative writing. Without their participation the Mayors' Short Story Challenge would not have been the success it has been.

## District Council of Yankalilla Section Winners

### Mayor's Encouragement Awards

Spot's Walk Gone Wrong

Sage Vessey-Thomas

AN ENCOUNTER AT MIDDLETON

*Ezra Fowler*

### Reception to Year 2 Section

SCORPION

*Beau Roberts*

### Years 3- 4 Section

The Knight In The Dress

*Ella Conroy*

### Years 5 - 7 Section

Parrot's Painful Day

*Patrick O'Brien*

### Years 8 - 10 Section

Bequeese Jeramiah Jacobson

*Alissa Rahaley*

### Overall Winner

The Knight in the Dress

*Ella Conroy*

# Overall Winner

Ella Conroy

*The Knight In The Dress*

Yankalilla Area School



# The Knight In The Dress -



By Ella Conroy

Once upon a time, there was a kingdom on the coast called Freshburst. They were ruled by Queen Magestia and King Deric. They had a beautiful daughter named Blossom. As Blossom grew, she became kind, smart and strong.

But deep in her heart she knew that she didn't belong in the palace. She wanted adventure! Not the silly-frilly dresses her parents dressed her up in! But she knew that was never going to happen, until one day she heard that Sir Cowedly (a famous knight) had been captured by a dragon!

That night, Blossom couldn't sleep. She was too busy thinking about Sir Cowardly. Then she realised that this was an opportunity to prove herself to her parents! She then immediately jumped out of bed. She crept through the palace, as quiet as a mouse. After about fifteen minutes, (it was an exceptionally large palace,) she came to the armoury. As she came to her father's armour, which was gleaming in the moonlight, her body was flooded with doubt. Was she silly to think that she could rescue a famous knight? "No!" she thought to herself. She put on the shiny, intricately carved metal.

It felt cold.

It felt right.

Blossom knew that this was her life's purpose.

She ran as fast as she could, the armour clinking along with her. After a while, she arrived at the stables. She carefully opened the gate and crept inside. "Hello, Midnight." She whispered to a black horse with a white mark on its forehead. She saddled her horse and rode out of the palace, excited about what her adventure might hold.

There was no going back.

When dawn broke, there was no sign of Blossom. Her mother cried for hours on end, and her father was trying, and failing, to comfort his grieving wife.

Blossom rode for days, battling storms, getting stuck in muddy swamps, and running out of water in scorching hot deserts. Life was a constant challenge, so she was relieved when she saw a peaceful little village. She ran to a pond and took a big gulp of water to satisfy her thirst. At that moment she realised that she hadn't eaten in days! She ran to the closest café and ordered pancakes. As she waited, she thought about her parents. "What are they doing right now?" Blossom wondered to herself.

Soon, her pancakes arrived. 'Thank you,' Said Blossom cheerfully to the waiter, 'These look scrumptious!' She took a big bite, but curiously started to feel dizzy. 'There must be something wrong with these pancakes!' She said to herself.

Then, Blossom hit the ground.

When Blossom woke up, she was in a sack. 'What in the name of Sir Porridge is going on?!' She said to no one in particular.

After a matter of hours, she was dumped on the floor. As she crawled out, she saw a giant dragon. She drew out her sword and lunged. Her sword cut the dragons neck, but it wasn't a dragon at all!



It was just a fabric suit!

Blossom saw a fluffy white tail poke out of the dragon suit. When the bunny turned around, she realised that it was none other than a cyborg bunny!



She reached into her pocket, grabbed a carrot, and offered it to the monstrosity.

It grabbed the carrot and chomped it violently. While the cyborg bunny was distracted, she searched for Sir Cowardly. After one or two minutes, she heard a weak whimper. She ran to the cage and set the beaten-up knight free.

They travelled all the way back to Freshburst, and when they arrived, Blossom was knighted and became one of the most famous knights in all of history.



# Mayor's Encouragement Awards

Sage Vessey-Thomas, Year Four

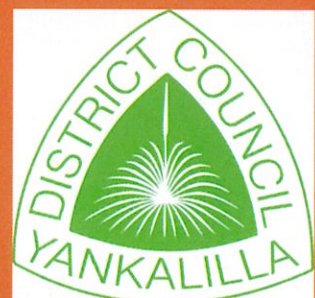
*Spot's Walk Gone Wrong*

Rapid Bay Primary School

Ezra Fowler, Year Five

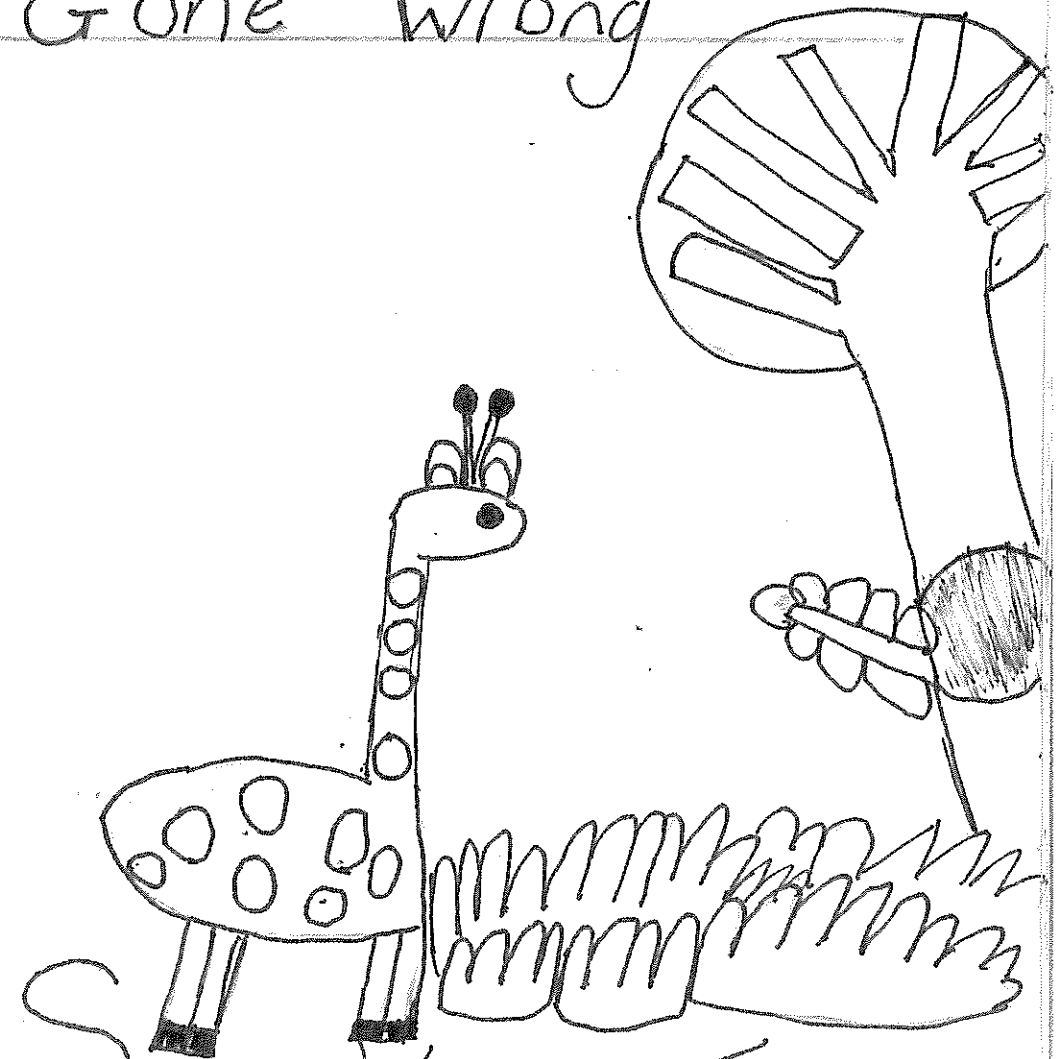
*AN ENCOUNTER AT MIDDLETON*

Myponga Primary School



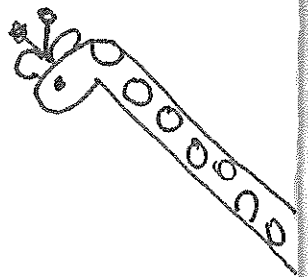
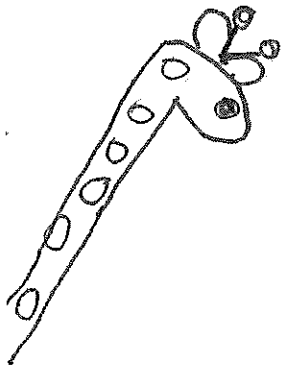
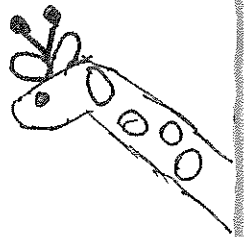
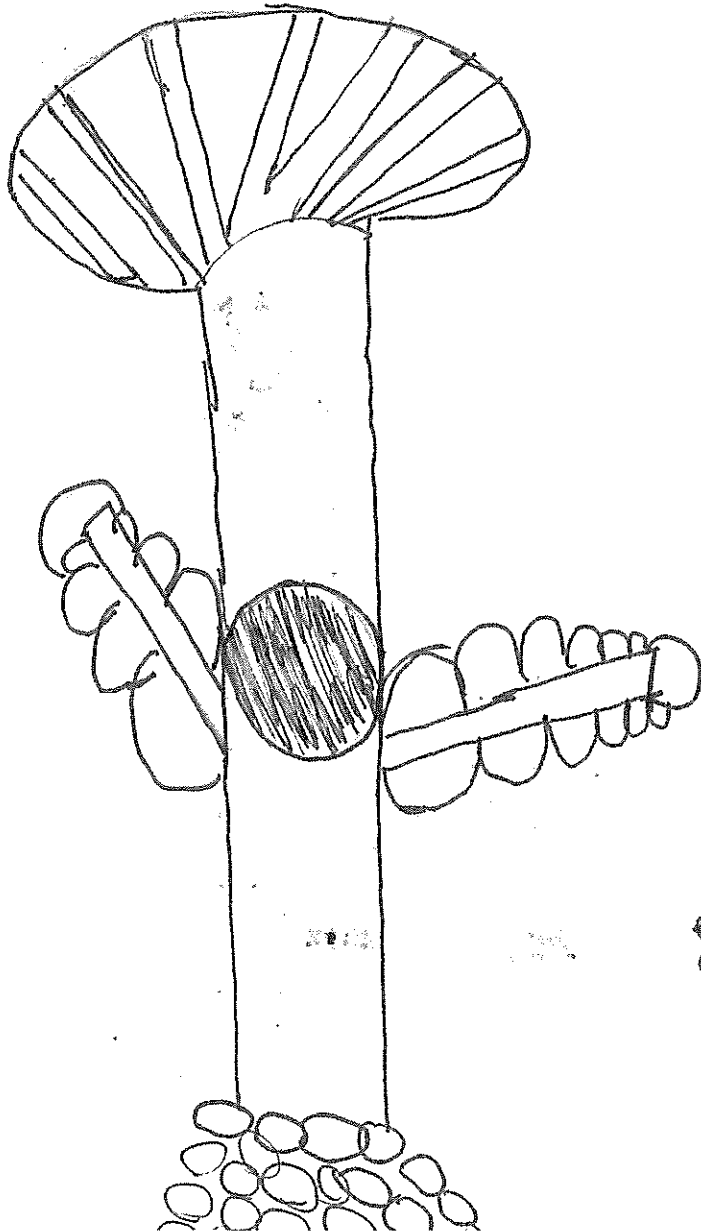
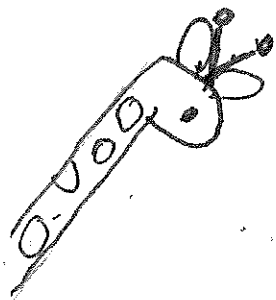
Spot's Walk<sup>B</sup>

