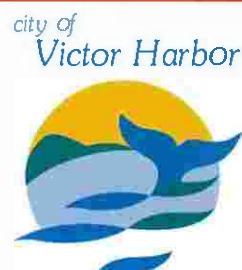
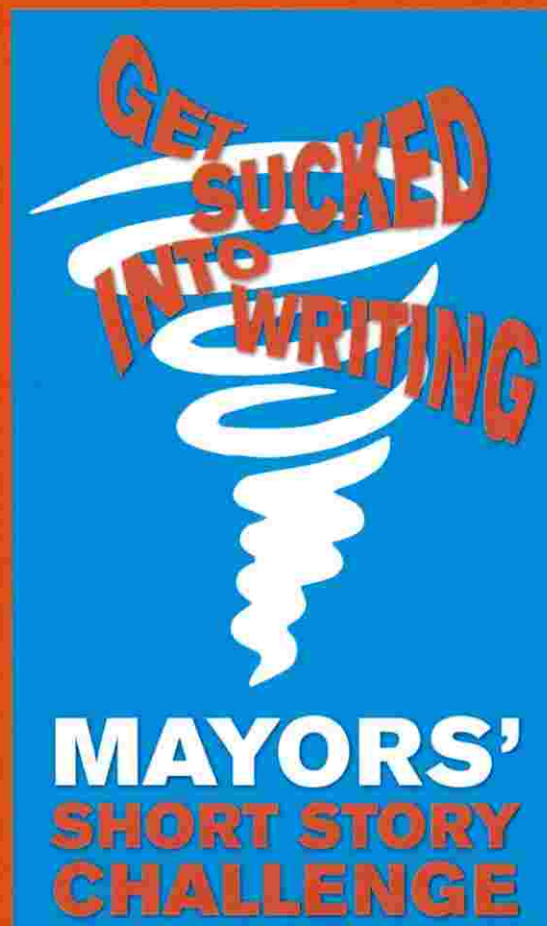


2021

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 146 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