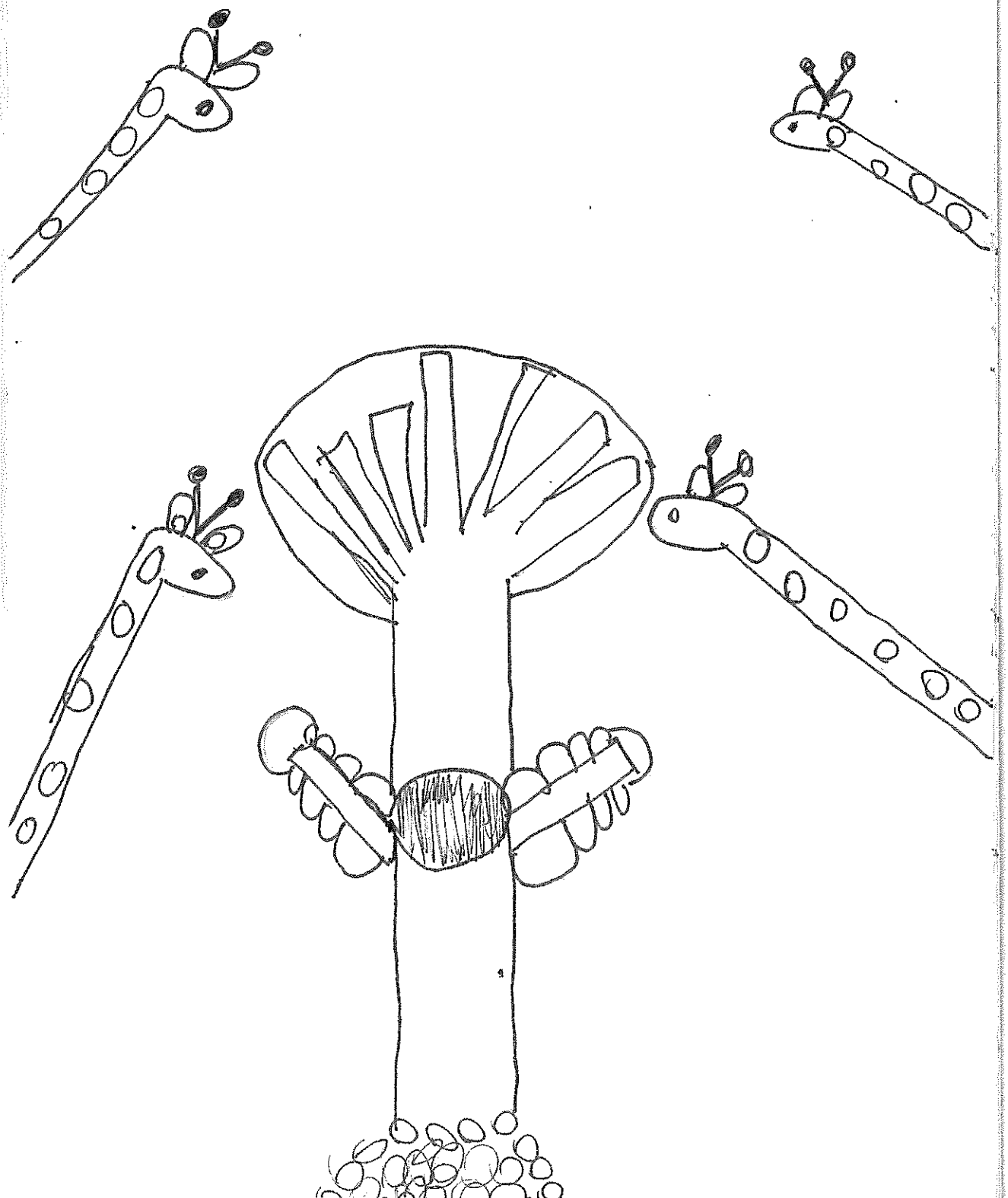
♡ Gone Wrong<sup>B</sup>

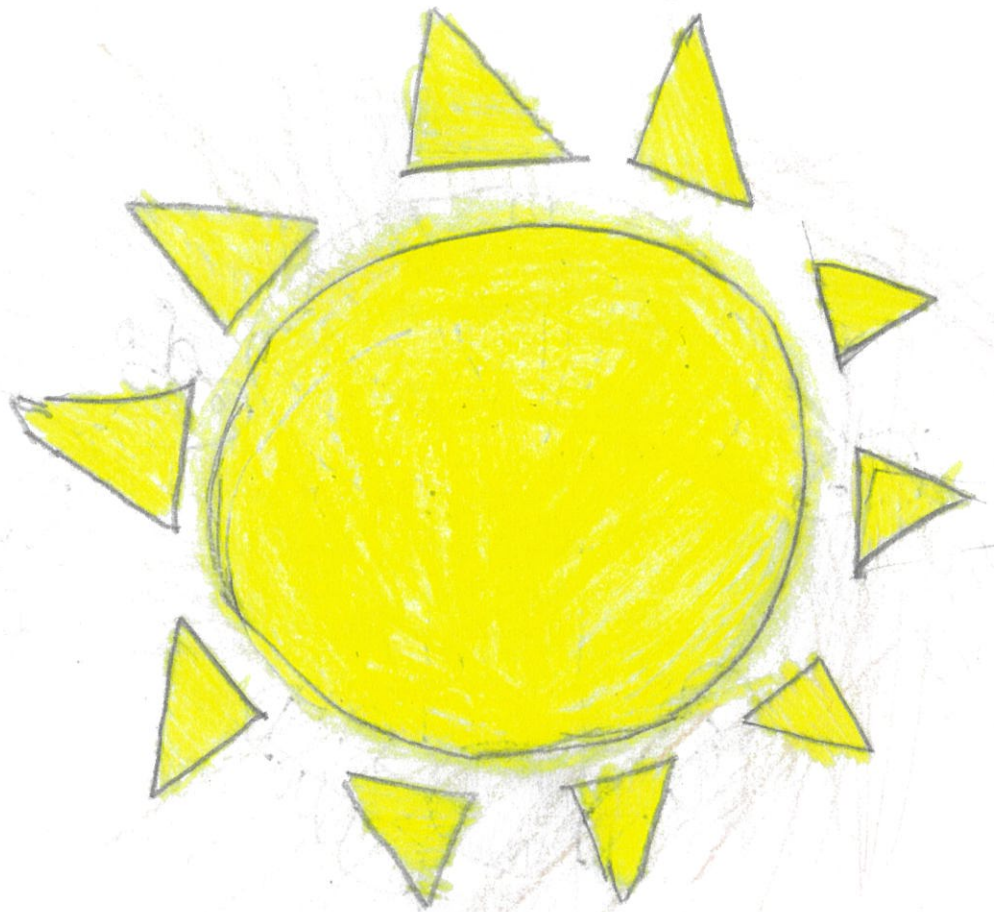


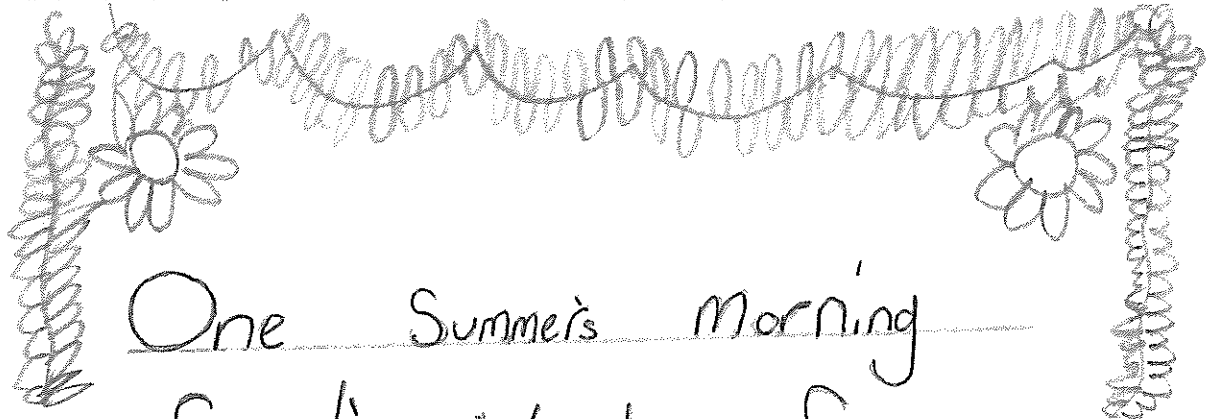
Sage Vessey-Thomas











One Summer's morning  
Spot's was keen for an  
adventure so she set off  
deep into the jungle.

After half an hour of  
walking she collapsed  
because she was so puffed  
out.

Then she thought to her  
self. Maybe Oliver has some  
water she could drink so  
she set off but then-Oh no  
what way, she was lost!

She hoped that someone  
from the town would come  
past and take her home.  
She hopes they do because  
she doesn't want to be  
out late because of all  
the other animals that come  
out at night. They might  
be scary!!! Then Splash!!  
Then just that moment the  
rain starts bucketing down.

Then she said, "oh no,  
this is just grate." What  
was she going to do?? Then  
she had a clever idea!!

She saw a cave over  
there. She could stay in  
there to shelter out the rain!!

Then in the morning Spot's  
was determined to get home

so she set off!!! Wait what  
way hmmm maybe she will go  
left so she started walking!!

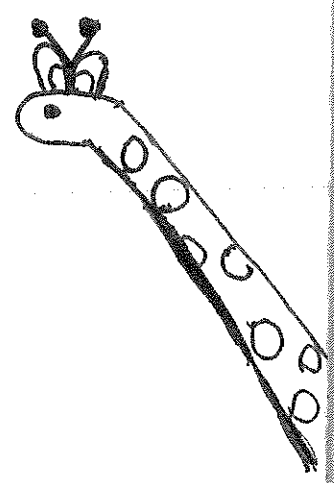
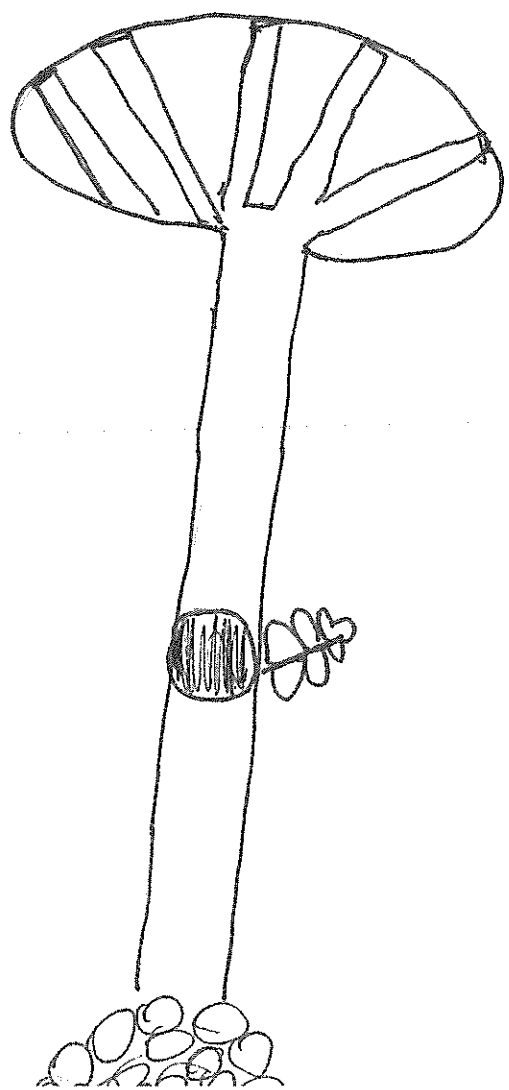
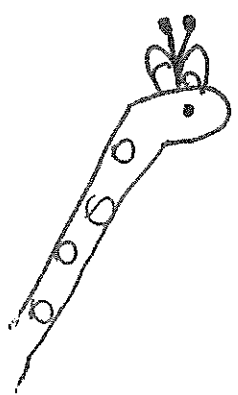
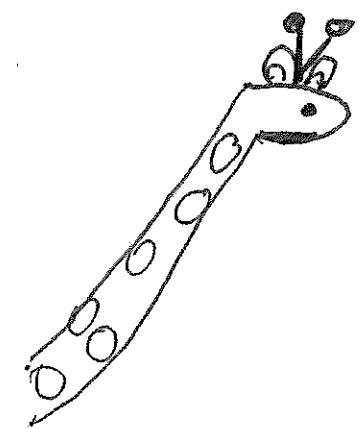
After about 30 minutes of  
walking she worried that  
she wouldn't find her way  
back home, but then  
suddenly out of the bush  
jumped... OLIVER!  
"Spots where have you been?!"

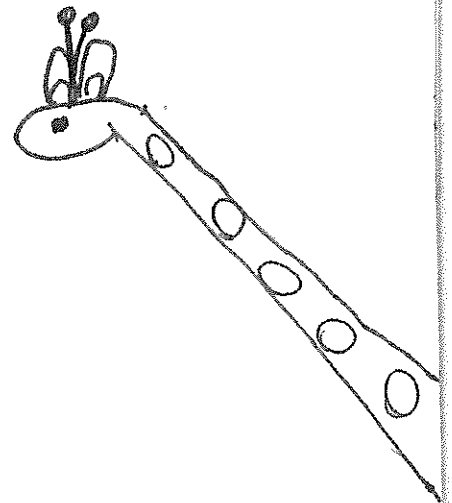
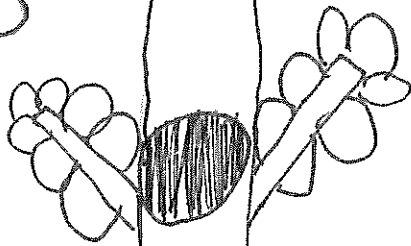
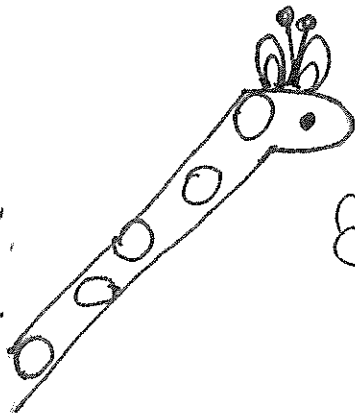
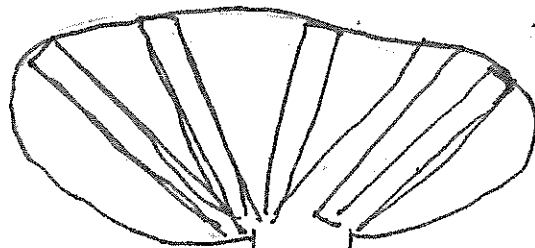
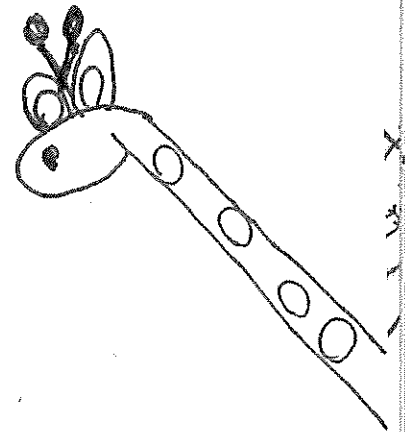
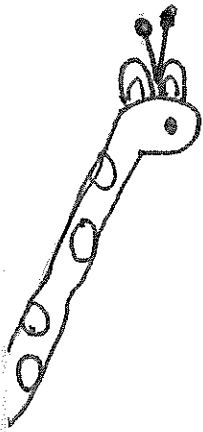


Spots got lost and couldn't  
find her way back.

"Well I'm here now. Let's go  
home, and remember, tell me  
when you want to go out on  
an adventure!"

♡ The End ♡





Fun!

This is a fun filled  
story about a little  
giraffe who gets lost  
and tries every possible  
way to find her way  
back home. Will she  
find her home again?  
Read to find out!!

happy

# AN ENCOUNTER AT MIDDLETON

It was a warm summer's day. The waves were clean and the sun's glaze was glowing off the water. The 4 foot waves were peeling nicely. Jaylen, Chase and I were setting up for a big day of surfing. We just visited the surf shop and picked up some wax and a new board each. We were driving to Middleton in my 79 series Land Cruiser. When we arrived we put our wetsuits and leg ropes on and were on the beach heading towards the water.

We were paddling out and duck diving under the 4 foot waves. We were sitting out the back waiting for the perfect wave to come. We heard a helicopter above, it then flew over us a couple of times. We then heard a big loud siren. We felt terrified because there was a shark in the water. We started paddling back to shore, stressing and thinking about what was going to happen next.

We felt like something was staring at us and then we saw a 4 foot white pointer shark right behind us. It grabbed Jaylen's leg rope and pulled him under the water. Jaylen was screaming, he popped back up and the shark had hold of his leg. It started

thrashing around, water was splashing up with blood. Chace passed out for a second before he woke up.

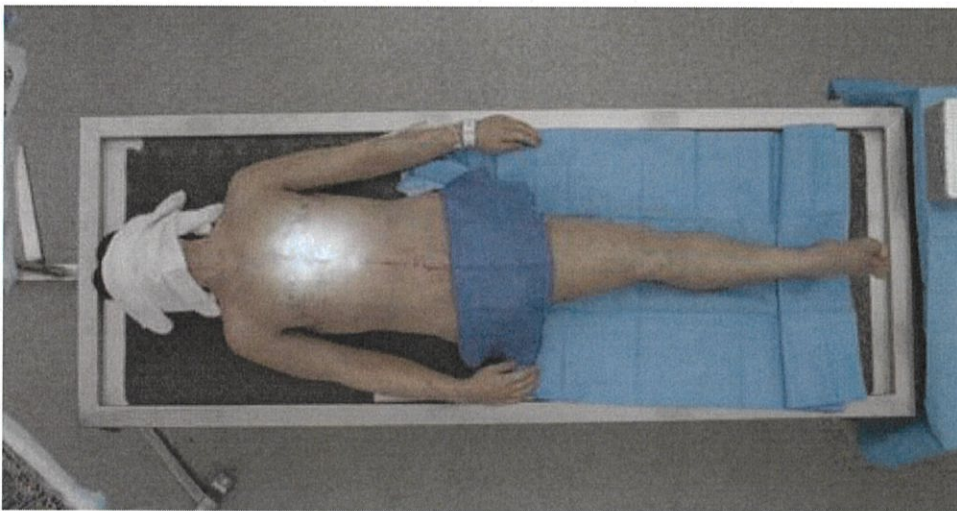
The shark had ripped Jaylen's leg off, but he was still alive. Luckily it had missed the artery. We knew that we had to get him back to shore quickly or he would die. I rested him on my board and started paddling. I sent Chace ahead so that he could call for help. I followed, paddling harder than ever. My arms were tired and my heart was pounding. Just then, I felt a bump that nearly knocked me off my board. I looked around and it was the shark, coming back for more. It put its nose on my board so I punched it on the nose and it disappeared. I frantically paddled back to shore.

I wrapped my wetsuit around his leg to try and stop the bleeding, we got to shore then we rushed Jay up over the dunes. There was a crowd forming and luckily someone called an ambulance. The ambulance said they would be there in 20 minutes. Jay was almost dead. Chase and I were so worried!

After 20 minutes the ambulance arrived with flashing lights and a loud siren. They rushed Jaylen into the ambulance on the surfboard and sped off really quick. When he arrived at the

hospital he had lost 2 litres of blood. They had to operate on his leg and they took skin from his back and grafted it onto the bite.

We were allowed to go and see him after about an hour. He was pretty out of it so we didn't stay long. The next day I took a walk along the beach and thought it would be a long time before Jaylen would go surfing again.



## Category Winner

Beau Roberts, Year 2  
*SCORPION*  
Yankalilla Area School

## Shortlisted students

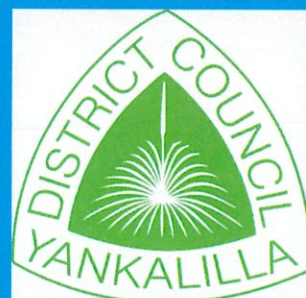
Beau Roberts, Year 2  
*SCORPION*  
Yankalilla Area School

Violet Notais, Year Reception  
*The missing sea animals*  
Yankalilla Area School

Josie Meldrum, Year 2  
*The Bad Parents*  
Yankalilla Area School

Owen Palmer, Year Reception  
*Tarjee the little boy*  
Yankalilla Area school

Reception to Year 2





# SCORPION

*One day there was a scorpion  
His name was Scorpio he was cold so  
he went into someone's house. Then  
he got kicked out of the house so he  
went back to the grass. Next, he  
tried going to a different house. In  
this house there was a mum, dad  
and kid. The scorpion went behind a  
cupboard. When he was behind the  
cupboard he walked into a web. He  
saw a spider making the web and  
asked the spider "Can I be your  
friend?" the spider said "yes and I  
know where we can meet other  
friends". So Scorpio and the spider*

*go to find new friends. While he was walking there he feels a giant foot that was about to step on him. To stop the foot, he stings it and runs away with the spider. The person who got stung was the mum, she screamed to the dad and he called an ambulance. Scorpio was scared after this and wanted to go back to the grass with all his new friends. So, Scorpio, spider and the new friends decided to live outside in the grass. The end.*