The Castle
Queenie Hunt

The impossible adventures of Percy the pig
Royce Williss

Reception to Year 2 Section

Keisha and Dihvy and Mango
Izabelle Paine

Years 3- 4 Section

The war with a toy
Riley Pope

Years 5 - 7 Section

The fire
Lauren Vales

Years 8 - 10 Section

Wolf Whisperer
Georgina Williams

Overall Winner

Keisha and Dihvy and Mango
Izabelle Paine

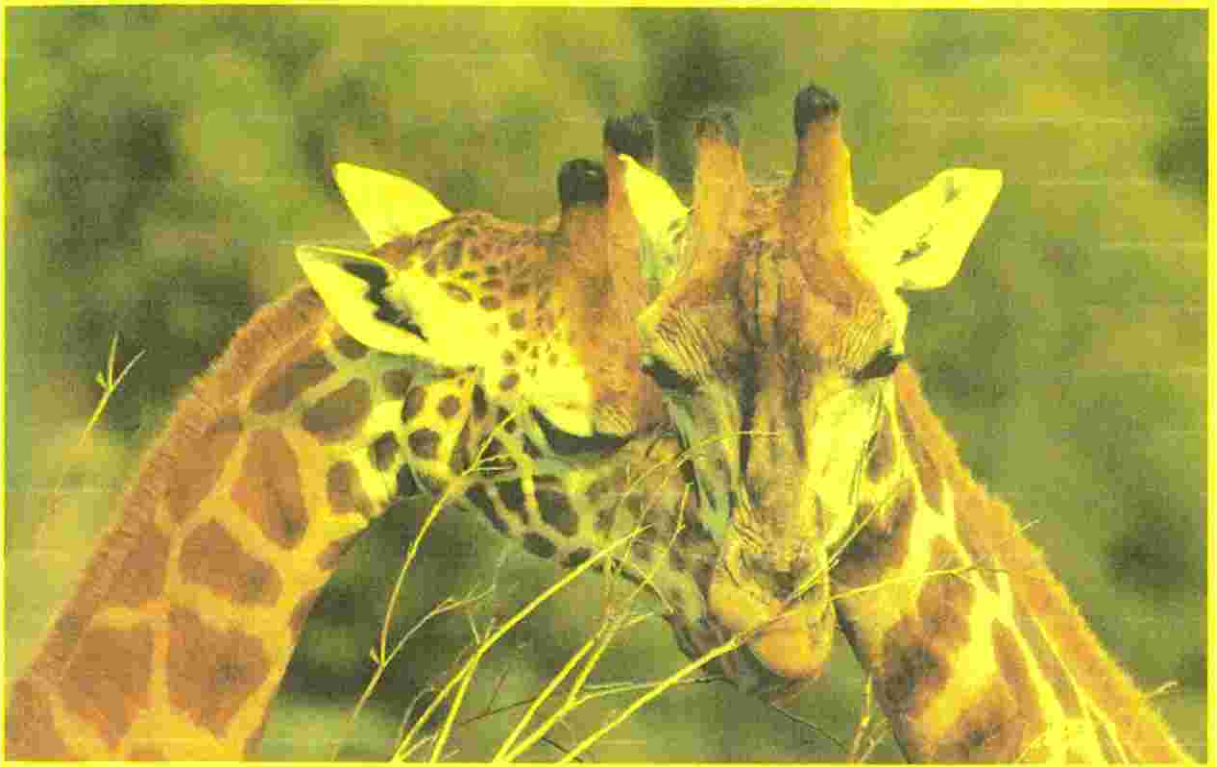
Overall Winner

Izabelle Paine

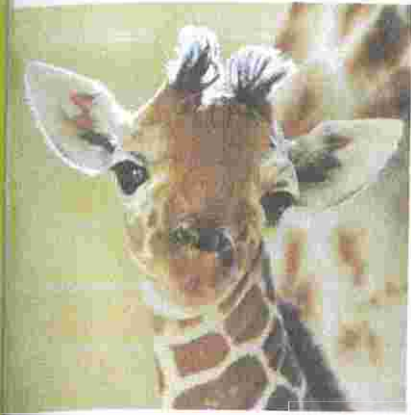
Keisha and Dihvy and Mango

Home School





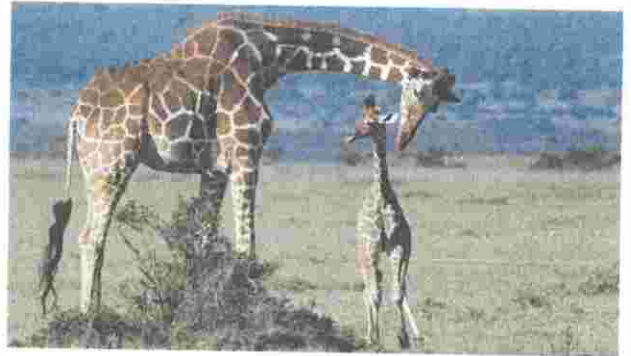
**Keisha
and Dihvy
and Mango**



Keisha and Dihvy and Mango

Once upon a time there was a tiny giraffe. Her name was Dihvy. She lived in a grassland in Africa. She only had a mum because her dad died when she was born. He was killed by lions. That made her mum really sad. Her mum was called Keisha.

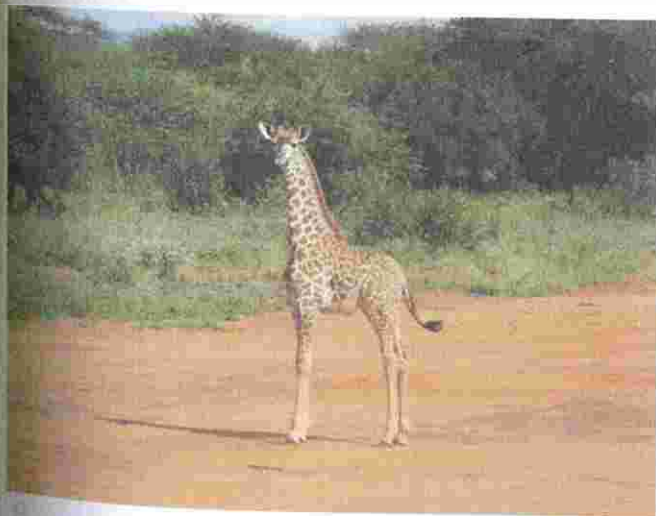
They went out to look for some bushes to eat. Their favourite food was the greenest leaves on the big green bushes. There weren't many bushes like that on the grasslands. They had to go through the whole grasslands in search for every little bush. That made little Dihvy sad and tired.