The Missing Sea Animals



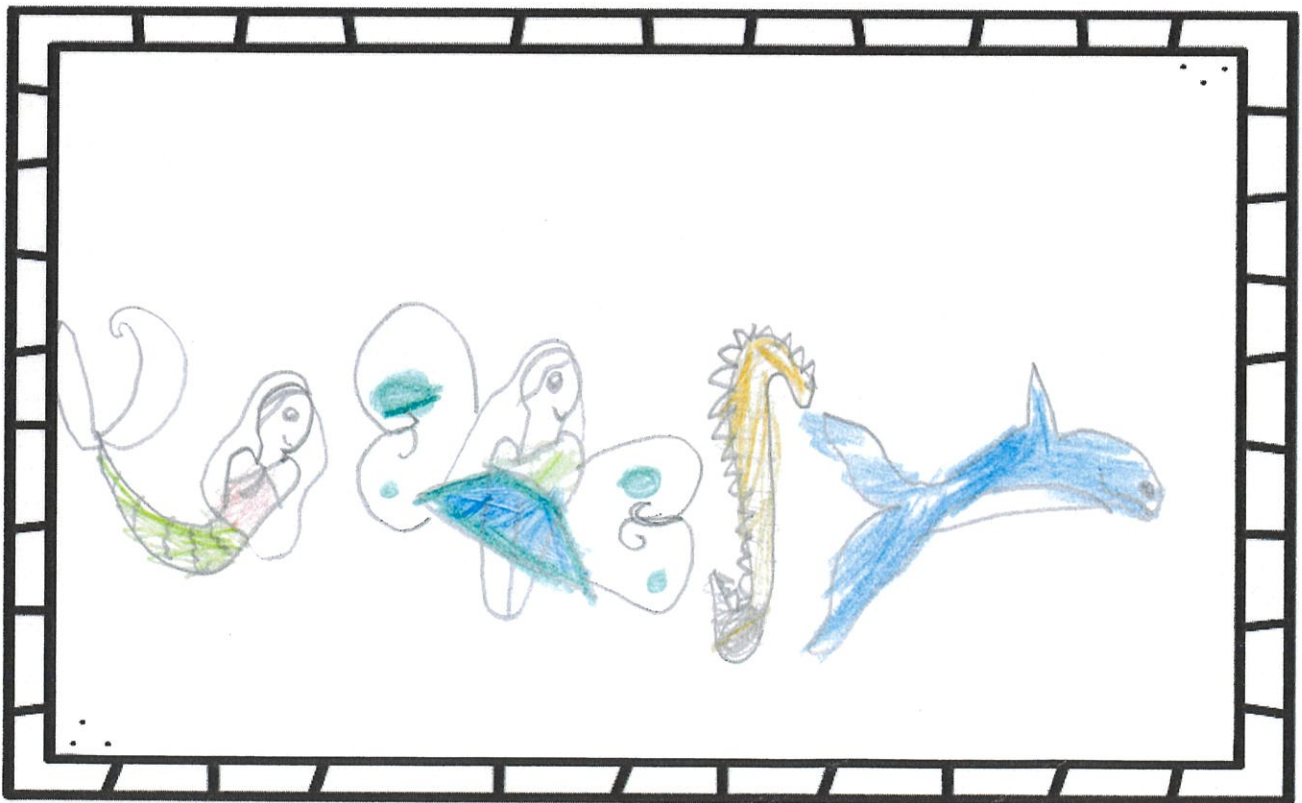
**A FAIRY TALE BY:**

violet

# MY FAIRY TALE

Once upon a time  
there was a beautiful  
mermaid who had brown hair  
she had a friend her sister.

One day the mermaid <sup>decided</sup> it was  
to have a nap. <sup>suddenly</sup> The  
<sup>were</sup> animals <sup>going</sup> <sup>away</sup> <sup>They</sup> <sup>followed</sup>  
wife <sup>to</sup> <sup>follow</sup>



# MY FAIRY TALE

into a

creepy underground

It leede, to a creepy underground cave

Cages

suddenly cages fell

g

to The ground

Luckily the mermaid

Potion

T

had a bash. the mermaid  
gave the <sup>Potion</sup> bash to the animals.

They  
th a

were

Safe.



Josie Meldrum

# The board Parents



## The bad parents

Once upon a time there was a girl her name was Anna Worm Wood her parents and her sister were very mean to her. Anna loved to read.

Her sister's name was Linda and they all lived in an abandoned house on a tiny street called Ariana. The street was very lovely but the Worm wood family wasn't that lovely only Anna was. Everyday Linda would go to school, her mum would go to the city and her dad would sell motor bikes.

2 YEARS LATER

Anna was finally 7 and a half. "Can I go to school?" Anna said to her father.

Her father replied, "What do you want to go to school for?". Anna said, "because I want to learn", "why should you learn?" said Anna's father.

Anna said "just because". Her father did not say anything.

Anna ran to her room and with her doll she cried and cried and was really sad. She had an idea she was going to be kind to her father so her father would feel bad and let her go to school.

Every night Anna thought and thought of what to do.

The next day she said to herself I can do anything because

I am a girl and girls can do anything. The next morning, she said to her father would you like a coffee Anna's father said yeah with a lot of sugar Anna replied okay let's do it so she did it.

But she put 20 scoops in it when she gave it to her father

It was too late her whole family went to work and school

So, Anna had to choose a library to go to out of all of these

A library

B library

D library

I library

She chose A library that stands for Ariana library. She went to the library and got some book's when she got home she went to bed but she heard banging every were... it was a horse so she went out there she tried to tame it but just then it ran away so Anna went back to bed. A few day's later the horse came back and was banging every were again and again so Anna went out again and tried to tame the horse. that time the horse stayed there, it looked worried so...

Anna went near it and grabbed rope and brought it and went to Anna's shed. She said to the horse you may be part of my life but I have no idea if you are part of me. But maybe you are part of me who knows. After all of that Anna went to bed. Suddenly the horse got out so Anna ran as fast as she could and she got him she was so happy. She put the horse back in the shed and then she went back to bed. She heard her family walk in the door and her father saw the coffee and heard her father say maybe I should let Anna go to school. After Anna heard that she had a tiny party in her room and all of her problem's were sorted out and she kept her horse and called her Firefly and lived happily ever after.

By Josie Meldrum





Farther the little boy



**A FAIRY TALE BY:**

OWEN POLLARD

## **Tarjee the little boy**

Once upon a time there was a beautiful boy called Tarjee.

One day Tarjee went into a dark cave.

Suddenly he fell into a big hole.

Luckily a squirrel got the him out of the hole by using his long tail.

By Owen Palmer

## Category Winner

Ella Conroy, Year 3  
*The Knight In The Dress*  
Yankalilla Area School

## Shortlisted students

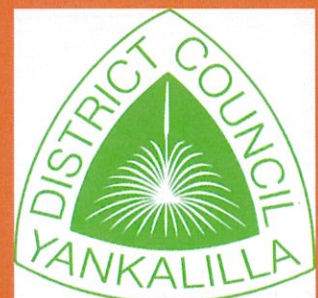
Ella Conroy, Year 3  
*The Knight In The Dress*  
Yankalilla Area School

Alice Fearnside, Year 4  
*Our planet is dying*  
Yankalilla Area School

Marley Morgan, Year 3  
*DANICA AND THE WITCH*  
Myponga Primary School

Tracey Singh, Year 4  
*The first day of school*  
Yankalilla Area School

Years 3 to 4



# The Knight In The Dress -



By Ella Conroy

Once upon a time, there was a kingdom on the coast called Freshburst. They were ruled by Queen Magestia and King Deric. They had a beautiful daughter named Blossom. As Blossom grew, she became kind, smart and strong.

But deep in her heart she knew that she didn't belong in the palace. She wanted adventure! Not the silly-frilly dresses her parents dressed her up in! But she knew that was never going to happen, until one day she heard that Sir Cowedly (a famous knight) had been captured by a dragon!

That night, Blossom couldn't sleep. She was too busy thinking about Sir Cowardly. Then she realised that this was an opportunity to prove herself to her parents! She then immediately jumped out of bed. She crept through the palace, as quiet as a mouse. After about fifteen minutes, (it was an exceptionally large palace,) she came to the armoury. As she came to her father's armour, which was gleaming in the moonlight, her body was flooded with doubt. Was she silly to think that she could rescue a famous knight? "No!" she thought to herself. She put on the shiny, intricately carved metal.

It felt cold.

It felt right.

Blossom knew that this was her life's purpose.

She ran as fast as she could, the armour clinking along with her. After a while, she arrived at the stables. She carefully opened the gate and crept inside. "Hello, Midnight." She whispered to a black horse with a white mark on its forehead. She saddled her horse and rode out of the palace, excited about what her adventure might hold.

There was no going back.

When dawn broke, there was no sign of Blossom. Her mother cried for hours on end, and her father was trying, and failing, to comfort his grieving wife.

Blossom rode for days, battling storms, getting stuck in muddy swamps, and running out of water in scorching hot deserts. Life was a constant challenge, so she was relieved when she saw a peaceful little village. She ran to a pond and took a big gulp of water to satisfy her thirst. At that moment she realised that she hadn't eaten in days! She ran to the closest café and ordered pancakes. As she waited, she thought about her parents. "What are they doing right now?" Blossom wondered to herself.

Soon, her pancakes arrived. 'Thank you,' Said Blossom cheerfully to the waiter, 'These look scrumptious!' She took a big bite, but curiously started to feel dizzy. 'There must be something wrong with these pancakes!' She said to herself.

Then, Blossom hit the ground.

When Blossom woke up, she was in a sack. 'What in the name of Sir Porridge is going on?!' She said to no one in particular.

After a matter of hours, she was dumped on the floor. As she crawled out, she saw a giant dragon. She drew out her sword and lunged. Her sword cut the dragons neck, but it wasn't a dragon at all!



It was just a fabric suit!

Blossom saw a fluffy white tail poke out of the dragon suit. When the bunny turned around, she realised that it was none other than a cyborg bunny!



She reached into her pocket, grabbed a carrot, and offered it to the monstrosity.

It grabbed the carrot and chomped it violently. While the cyborg bunny was distracted, she searched for Sir Cowardly. After one or two minutes, she heard a weak whimper. She ran to the cage and set the beaten-up knight free.

They travelled all the way back to Freshburst, and when they arrived, Blossom was knighted and became one of the most famous knights in all of history.



# Our planet is dying



A story about our beautiful planet we live on.

Please do not copy this book, thank you



Hi my name is Alice Fearnside

This is my story that I've made about this lovely planet we live on.

One day a girl named Sydney found out what was happening to the earth she was so upset so the next day she decided to do some research, the more she read the more she felt sad so she had a break. she had a thought while she ate her sandwich. she had a brilliant idea she wanted to stop what was happening before it was too late. The very next day she asked her mum to drop her to the beach "sure honey," replied her mum, Sydney went to go grab her things she put a bin bag, tongs, water and gloves in her bag then her mum dropped her off at the beach and then she started picking up all of the rubbish and put them in the bag as she was walking then she saw something in the distance she ran to. It was a turtle with some rubbish around its neck "oh no" she thought, and asked a stranger to borrow their phone "hi mam" said Sydney politely "hi?," said the stranger "can I borrow your phone please," asked Sydney "sure what for," replied the stranger "to call the animal rescue, there's a turtle with rubbish around its neck," said Sydney "no need to call them, I work at an animal rescue patrol my name is Sophia," said Sophia "Oook, follow me I'll show you where it is," said Sydney proudly. Sydney led Sophia to the turtle "this little fella is lucky you found him," said Sophia "why?," asked Sydney worriedly "its pregnant and if I wasn't who I was this would of not ended well at all, ill get her to the

station now,” explained Sophia “but your free to visit her any time you want,” said Sophia “ok I will,” said Sydney excitedly. A couple days later something wired happened. Sydney was at the beach again then a TV crew ran up to her along with a lot of people “hi?,” said Sydney so confused what was happening “are you the girl who saved a pregnant turtle?,” said the TV director “uh yeah why.....WAIT HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT,” said Sydney really confused “didn’t you know you where on TV?,” said the TV director “what, I am?,” said Sydney “WOW,” exclaimed Sydney. After she heard that news she started telling the camera about what she trying to do and to her surprise the next day while she was walking to school she saw that a lot of people where at the beach picking up rubbish “this is going to be really good,” she thought to herself and from that day on most of the people in her town where doing good stuff. one morning very early she started thinking about the turtle and how it was pregnant she wondered if the turtle has gave birth yet, so once it was 9:00am when she knew she knew the station had opened she told her mum she was going to the animal rescue station and rode her bright green bike there. When she arrived she asked the Linda the front desk lady, “is Sophia here?,” and she was and she asked if she could get her for her. “Hi Sophia can I please see the turtle?,” asked Sydney “sure thing follow me but you have to watch your fingers she will bite but just know she’s just trying to protect her babies,” warned Sophia “oh um ok,” said Sydney. once they arrived to her tank Sophia asked Sydney if she wanted to name to baby turtles and she said yes there was Lilly, Indie, Zen, Liam and Tabatha. A year

later the whole entire state has started to help the environment Sydney was so happy and from that day on Sydney's plan went around the world and people loved it and went on with it for most of their life.