A pack of cheetahs blended in with the rocks and Dihva and Keisha were very worried. They couldn't really hear the cheetahs, but they heard



a scratch. It was the sound of cheetahs sharpening their claws on rocks.



They ran as far as they could in the forest and when little Dihva came out of the forest she was alone! She felt lonely and lost and a little bit scared. The cheetahs were gone but her mum was as well! She didn't want to go in the forest again because it was very dark and she couldn't see anything.

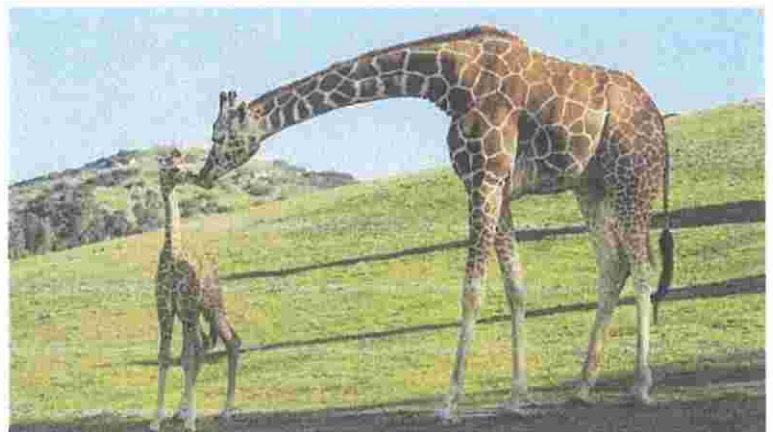
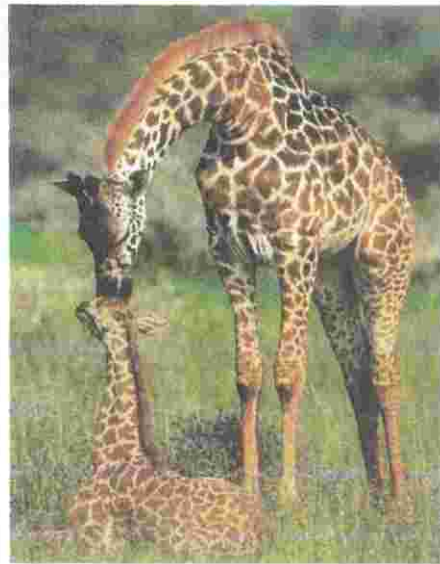
That was the last time Dihva saw her mum.

She quickly ran into a big cave and drank the water that was coming off the roof. She went back outside and grabbed some of the bushes and made herself a very comfy bed and slept.

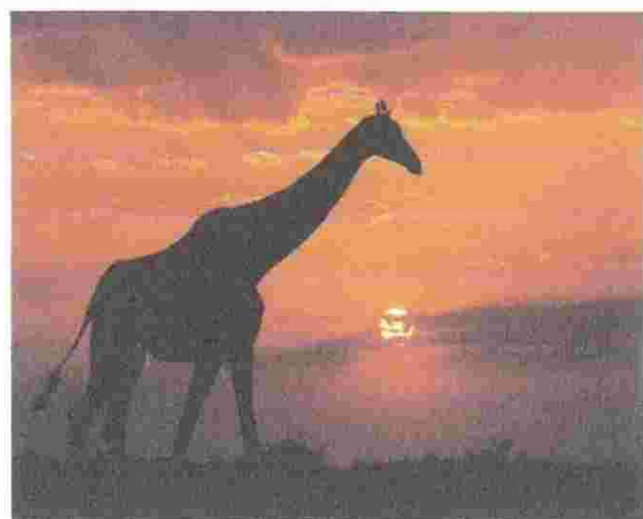


Four years passed and Dihvy looked after herself in the grasslands. She still worried about her mum, but she had everything else to worry about.

One day she had a baby of her own. She called her baby Mango. Mango didn't have a horn, it was missing. It was because the boy giraffe was a different type. But Dihvy was okay with her baby and she loved it very much. She taught it how to stand and how to walk and how to run.



One day they were drinking at a waterhole and they heard another giraffe. It was calling out to Dihvy, saying her name. It was Divhy's mum, Keisha, and she ran over to them.



Dihvy was very excited and called out her mum's name. They curled their necks up to say hello. Keisha said, "Is this my granddaughter?" and Dihvy said, "Yes!"

Mango grew up to be big and strong and they lived happily ever after on the grasslands.

THE END

by

Izabelle Paine



Mayor's Encouragement Awards

Queenie Hunt Year One

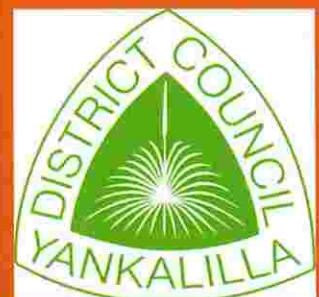
The Castle

Yankalilla Area School

Royce Williss Year Six

The impossible adventures of Percy the pig

Rapid Bay Primary School



The Castle

Once upon a time, there was a princess, a queen and a king who lived in a castle.

One day, the princess was old enough to go to princess school where she could make lots of friends.

Suddenly, there was a storm and because the princess was so light she blew away.

Luckily, she landed on some pillows near her castle. She had put the pillows out earlier in the day.

The princess lived happily ever after.

Queenie



The impossible adventures of Percy the pig

My name is Percy. If you didn't guess from the title, I am a pig. I live on pig island. I don't know where that is on the map, but that isn't important right now. What is important right now is what happened...

Three weeks earlier!

First thing's first: I have a secret laboratory under my house, and I am the only one who knows about it. Well, other than you. But anyway, I was in my laboratory, putting the finishing touches on my time machine, when I heard a strange noise coming from my apocalypse detection room. The apocalypse detection room has everything I need to prevent pig island from going poof. I headed to the source of the sound and found my seismograph sending a jagged line across the paper. Uh oh...

I stood in my apocalypse detection room as it began to quake. I had to warn the island! I sped up the stairs, into my house, and burst outside. I saw everyone running around screaming. I saw the pig island volcano. These were the first signs of an eruption. The volcano was becoming active.

The mayor ran up to me and yelled over the rumbling and screaming "what's happening!" "the volcano is becoming active! If we don't leave this island soon, we will be destroyed!" I called back. "Well when will it erupt!?" KABOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!!!! A burning hot chunk of lava slammed down on top of the mayor! I stared at the burning crater where the mayor had been standing. The eruption was starting early. Way early. There was only one way to save the island. My time machine.

I ran towards my house. Chunks of lava were falling left and right. I shrieked as a lava chunk smashed down right next to me. The blast threw me backwards, and my life flashed before my eyes. I saw my child self being teased at school. I saw people laughing at my supposedly useless inventions. I saw every one of my inventions that had been laughed at by the community. I saw my parents. They were the only ones who believed in me. That was until they disappeared. I felt like giving up. But I knew that my parents wouldn't want me to do that. I got up and ran to my house, Down the stairs and into my lab. I found my time machine, and remembered that I hadn't yet tested it. But I needed to save pig island. I got in the time machine, set the time machine to the same day then last year, and then everything went black.

I opened my eyes, and got out of the time machine. The volcano wasn't erupting, and there was a good chance the mayor was alive. I then began: PROJECT SAVE PIG ISLAND'S POPULATION!