That's the end. Thanks for reading my story

# DANICA AND THE WITCH

## CHAPTER 1

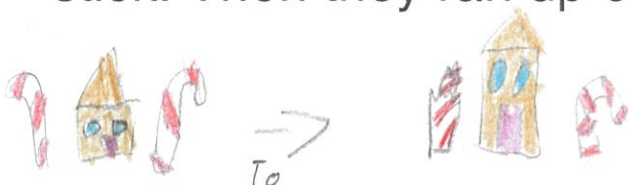
On a cold spring night on Halloween there was a girl named Danica. She was in the middle of the woods and she was seeing if she would get scared because she likes scary stuff. It was raining and Danica could hear owls and werewolves howling. It was midnight and she finally found a treehouse for shelter. She climbed up the ladder. She fell off the ladder when she was falling a portal appeared!

She fell through the portal but when she landed she felt something squishy. She looked at the ground and saw a big white squishy marshmallow. There was a trap door that she fell through. She landed on a cold, brown wooden table with dark red blood and a knife stuck in the table.

## CHAPTER 2



Danica screamed when she saw the witch. AAAAAA!!!... Danica ran as fast as she could. The witch was chasing her all over the house. There were two big red and white candy canes. When they were running the witch accidentally broke the top of one of the candy canes so it was only a stick. Then they ran up onto the roof and both of

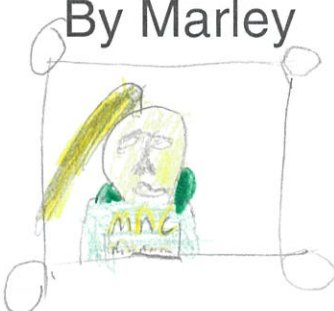


them nearly fell off the roof. Danica dodged the edge of the roof but the witch didn't dodge the edge of the roof and she fell off the roof. The witch landed on the tip of the candy cane and the witch was finally gone. Danica ran away. She was safe for now. She lived in the witch's house for a bit. She was eating sugar and chocolate until she got home.

### CHAPTER 3

One day Danica decided to go for a stroll to look for a good spot to make her own house. She still had to eat sugar and chocolate. When she was sleeping one night a portal appeared and she fell through the portal and landed on her own bed on earth. The next morning she woke up and she saw that she was at her home. When her mum came into her room to see if Danica was in her room her mum squeezed Danica as a hug. Her mum's name was Brooke and she said that you were gone for three months solid. Danica said that there was a witch who was chasing me but she died. She also said that she had made a house out of candy.

By Marley



## The first day at school

One Monday morning a girl named Ava moved in to a new state called Victoria and she had to move to a new school. Ava was fearful. Once she arrived at her new school she saw some kids that looked nice but still she was scared. Ava went to put her bag in her locker and went to class. Ava walked in and everyone was whispering, she knew it was about her. When she got to her seat she

already hated this school. The teacher came in and told everyone about her.

At first, she was scared but after a while she made a few friends and loved it. They introduced themselves to Ava. "My name is Sindy, and this is Kacy and that is Layla". "Nice to meet all of you," said Ava. After week of school she got to know most people and know most stuff. One day at school there was a new girl. Ava decided to be friends with her because she knows what it feels like to be new

at a school so they became friends and her name was Maddy. All four of them became best friends foerever and now. Ava had started as a year four and moved up to year six and had the same best friend by her side and tacking care of her and that she would do the same. Soon Ava was a year ten. She loved that school so much that she stayed at that school the longest and had the same friends. One sad day Ava had to go on a holiday for three weeks and knew that she



would miss her friends *Sindy, Lala, Kacey and Maddy*. She cried until the day she left but the good thing is she still had her friends phone number but had no internet. She wanted to end her life without her friends then three days later *Ava* remembered that just because you don't have your friends with you now you have it in your heart. So *Ava* waited and waited day after day week after week till finally she went back to school. *Ava* was so excited that she woke up

so early to go to school and meet her friends that she been missing.

Finally, it was time to go to school.

Ava rushed to go to her class room and she saw *Sindy*, *Kacy* and *Maddy*. No matter what happen all four are still friends and they lived their life they wanted.

If you are a new girl or boy at school don't be scared because you will always have a nice carrying friend by your side.

By *Tracey singh*

## Category winner

Patrick O'Brien, Year 7  
*Parrot's Painful Day*  
Yankalilla Area School

## Shortlisted students

Patrick O'Brien, Year 7  
*Parrot's Painful Day*  
Yankalilla Area School

Royce Williss, Year 7  
*The last Of Us*  
Rapid Bay Primary School

Holly Wheaton, Year 5  
*Hibiscus The Rainwing*  
Yankalilla Area School

Kooper McArdle, Year 7  
*The Trials of Artemis*  
Rapid Bay Primary School

Years 5 to 7



# Parrot's Painful Day

By Patrick O'Brien

"What are you doing Zebra?" Lion asked in confusion.

"Becoming the next Kevin Hart!" replied Stripes the Zebra.

"You get it? Zebra crossing! Pretty funny huh."

"Move it already!" yelled Gianni the Giraffe acting like raising his voice was the right thing to do, when in all honesty he just wanted to have the chance to yell at Stripes.

"Oh, keep your head out of it you spotted horse!" Zebra shouted while feeling good about himself for coming up with an insult that fast.

Mika and Mikah stood in their classic meerkat stance just trying to figure out what was going on. "So, what are we doing he-" Mika asked, before she was rudely interrupted by her brother.

"Yeah, what are we doing here?" Mikah added. "You really need to stop doing that," Mika said staring into her brother's soul.

"Noted!" Mikah managed to cough out after a short pause as he knew what his sister could do when mad. Lion looked around and spotted the health clinic, which was the whole reason they came into town in the first place. It was a bit of a run-down place and had been here for the past two decades. (In dog years, that is).

"We are here for Peter remember?" said Lion looking over at the hurt parrot

"So now probably isn't a good time to practice comedy," Lion cried switching his gaze over to the Zebra.

"Gee tough crowd," Zebra sighed but then snickered to himself as he moved out of the way.

Gianni parked the bright sunlight yellow combi and stepped out of the car in confidence.

"I know, I know, I have excellent driving skills." he bragged but then his long legs tripped over each other and he tumbled to the ground.

"Well, you clearly don't have excellent walking skills that's for sure!" exclaimed Zebra. He laughed so hard he almost fell over. This got a small chuckle out of Lion as the king tried to hide his joy, deciding to show itself after Zebra's joke.

"Oh, shut up!" Gianni cried feeling embarrassed. "It's not funny!" he added.

"Well, it is a little funny" Mikah replied with a grin. They walked into the health clinic to find a chihuahua sitting behind a desk typing away at the computer. Lion walked up.

"Excuse me" he said. The chihuahua looked up and yapped, "Yes?"

Lion looked at her a little flustered as he had never heard a chihuahua speak before and was surprised with how high pitched her voice was

"Well, uh you see, the other animals and I are here for a doctor" Lion explained, still slightly in shock.

"Well, I could've guessed that" the chihuahua said in what seemed like disgust. Lion thought it was quite mean, but he continued.

"Our friend Peter has a hurt wing." The dog looked behind the desk barked, "Ok, so what do you want me to do about it?" A thousand thoughts rushed through Lion's head. This assistant had the audacity to say such rude and vile things to him? He could fit her in his mouth without trying and eat her with one big gulp.

"I want you to help him and get a doctor this instant!" Lion roared. After a long pause the lady just yapped,

"Eh, no." Lion didn't know what to do after that. All of a sudden, Mika became enraged like a volcano about to erupt and climbed up on to lion and jumped on the desk, grabbed the chihuahua by the collar of her uniform, pulled her closer and looked her in the eyes.

**"LISTEN LADY IF YOU DONT GET PETER A DOCTOR RIGHT NOW WE ARE GONNA HAVE A PROBLEM HERE, SO TELL ME, DO WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE?"** The assistant was shocked, she saw Mika grinding her teeth together.

"N-no mam," the dog murmured quietly with her lip quivering and the rest of her body almost shaking uncontrollably. She typed away.

"You will have a doctor within the next five minutes."

".... Yeah, could you put that under Leo, that would be great thanks" Lion added.

Mika hopped off the desk and walked over to a chair to take a seat. Everyone was looking at her in absolute fear with wide eyes and jaws dropped. It must have been very awkward and extremely scary for the cat sitting next to her with her sick child.

STOMP!

Everyone looked up to see a hippopotamus in a doctor's uniform

"Peter?" the hippo calls with a smile.

Peter hops off his seat and everyone else followed.

"Um we can only have one friend come," the doctor said.

"Why is that?" Gianni asked

"Well with the whole LOVID-18 going around it would just make things a bit safer." replied the hippo.

Peter pointed over to Stripes with his good wing.

"Yeah baby! Who's the favourite? I'm the favourite!" said the Zebra feeling good about himself.

"Just don't do anything too ridiculous" Leo cried.

Zebra immediately becomes offended.

"I would never!" he cried. So, the doctor, Peter, and Stripes walked over to the doctor's room. STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!

This doctor also seemed to be.... a bit heavy footed, Stripes thought.

Lion began to hear the sound of the hippo stomping once again, Stripes and Peter behind him. Hippo slowed to a stop in front of the others. "Your friend will be fine, he will just have to wear this cast for a month or two." Happiness filled the animals to the brim. Everyone walked out of the health clinic and towards the combi, with a smile on all their faces.

## The last Of Us

I anxiously looked in the rear-view mirror. There wasn't anything there, but I couldn't stop feeling like something horrible was about to burst around the corner and swallow my car whole. I tried to relax. I grabbed a mars bar from my emergency snack bag and took a bite. Just as I started to relax, I thought that I could hear something. Like a low rumbling. I ignored it at first, but it rapidly grew louder. Uh oh... something was coming. Something BIG...

But before we go on, let's have a bit of a recap. You know, just so you know how I got to the point where I was being chased by some big thing...

### 4 weeks ago...

So pretty much, the world as we know it is over. Terrifying mutant animals that are massive and eat people have taken over the world. Things like massive sharks the size of megalodons that can bite a cargo ship in two, and mutant elephants bigger than a house that could smash everything into tiny pieces with tusks the size of school buses. One of the most horrible things I've seen is a giant cheetah. You can't run from a giant cheetah. Trust me, I've seen people try, and it didn't end well for them. But I managed to survive inside of a little cave that I have turned into an awesome underground bunker. I gathered some supplies from here and there, and then I had a great home, and everything was great... but then I found a radio, and that is where the story begins.

I was going on another trip around my abandoned town, to look for supplies and map the area, when I came across a radio in an abandoned house. It was broken, sure, but I knew how to fix it, so I brought it back home. After some work, it turned on, so I waited.... And waited.... And waited.... until eventually I heard something. It was distorted, but it was obviously a distress call from a group of survivors. So, I headed out into the unknown in my post-apocalyptic monster-proof armored vehicle.

Anyway....

## Back to the terrifying present! What is coming to kill me now?

Crash! A herd of massive mutant deer came screaming around the corner! I slammed my foot on the accelerator and tried to speed away, but the deer kept up! They were getting closer to the car, and I could see their huge, twisted antlers up close. I activated the roof mounted arrow launcher and fired at the deer at the front of the herd flitttt! Shmack! The deer collapsed into the deer behind it and there was a massive deer pile up. I sped away from the pile of deer and out of the town.