The end

Category Winner

Izabelle Paine
Keisha and Dihvy and Mango
Home School

Shortlisted students

Izabelle Paine
Keisha and Dihvy and Mango
Home School

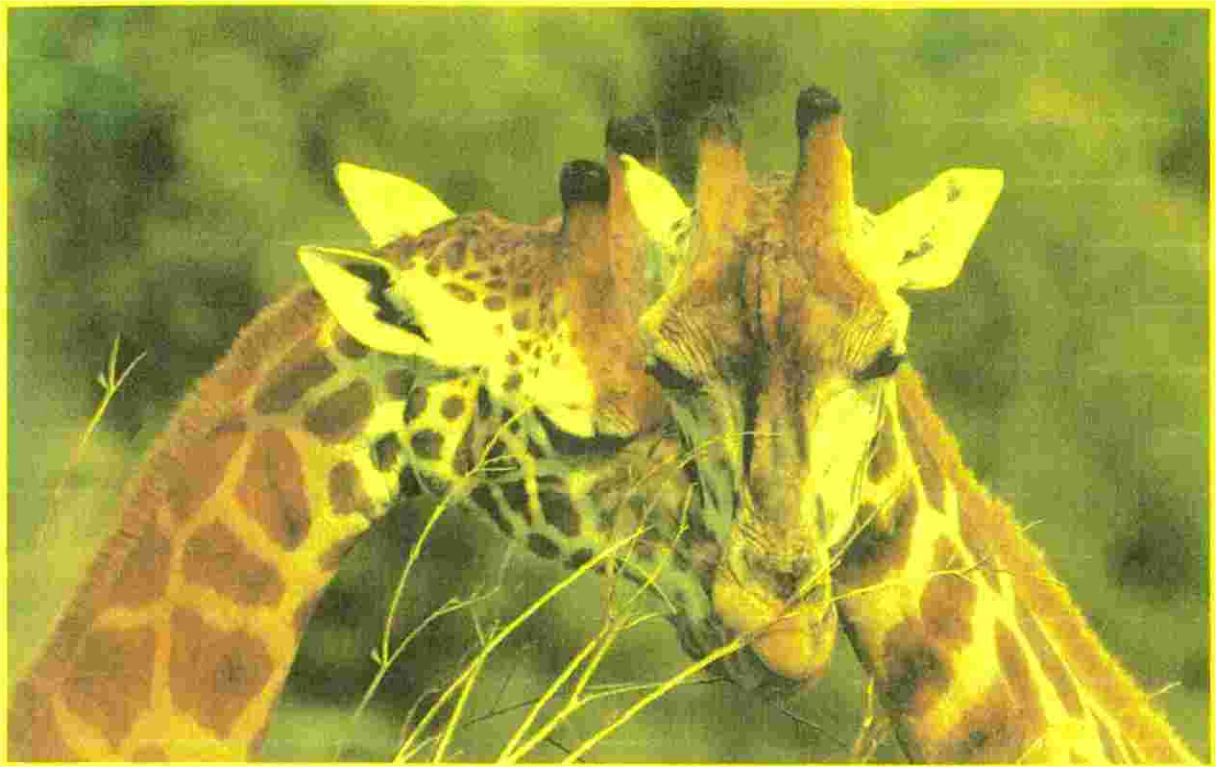
Addy McArdle, Year 2
Meteorite
Rapid Bay Primary School

Xzhalia Stone, Year 2
Oh no! The cat ate the fish
Rapid Bay Primary School

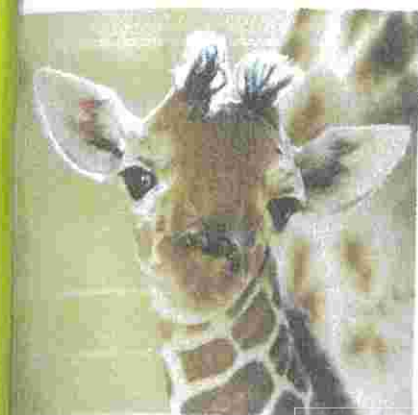
Ella Conroy Year 2
Suzi the stegosaurus
Yankalilla Area school

Reception to Year 2





Keisha
and Dihvy
and Mango



Keisha and Dihvy and Mango

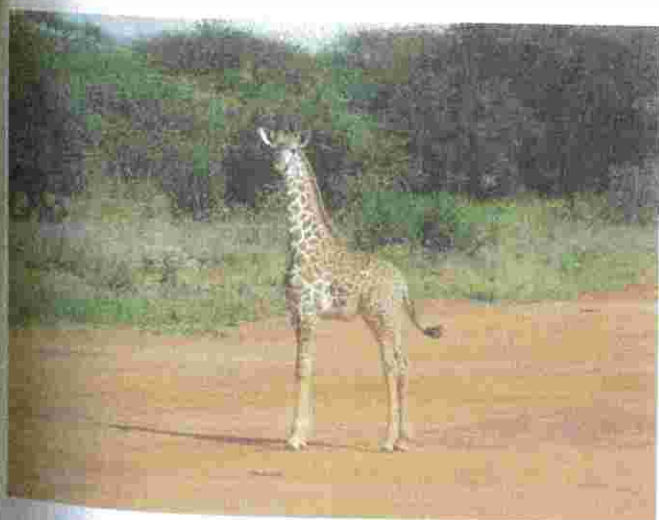
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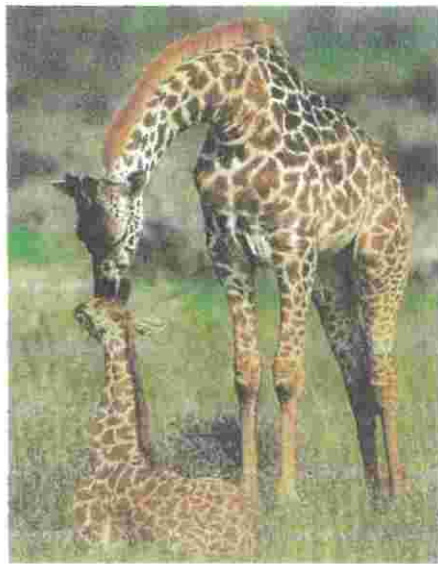
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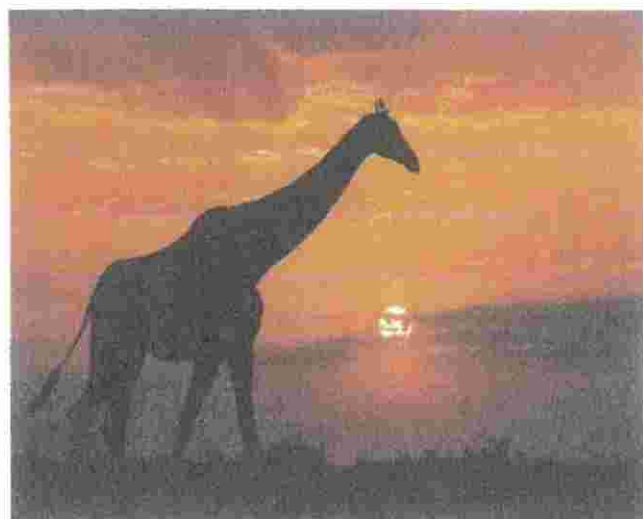


Four years passed and Dihvy looked after herself in the grasslands. She still worried about her mum, but she had everything else to worry about.

One day she had a baby of her own. She called her baby Mango. Mango didn't have a horn, it was missing. It was because the boy giraffe was a different type. But Dihvy was okay with her baby and she loved it very much. She taught it how to stand and how to walk and how to run.



One day they were drinking at a waterhole and they heard another giraffe. It was calling out to Dihvy, saying her name. It was Dihvy's mum, Keisha, and she ran over to them.



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Mango grew up to be big and strong and they lived happily ever after on the grasslands.

THE END

by

Izabelle Paine



Meteorite

There once was a girl named Addy with a very cheeky bird named Murphy. Addy and Murphy LOVED going on Adventures and reading books all about space and they also like to build. They built all kinds of things, sometimes they built toys for Murphy's cage and sometimes they built bigger things like tree houses and go karts.

One night Addy and Murphy were watching T.V. They were watching Big Brother when suddenly, the Seven news came on with a breaking news story. That a meteorite was going to hit the earth and they were all going to die. Addy and Murphy were very worried. Then Murphy said, "come on Addy lets go and save the world let's build a spaceship and go and destroy that meteorite".

Addy and Murphy went out to the shed, and they researched how to build the spaceship. Luckily, they had enough material left over from other projects, so they got to work. It wasn't easy but they did it and just in time, there was only half an hour before the meteorite was about to hit the earth.

Addy remembered reading a book about meteorites at school so she knew that she would also need something that would explode the meteorite. Lucky, she knew just the thing a laser cannon that they had built earlier. She packed the cannon and off they went.

Quick as a flash they travelled through space together until they arrived at the meteorite which was only 5 miles away from hitting earth. "quick" said Murphy "grab the laser cannon Addy". Addy grabbed the laser cannon and pointed it at the meteorite. BOOM, BANG! went the cannon. The laser shot out and headed out towards the meteorite. "Oh no it missed" yelled Murphy, "quick Addy try again". Addy reloaded the cannon and aimed again. KABOOM! The laser hit the meteorite and it exploded into small rocky pieces. This was followed by lots of flames and smoke.