I spent the night on the side of the road in my car, parked under a tree. The next morning, I woke up to a strange humming sound. I got dressed and opened the door. Immediately, three mutant hummingbirds, each one just over a foot high, with beaks like knives that they use to impale you and suck out your insides, flew in through the door! I grabbed my cricket bat and tried to swat them away. I managed to hit one, but it made the other two angry. I jumped out of the car and fought the hummingbirds, but then I heard a loud buzzing sound from them in the tree. Several more hummingbirds flew out of the tree and swarmed down at me. I jumped back into my car and slammed onto the accelerator. The car shot away, but the hummingbirds were fast. They chased my car down the road and dive-bombed it, punching holes in the metal roof with their sharp beaks. Thunk! Thunk! Thunk! The hummingbirds had almost caught me when they suddenly stopped all at once. I was looking back out of the shattered back window, wondering what had caused them to all leave, when a foul stench filled the air. I turned around and what I saw was terrifying. A huge, battered lump of scales was draped over the road. I stopped and got out of the car, to see what this mountain of scales was (armed, of course, I was not in the mood to be eaten today). On closer inspection, the scale mountain turned out to be a mutant crocodile. It was dead, but it still gave me the chills. I soon noticed the creature's many wounds, and realized, with horror, that something had killed this thing. And recently too.

I did not sleep too well that night, as you can probably tell. The next morning I spent hours trying to get around the dead crocodile. I got past eventually, and I am very close to the human survivors. I drove all day, and as night fell, I kept driving. Every now and then, I would see flashes of light in the corners of my eyes, but I kept driving.

5 minutes later...

Things were not good. It turns out that the flashes of light were mutant fireflies, each one about the size of my hand, and they had all grouped together into a big blindingly bright swarm and they were after me. I was driving as fast as I could, but there must have been thousands, and they were landing on my car and trying to get in. Then suddenly, hooray! I did not mean hooray as In I was not about to die anymore, but I could see the entrance to the survivor's bunker! I drove to it and went in, slamming the door on the swarm. Once inside, I expected to see people, but there were none. Were they hiding? I called out, but there was no answer. I looked around. There was no sign that anyone had been here for a while, but no sign that anyone had been killed. The place was trashed though, as though everyone had grabbed their stuff and left as fast as they could. But they were still out there, somewhere, and I was going to find them... as soon as the fireflies left, and I had gotten some rest.

The end



Hibiscus

The  
Rainwing



Illustrated and written by:  
Holly Wheaton

# Hibiscus the Rainwing

Hibiscus was a dragon who liked to eat bananas and sleep. To her that sounded like heaven. In the rainforest she could eat and sleep as much as she liked, that was her kind of life. In the rainforest, there was nothing to fight over, there was always enough fruit to go 'round. What would they fight with anyway? There was there face-melting venom of course. But who would use that on a dragon? She thought fighting was useless. Besides, the rainforest was peaceful! But all this was about to change, very soon.

One day, in the rainforest a strange brown dragon claiming to be a Mudwing, came. Her name was Crane. When she arrived, she talked with the Queen and said, "The Mudwings want this rainforest, and will take it."

How rude! They could have asked! But, nooo.

They had to charge in and demand we give it to them!

I would not give our kingdom after that!

Besides, this is our home! I am not going to let them have the Rainwing kingdom! Nu-uh. I mean, if I was them I wouldn't want to live in a muddy, icky swamp! But still!

Banana  
glush



\*\*\*

"Wake up!" yelled a strange voice.

Hibiscus replied with a, "ughhhh, whyyyy?"

"Because the Queen said so!" said the Dragon.


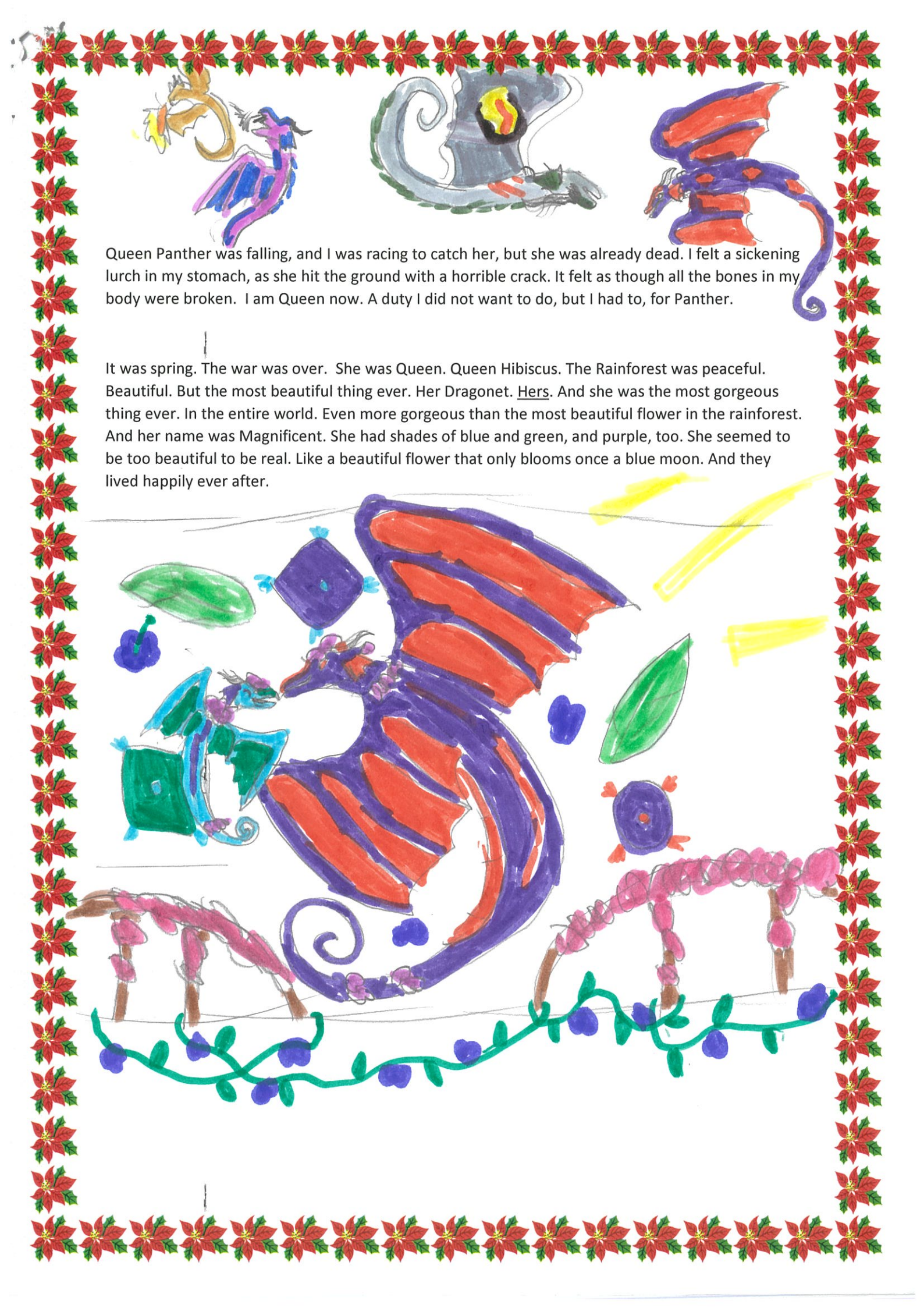
Hibiscus now recognized the dragon. His name was Tapir. He is one of Queen Panthers advisors and in charge of military. He was also a major pain in the tail. Hibiscus then said "fine."

When he got to the treehouse palace he noticed that there was quite a lot of dragons there, including a few Icewings, Leafwings and Silkings, too. When everyone was in the treehouse Queen Panther began speaking, "You've all heard about the Mudwings; and how they want the rainforest. Well, we're not going to let them have it. Hibiscus! As I have no current heirs, if I die you will be Queen. That is all. We leave for the battle field tomorrow. Prepare your selves."

Hibiscus was a completely different dragon. Everything has changed. Hibiscus was now called General Hibiscus. Battle had toughened her. The Mudwings now had allies, dangerous allies. The Hivewings, Sandwings and Seawings. But, we are allied with the Icewings, Leafwings and Silkings! So, Ha! A big battle will begin tomorrow with the Sandwings. The Sandwings are the most dangerous ally. The Seawings have no natural weapons, and Hivewings can only paralyse you. Sandwings however, can kill with those venomous barbs and their fire. In this battle Queen Panther was fighting! What an honour! We're going into to battle tomorrow for Glory! For Panther! For the rainforest!

\*\*\*

Hibiscus was on the battle field. Dragons screaming, face-melting venom spraying everywhere, and one terrible, terrible sight.



Queen Panther was falling, and I was racing to catch her, but she was already dead. I felt a sickening lurch in my stomach, as she hit the ground with a horrible crack. It felt as though all the bones in my body were broken. I am Queen now. A duty I did not want to do, but I had to, for Panther.

It was spring. The war was over. She was Queen. Queen Hibiscus. The Rainforest was peaceful. Beautiful. But the most beautiful thing ever. Her Dragonet. Hers. And she was the most gorgeous thing ever. In the entire world. Even more gorgeous than the most beautiful flower in the rainforest. And her name was Magnificent. She had shades of blue and green, and purple, too. She seemed to be too beautiful to be real. Like a beautiful flower that only blooms once a blue moon. And they lived happily ever after.



# The Trials of Artemis

Kooper McArdle

My hunters and I were sprinting through the ominous shadows hoping that we will make it to camp Hemitheos in time. Evie and Sam have their bows out and are patrolling our perimeter whilst staying close enough to defend Alex who was hobbling along with an unconscious meg in her arms. We are all in shambles from the previous Harpie attack we could only faintly make out camps border a couple of hundred metres away. Though whether what we were seeing was real or a figment of our imagination I do not know. If it is real, we must pass the elaborate stone symbols that surround the camps perimeter before we are safe.

The harpies are hovering above us just out of arrows reach but that did not matter, all we must do is get past the markings and find refuge in the form of our base camp. Anyways time to run, we sprint across the fields of green and gold making a desperate final effort to find safety, well that is all I remember, before I blacked out.

Turns out we made it as once I regained consciousness, I found myself inside a clay hut I am guessing my brother's Hemitheos cabin as I saw a strange combination of bows, musical instruments, and medical equipment. I sat and had a look around and saw my hunters on an assortment of beds with many young mortals tending to their injuries. Some more hunters have obviously come to regroup. I go to stand up without much success I fall flat on my face and continue to lay there for a solid 2 seconds to which I then roll over to find myself face to face with a young energetic boy who behind him stood an older more disciplined looking girl. They helped me get back to my feet and then sat me down. The girl told her brother to get some ambrosia. I asked her for her name, she replied in a soft gentle voice that she was Ellie, and her brother was Jake, and they were both Hemitheos whose godly parent is Apollo. Just as I suspected from the mismatch of equipment and medicinal tools along the wall. They fed me some ambrosia and ordered me to get more rest.

Whilst I was recuperating, I reflected on our adventure and near-death experience. I had set out to regain my father's favour, my mission was to hunt Echidna, the murderous monster, who slipped through my fingers after Zeus gave a direct order to send her to Tartarus within the week. As you can see, I failed to fulfil his order. I knew that to regain my father's respect, I would have to finish what I had started. I woke up the next morning and snuck out of the cabin accompanied by my hunters, we stock up on arrows and medicinal supplies. We sneak out using the camps emergency escape route which brought us out around the Parthenos.

My hunters and I had a quick discussion and we decided it would be good to start looking around a cave system just southeast of here since Echidna loves caves and that is the closest area we could think of. We headed west along an old Hemitheos trail; a narrow, winding labyrinth of hidden dangers and obstacles, making it a perfect area for Echidna to inhabit. But after what seemed an eternity of frivolous searching, we were starting to lose hope and were not sure if we should keep looking or start to head to another network of caves due east. As we started to head out, we suddenly heard a strange sound. It was the unmistakable sound of scales scraping across rock on our eastern side. We slowly head over in the rough direction of the sound and peer through a beefy bush to see the pure ugliness that is known as Echidna. She is one of the oldest monsters alive, a thing of nightmares-a beast with the bottom half of a snake, top half of a human with an unnatural skin colour and an obnoxious face. The sheer sight of the hideous monstrosity is enough to strike fear into even the bravest of souls.