Just then Murphy saw flames heading straight for the spaceship. "Watch out Addy we need to get out of here" screamed Murphy. Addy took control of the spaceship and they sped back into the earth's atmosphere. They headed home and as they landed, they both yelled VICTORY! They had both worked together to save the day. But they decided to keep it a secret, no one would ever know that they saved the day. And no one did ever know, the world lived happily ever after.



By Addy and Murphy McArdle, 2021

Oh no! The cat ate the fish

Mia's dad was at work when she got home from school. Her mum was in the kitchen cooking some pumpkin soup for her little sister. Mia had the food out of her lunchbox for a snack. Trim (the cat) ran past her into her dad's room and Mia decided to follow her to see what she was doing. Trim only sat on her dad's soft, dark, comfortable bed. When Mia got in, Blue Finn (her father's fish) said "Hi, you must be Mia." "Yes" replied Mia. The cat had finally curled up and gone to sleep very peacefully.

The next day was stormy, with many lightning strikes hitting the ocean and lots of thunder, as loud as an elephant stomping. Mia was in shock. She saw Trim grabbing Blue Finn out of the fish bowl. She was surprised and in absolute shock. She didn't know what to think or do. She saw Trim swallow Blue Finn in one, big, whole gulp. "Oh no" shouted Mia. Mia rushed past the laundry and into her dad's bedroom to tell him the horrible news. "Dad" screamed Mia. "Your fish has been eaten by Trim!" Dad looked at me in shock and disbelief, I saw a big, clear tear run down his face, it looked like a bubble. This fish had been dad's friend for as long as he could remember.

Trim began to feel awfully sick. I noticed he wasn't waking up and being his usual self, normally a ball of energy. He didn't even eat his breakfast, which is not like Trim. Dad and I decided he needed some cat friendly attention from the vet.

By Xzhalia Stane

Word Count: 442

Oh no! The cat ate the fish

In the afternoon, at 12:30pm, the family quickly hurried to the big, white ute, with bright lights and a loud horn to rush Trim to the vet. It was an emergency! When they arrived at the vet, which was approximately 10 minutes away, the vet took Trim into surgery straight away, which meant as soon as possible. We waited patiently for an hour and a half to pass. After thirty minutes, the vet came out with firstly the cat, to say everything went well during surgery. Also, behind the vet came the vet nurse, who was carrying the fish in a bowl, swimming around better and happier than ever. I saw that the fish was blowing bubbles near the top of the water. I could almost hear the burst of the bubbles. Dads face was so happy and excited to see his fish and cat well again.

This made Mia happier than ever. I think we can all agree that Trim learned a lesson about eating fish!

The End.

By Xzhalia Stone

Word Count: 442

Suzi the stegosaurus and the volcano

"wake up Suzi!" said mummy stegosaurus. "but mum!" said Suzi. "can't I just have one more minute?" "fraid not. Because today is game day!" "oh no." grumbled Suzi. She hated game day. But when she saw the look on her mother's face, she quickly added "I mean oh now! I completely forgot!" Suzi always did this because she did not want to disappoint her mother. She was a lovely stegosaurus but obsessed with sport, so every year she entered Suzi into game day. Suzi did not want to be a sport dino. *FOR HOURS LATER...*

Suzi was petrified. She was nearly at the top of the volcano. she could of swarm she felt the ground rumble. then from the top of the volcano, she heard screams. "The volcano is erupting!" "oh no!" said Suzi out loud. "what am I going to do?" She started to run down the volcano but out of no wear came a space ship! A beam of light came down and beamed her up. "whoa!" exclaimed Suzi. When she was inside the space ship, found herself surrounded by living hamburgers! "allow,

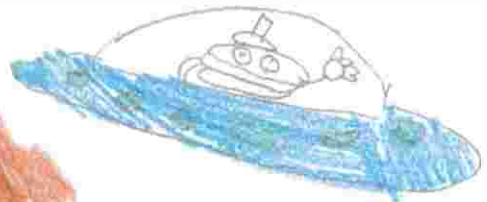


`allow, `allow we have `ere a dino!" "A stegosaurus actually," Said Suzi trying to sound calm. "and if you don`t mind, I`ll be on my way."