We approached the wicked beast cautiously, noticing she was wielding dual cosmetic silver blades. I gave the signal for the hunters to load their arrows. As they prepared for the onslaught, Echidna pivoted without warning and launched into a furious frenzy. I do not know how she knew we were there, but she did. The hunters launched a risky counterattack, but Echidna was too strong it was close range she had the advantage. The hunters were in too much danger. We fell back and took shelter behind a jagged outcrop, waiting for an opportunity to strike. I waited patiently and held my breath. It was death or glory.

As Echidna paused to witness the destruction she inflicted, I ambushed. I drew back my bow, held my breath and launched the arrow into the air it majestically flew. Echidna turned around, but it was too late for the ancient murderous beast. The arrow pierced her jugular and she crumpled to the ground evaporating into nothing more than monster dust. It was always weird how that happens when monsters die. The death was well deserved. She had wreaked havoc on many demigods and on my crew, leaving only myself and a couple of wounded comrades to survive.

As the last of the dust disappeared, a divine energy starts to flow through my body and my wounds healing. I split myself so I could go back to Mount Olympus whilst helping my hunters heal their wounds. I could finally return home having escaped the wrath of my father.

## Category winner

Alissa Rahaley, Year 9  
*Bequeese Jeramiah Jacobson*  
Yankalilla Area School

## Shortlisted students

Alissa Rahaley, Year 9  
*Bequeese Jeramiah Jacobson*  
Yankalilla Area School

Lauren Vales, Year 8  
*Secrets*  
Yankalilla Area School

Charlee Borlace, Year 8  
*THE LOOP*  
Yankalilla Area School

Emilie Mae-Case, Year 9  
*'Apparently'*  
Yankalilla Area School

Years 8 to 10



Bequeese Jeremiah Jacobson's my name. I'm insane, supposedly like my father. He hasn't been part of my life since the day I was born. I don't know why he left us, but hopefully I'll know soon.

2 years ago, I was placed in an insane asylum. The one my father is supposedly in. We have yet to find each other.

Roaming the halls of the asylum are the guards. No motive for life whatsoever. They're like ghosts, lifeless creatures with nothing better to do than walk up and down hallways.

I need to escape this place. Being here is making me insane. And my father is in here somewhere, I can feel it.

"Food, eat." A guard shoves a tray through the little hole in the door. Mashed potatoes, cauliflower, eggs. Everything in this place is white, the walls, the floors, the roof, the food, the clothes, everything.

I collect the plate and walk back to my corner, which I decorated myself. It took me 9 months to finish, each night for half an hour spent carving words into the wall. The words read my desperate cry for help, my plea to know him, to meet him just once, that's all I want. I don't know anything about him, not his name or why he didn't want to be a part of my life.

On the wall is a big white clock. 19:53 'Shit'. I have seven minutes. I carve my initials onto the completed letter. Now I can start the plan. Banging my head on the wall, I throw my fists and scream bloody murder. This is the only way to get the guards attention and have them take me down the white hallway into the big white common room, where all the coocos stay.

I get placed in the corner of the room, perfect. I can see everything, sus out everyone. Gaz is walking towards me (he's the biggest guard in this place, big build, but a softie). He locks eyes with me, I glance away. He can tell I'm up to something, I don't have the cleanest record.

'Oi, all you couks, it's bedtime,' a guard's voice bellows across the room. Another guard hands out white blankets, warm but stinks. They don't get washed unless someone's chucked all over it.

I wrap myself up and snuggle into the corner. Rest my head on the wall and shut my eyes. I want to sleep, my body is telling me to, but my mind is racing. One eye opens so I can see the rest of the room and all its inhabitants. No one else is awake, not even the guard. I try to find anyone in this room who looks remotely like me. I narrow in on two people. I approach one, trying not to make any sudden movements. Towering over him, I try to take a closer look at his face. His nose looks crooked, like its been broken before, and his chin has a divet in it, a butt chin. I haven't seen my reflection in years but all I know is I have blonde curly hair and dimples the size of blueberries in both my cheeks. I creep to the other guy and try to make out the shape of his face.

Sudden realisation and shock rushes over me. I am surprised by my findings, the search is finally over, I have found him. I can't be sure, but I have a gut feeling that this is him. I start to hyperventilate, this can't be happening. I run back over to my safe corner and wrap myself up again. I rest my head on the wall, closing my eyes, half grateful that I found him, half praying it isn't true.

My eyes feel red and puffy, my forehead all sweaty, the blanket is now on the floor instead of protecting me. I must have had nightmares. Its early in the morning, I think, there are no windows in this place, only lights inbuilt into the roof. Everyone's awake now, even my suspected dad. He sits there alone, in the corner parallel from me, carving stuff into the wall with his nail. Like father like daughter I guess. Staring at him for a few minutes, I notice that his hair is blonde, and the curls are matted, but there; and on his cheeks, is two blueberry-sized dimples sitting just above his mouth.

What feels like hours goes past before I make my move. I slowly rise from my corner and tip toe my way over to him. He hasn't noticed me yet, and I'm unsure of how to make him notice me. I feel like a middle school girl, trying to get a boy's attention.

'What do you want?' an unfamiliar voice exclaims. From this one sentence I can tell he over pronounces everything.

I don't know what to say so I stay quiet, and continue to walk towards the man.

'WHAT DO YOU WANT?'

'To ask you a few simple questions,' I whisper. Despite my natural attitude I am overly shy right now.

'And what might those questions be?'

All of the questions thrash through my head.

'Are you my father?'

A few awkward moments of silence pass. Before he answers.

'I was there the day you were born. But I don't know how you have been over the past sixteen years, or who you have become, but yes, I am.'

I don't believe it, I can't believe it. My legs feel like jelly and my heart is racing. He stands up and holds me so I don't fall.

'How do you know I'm your daughter? How can you tell?'

'I've watched you for the past two years and every time I look at you, its like looking in a mirror. We even share the dimples.'

At least I know its him. I don't know if that's a good thing or bad, but at least I know.

'Why did you leave us?'

'I was there the day Logan was born, you were too young to remember, or even know who I was back then. But I left because I was too dangerous for society, too dangerous to be around two young children.'

'Why did they put you in this place?'

'My unstable mind.'

Before I can react, he places his hands around my neck and squeezes.



## Secrets

*Breathless. Panting. Aching. The pain is real now. Trees engulf me, leaving me with nowhere to go. Crunching leaves underneath my feet, the scent of pine trees as a light winters breeze reminds me of long talks with hot chocolate on the front veranda. I could never have that again. Not after what happened.*

*Darkness devours the slim trees revealing a breathtaking blanket of stars, giving just enough light to make out shapes in front of me. Step after step, breath after breath, I am feeling more uncertain. Maybe this wasn't the right way. I should have stayed. NO. My feet crush leaves as I dodge tree branch after tree branch, frigid wind rushes through my long hazel hair, the scent of pine overwhelms me, I must keep going. Walking becomes striding, striding becomes jogging, jogging becomes running, I don't stop, I can't stop. My legs give out, collapsing onto the hard, rocky floor. I cut my hand as I try to break my fall. Blackness encloses me.*

*Warm, firm hands lifting my unconscious body. Heat radiates from his broad chest, leaving me with the warmth I need in this cruel wind. Slowly I open my eyes, lifting my head, only for it to be placed back down. A gentle, controlled voice reassures me that everything will be ok. Another dulcet murmur escapes his lips, reminding me of the deepest parts of the ocean. I rest my head back down, urging to see this mysterious person, that's when I fall unconscious once again.*

*Violent crying followed by excruciating screams, long outbursts louder than anything I have ever experienced, as if it's all in my head. Echoing, ricocheting off every wall until it reaches me again. It's too much. My hands try to find their way to my ears in hope to block out this agonizing sound. I am restrained. Kicking and squirming, trying to escape. Rigid, straight. The only words capable of describing what it is like. Movement is impossible. Doors are thrown open. Hands are everywhere, grabbing at my wrists, arms, legs, shoulders. I can't move now. Even if I tried. Voices murmuring, shouting. One man looks all too familiar, like I've known him my whole life. He orders everyone out, leaving just the two of us alone. His strong voice echoes through the room, bouncing off each wall before finally reaching me. His voice wavers in the last part, like it hurts him to say. 'I don't know how you got here but I will get you out!'*

*Long, white material suffocates my body. Although it may be lightweight, it feels like the world is on my shoulders, weighing me down more with every movement I make. I slide across the small bed, creaking, screeching every time I move an inch. The shock of the cold floor overwhelms me, covering me head to toe in goosebumps as my feet meet the pearly white floor. Slowly, I stand, letting all my weight fall to my small feet. Dragging myself to the singular window, I grasp onto the bars to hold myself upright. I look outside into the open space, lit only by the dim sun that peers out of the monstrous grey clouds. A large but soft hand is placed on my shoulder, and I jump back, letting out a small scream. There is a STRANGER in this room. I don't know where I am or who is with me. My breaths become shorter and shorter; my chest starts to tighten. I clench my hand against my chest, trying to ease the intolerable pain. I can't breathe. The space around me starts to feel smaller and smaller. His arms hold me tight, but not tight enough. I'm freaking out. I don't know where I am or who this is with me. I am confused. His calm voice fills what feels like the whole room.*

*He mutters for me to relax, to take deep breaths. Somehow that works. Something about him is familiar. Too familiar. His warm touch, strong scent, calming voice. I don't know him but what I do know is that he saved me.*

*Nurses coming and going. Checking my heart rate, checking for bruises, cuts or any self-harm, always asking who I am, if I have any family? I am never able to answer them because I don't know, not anymore anyway. Doors open and close. I lay there with no motivation for life. Five days have passed since he last visited. Lucas is his name. I discovered that from the visitor sheet. Visitor hours have come and gone, I find myself eagerly anticipating his curly brown hair resting perfectly on his pale white skin, his chocolate brown eyes, his alluring smile, and his ocean breeze scent. My door creaks open, I lift my head just enough to make out the figure of my visitor. Big build, muscles the size of mountains, hazel hair all ruffled and messed up, something seems awfully familiar about this person, then our eyes lock. Radiant green eyes sparkle in the light. A sense of raw emotion comes from his eyes, as if he trusts me with his life, like he knows me better than anyone. His eyes send me back to when I was baby, like I had once stared into his eyes before. He strides forward and sits on the end of my bed. A million thoughts are going through, my head trying to figure out who he is. His name tag reads Liam. That must be his name. I look him dead in the eyes, trying to figure him out, why he is here, who he is, why it seems like I've known him my whole life. I open my mouth to speak but as I do, he jumps up and goes to the door.*

*I mutter, 'who are you?' He turns around and glances at me before dropping his head again.*

*'I am your brother, Ellie.' Liam turns to look at me one last time before slamming the door shut. I jump out of bed and start pacing up and down my tiny room. My brother died years ago.*

*Darkness falls, I am still in my corner trying to process what I was told. There is no way that Liam is my brother. He died with the rest of my family in the house fire. I was only four, but they were all there. If he claims to be my brother, then why didn't he come and find me? Why did he leave me with the people that I was supposed to call family? The ones that abused me. Why did he leave me without anyone? I shut my eyes, trying not to think about the truth.*

*I wake up in my bed, blanket perfectly placed around my shoulders. Lucas is there on the foot of my bed, nervously waiting for me to wake up. Liam leans against the pale white wall. My head shoots up along with the rest of my body, pummelling into Lucas, he embraces my hug and squeezes me, making me feel safe and at home. I glance into the corner to see a fully packed suitcase and a set of clothes on my bedside table. I look from the suitcase to Liam. My face drops. They are taking me back. They can't take me back. My breaths become shorter; my chest starts to tighten. I clench my hand against my chest trying to ease the intolerable pain. I can't breathe. This feels like déjà vu, they can't take me back home.*

*I let out a shrilling scream.*

# THE LOOP

I open my eyes, slowly but swiftly. Everything is blurry. I cannot see or feel anything, and my body feels numb. It takes a few seconds for my eyes to adjust but once they have adjusted, I survey the scene around me. Flowers. Lots and lots of flowers. More than I can count. My hair lays in a pile on the floor, tangled through the grass. I look down at my watch, 1:23pm. I stand up, my hand reaching for my forehead as I do, wiping off the remaining sweat. My legs tumble underneath me, but luckily enough, I manage to keep my balance. Once I am standing, I notice a field. Just a field filled with flowers. And I am standing right in the middle of it.

Suddenly, I hear a rustle and quickly turn around. That is when I see it. In the distance. My eyes are widened and transfixed on this thing. Is this real? Am I hallucinating? Are my eyes playing tricks on me? A forest of trees lays in front of me. Tall bulky trees. I try to see what is in there, but it is filled with fog and darkness. I saw a dark figure. A silhouette. Walk past. I do not know whether this is a dream or not. I pinch my arm. Yep, not a dream. As I focus my attention back to the field, I start to panic. How did I get here? Although I am terrified of what is in that forest, I feel like I am being pulled. Like something is pulling me towards it, beckoning me to go in.

I cannot resist the urge to go in, so I quietly walk into the forest. The more I walk, the blurrier my vision gets. It is like there is a layer of fog covering my vision. Then, the blurriness just stops. I can see perfectly. Like the fog was never there.

I keep walking, feeling like someone or something is watching me. I hear something behind me and turn around to face them. Once I turn around, there is no one there. Nothing. No sign of anyone being there. I sigh and turn around, unaware of the person in front of me. I see them and next second, a sharp pain fills my stomach and I look down. A knife has been shoved into my stomach, blood trickling down my shirt. I feel lightheaded and look back at the person who stabbed me. They are there, looking right into my eyes. They have brunette hair. They are tall and dirty. He looks like he has been out here for a while. I fall to the floor. Everything goes black. Next second, I wake up in the same field as earlier. I look down at my watch. 1:23pm. The same as earlier. Am I tripping out? What is happening to me? I look out into the forest and see the same silhouette walk by. I walk into the forest, worried. The further I walk, the more my chest feels tighter. I finally hear the same rustle as earlier. I turn around, no one there. I turn forwards. The same man is there, knife ready to stab into my stomach. He stabs me. Everything goes black. I wake up again in the same field at the same time. It is like my life is on repeat. I am reliving the same time over and over again! My head is spinning. I can feel a pit in my stomach. I run back into the forest, breathing heavily. I run for as long as I can until I hear the rustle behind me. I turn around. Nothing. I turn back around and see the man. This time when he swings the knife at me, I jump. He misses and I grab his arm and push him to the ground.

“Who are you and what do you want” I cry out.

He looks at me with eyes as bright as the sun. He pulls his arm out of my clutch and stands up, knife in hand.

“Who are you?” he says with an angry tone in his voice.

I take a few steps back and twist around, ready to run. I run. I take a few steps before I realize that he is right on my tail. He grabs my shirt and pulls me to the ground. His knife is a few inches away from my face.

“Please don’t” I cry out, squinting my eyes, ready for the knife to stab me again. A few seconds pass and I open my eyes again. He is sitting on the floor, his head on his knees. I sit up and look at him. He sighs and starts talking.

“I am Jackson. I am sorry for stabbing you and I am... well, my life is a little crazy.”

“Tell me about it” I say, followed by a slight chuckle. “If I told you how my days been, you wouldn’t believe me.”

“That’s exactly how I feel!” he says, relief in his voice. “And you can tell me, I am sure I have had the exact same amount of weirdness as you have so...”

“Ok. I am living my life on a loop. Like I keep waking up over and over again at the exact time in the exact same place! I know it sounds weird but... Are you okay?” I say, watching the smile on his face turn to a frown.

“This may sound crazy but, that’s happening to me too” he sighs, looking at me with a sincere look. I stare at him with a shocked look on my face. That is not possible. What is happening. My head is spinning. Jackson says something but I cannot hear him. My sight has gone blurry. I cannot focus.

“Hey!” He says, pulling me from my daydream. “Are you okay?”

“Yep, just thinking.” I sigh, rubbing my temple. “We have to get out of here”

“Yes, yes we do.” He sighs. I stand up and look around. Nothing. I continue to spin in circles, trying to find something. And that is when I see it. A light. Just light. I do not know what it is, but I presume it is the way out.

“Do you see that” I say, not taking my focus away from the light.

“Yep” he says, looking directly at it too. I take a few steps forward and Jackson follows. A few steps later, I start to quicken my pace. Walk. Jog. Run. Sprint. I am sprinting as fast as I ever have. Once we are near it, I stop. There is a bright circle, right in front of me. Just a circle of light. I move my hand towards the light and move it in. My hand disappears into the light. I completely forget Jackson is behind me until I feel his hand on my shoulder. I turn my head towards him.

“This is it.” I say. He smiles at me and moves his hand into the light as well.

“Well, I guess this is it” he says, looking at me. “I’ll see you on the other side!”

He steps into the light, disappearing just like that. Now its just me. I move my hand further into the light. I jump in and everything goes bright. A flash of light and I am gone.

# 'Apparently'

"You need to add the sodium to the peroxides, though I guess you have no idea what that means do you?" Clement asked in a snarky tone.

Ambrose rolled his eyes at the younger girl and stopped trying to make an explosion by pouring the sodium into the potassium.

"Oh no, of course I don't. Please young miss, why don't you tell your elder what to do in a much simpler way." Ambrose said back with a smirk. Clement rolled her eyes, snatched the glass vial from the brown-haired male and started to walk over to where the vial holder was.

"Yeah, Yeah whatever old man." Clement said. She put the medium sized vial back in its original place. She picked up the vial holder along with the paper work and started to walk out of the boiler room closing the door behind her, leaving the grown man to himself.

"Dammit." He mumbled. He walked up to the boiler room door and tried to open it only to find that it was locked from the outside. "Ugh, great now I'll have to wait for her."

He was going to bang on the door to try and gather someone's attention but remembered that the boiler room was sound proof, due to how loud the engines were.

Outside the boiler room, Clement was walking to the elevator with files in her left hand and the vial holder in her right. She walked into the already open elevator and pressed the silver button that had the letter G on it.

She looked above the elevator doors to where a screen that shows which floor you were on was, she watched as the BR that was lit up changed into a B which changed into a LAB where the elevator stopped, and the doors opened allowing a few other people to enter. After a few minutes the screen had the letter G on it. The doors opened allowing her and a few other scientists to exit the elevator.

She walked down the hallway and into LAB 8 where she placed the vile holder down onto a shelf, before walking back out of the lab and down another hallway where she reached the reception desk.

“Hey Becca, here are the files for our project.” Clement said to the blond lady at the desk. Becca grabbed the pieces of paper from Clement’s hand and quickly read over what it said.

“What’s the *tesst* number? You forgot to add it.” Clement noticed the slur in the older woman’s words but ignored it.

“Oh. Sorry Becca the number is 261513295.”

After the older lady wrote down the scientists’ test number, Clement walked back down the hallway and returned to the elevator.

She looked back up to the screen and watched it as she waited. After a period of time she found herself being the only one left in the elevator when she reached the bottom floor and the silver elevator doors opened with a creak. Clement walked out of the elevator to find that the lights in the hallway were turned off and her only light source was the elevator.

“Okay, Creepy.” She whispered to herself, but as soon as she said that the elevator doors closed with a slam leaving her in the complete darkness. The speakers started playing a simple sentence that made no sense To Her.

*‘Brown Bunnies Burn A Billion Bodies. Brown Bunnies Burn A Billion Bodies.’*

It replayed over and over again causing goose bumps to crawl up her back and down her arms.

Trying to calm her nerves, Clement closed her eyes and took a deep breath in. Slowly she started to walk down the dark hallway while trying to ignore all the noises coming from the speakers.

*‘THWAK!’*. Clement stopped in her tracks. Slightly turning towards where the noise came from, the Rat testing centre.

*‘THUD!’* Clements hands slightly gripped her skirt as she slowly took a step back towards the elevator.

*‘BAM!’* The door crashed to the ground and where the door once stood, now stood a very pale looking man with blotches of black, bloody and peeling skin on his face. The man’s eyes had dark bags surrounding them, his cheeks were

sunken and you could see the outline of his teeth in them. The worst part of it all would be that a brown rat had his face buried into the man's neck and was trying to claw its way further inwards. The man's white lab coat along with the rat were both covered in the dark and sticky blood that ran down from his ears, eyes, nose, mouth and neck.

"What. The. FUCK!" Clement screamed while taking a few steps backs until her spine hit the wall. Eyes wide she watched as the rat slowly crawled into the man's neck, she could see a bump from where the rat was under his skin that slowly move upwards until it was right under his ear. The bump showing where the rat was slowly disappeared, the man's now black ear started to tear itself open allowing room for the rat to stick his blood covered head out.

Clement Immediately turned around and ran down the hallway in fear that the rat would go after her next, she could only imagine the feeling of the rat burying into her skin.

"*Helpht..*" The now seemingly dead man mumbled as Clement ran towards the boiler room and as she tried pulling the door open, it didn't budge!

"*Dammit C'mon!*" Clement yelled to the door. She heard large thumping footsteps behind her and slowly turned her head to see if it was that creature coming back, but instead it was much worse. There were multiple of them, all of whom had giant holes in their necks, all of their skin was bubbling as if boiling water had just been poured all over them and some of them had different injury's, from what she could see, they were not only trying to chase her, but also kill each other. One of them had its blackish bubbling skinned hands being eaten by what looks to be a whole other sort of creature.

She took a deep breath in and with one final pull she opened the boiler room door.

Ambrose was there waiting for her with a scowl on his face, at least until she grabbed him by the arm and dragged him up the emergency stairs with a hoard of these weird creatures and rats following them.

"What in the god dam hell are those things Clement!?" Ambrose yelled at the younger woman who was pulling him up a whole lot of stairs.

"I don't Fucking Know Ambrose, but they seem to want to use us as their dinner so just keep running!" Clement Yelled back at him.

They eventually reached the receptionist's floor and shut the door behind them. While Ambrose was wheezing his lungs out, Clement stopped off at a table and started to drag it towards the door they just came out of.

The scraping sound of the table legs against the tiled floor brought Ambrose back into the real world. Slowly he stood up and helped Clement drag a few other tables, benches and chairs to help block the door. After 10 minutes They had dragged every moveable object to the door and were now slowly dragging their tired bodies towards the exit, not noticing the rat that had jumped onto Ambrose's shoulder.

"AHHH!" Ambrose screamed as he felt something dig into his skin.

"AMBROSE!" Clement yelled realizing that he would soon become what those creatures were.

Slowly she stepped away from him and walked over towards the front door, not quite wanting to leave him. Ambrose walked over to a desk and unlocked the draw that was inside it. Inside that draw was a button. A giant red button. Just before Clement opened the door, The soon to be infected grabbed the rat off his shoulder and threw it onto the red button.

The last thing either Ambrose or Clement ever saw was the bright light of an explosion.