"Oh no you don`t. We`re on the top of that lava spiting volcano, and if ye` open that door you will be roast dino!" "well, what else do you suspect me to do! I need to save my mum!" Argued Suzi.

"I think I know what to do," said a timid voice.

"what are you doing soldier?" said the boss hamburger. "we can use our amazing corn gun! It can shoot out corn super-fast! And with the heat of the volcano it will turn into popcorn! Plus, everyone will be safe!" the boss hamburger had a hard time thinking why not to do this. So, they turned on the corn gun and filled up the volcano. Everyone ate pop corn forever and lived happily ever after.



Category Winner

Riley Pope ,Year 3
The war with a toy
Yankalilla Area School

Shortlisted students

Riley Pope ,Year 3
The war with a toy
Yankalilla Area School

Willow Russo, Year 4
One's parents gone!!
Rapid Bay Primary School

Emily Soper, Year 4
The magic crayons
Rapid Bay Primary School

Alice Fearnside, Year 3
The adventure
Yankalilla Area School

Years 3 to 4





The war with

The
Toy



by Riley
Pope.
(YAS)



Once on a weird day there was a small little boy called Max. He was smart. He said to his mum "Can I play outside?"

"Yes" she said. So, Max went to play outside.

First, he played football. He was really good at it.

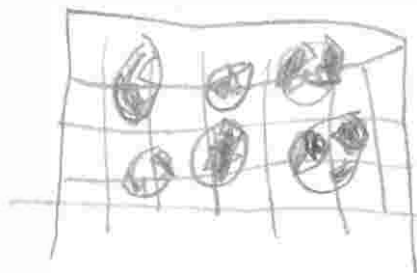
Next, he played soccer. He scored 10 goals. That was a record for him!

Then Max played on the swings. He swung so high he nearly fell off!

After that Max played on his trampoline. He did front flips and back flips.

And then he went inside for lunch.

"Mmmmm. Tuna" he said.



After lunch Max went on his K.T.M. and rode on his motor-bike track. He was very good.

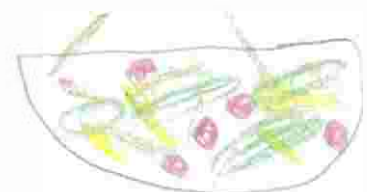
Max was doing wheelies. Then he hopped h off and had a drink.

Max went back outside and played on the swing. He was swinging really high. He felt amazing.

The ground was buzzing.

There was an earthquake!

So, Max ran inside and hugged his Mum!



When the earthquake had passed Max wanted to check on everyone in the town. So, he hopped on his bike and went off. When he rode past the toy shop it was glowing a light green. All the toys were banging on the window.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

BANG! BANG! BANG! they went.

The toys broke the glass and chased after Max. So, Max ran and past the toy shop. He ran past Woolworths and K-Mart and finally was back home.

But the toys were still chasing him. Max remembered that a few days ago an old lady had given him a toy phone.

So, Max tried to work it out.... And he did.

The phone only had one number. So, he called it.

It was the number of the Toy Army.



So, the Toy Army came and tried to stop the alive toys.

There were Toy Army people dropping from planes and riding in army tanks.

The Toy Army scientist had an antidote.

So, the Toy Army loaded their guns with the antidote.

"Fire!" they said.

They shot the antidote into the mouths of the alive toys.

The alive toys started to turn back into normal toys.

When all the toys had turned back the people of the town took them back to the shop. Then the people cleaned up the toys and the town.

And everyone was happy.



The story is about
a boy called Max
and a magical
earthquake and then the toy
Life and the toy
toy army were
called in.

One's parents gone wrong!!

"Mum, dad I'm home" said One, "mum..... dad"? She went upstairs and looked around. Hmm maybe they went to get pizza. But we only get pizza on Friday and its Monday today. Maybe it's a surprise because the bus is usually late. Oh well! So, she went in her plain old room to see if her friend Walther wants to come over.

One rang her friend, Walther who lived just down the street so never took long to get to One's house. Ding...dong. That must be her. One opened the door and welcomed her friend. Walther brought chips so the two friends got themselves comfortable and started watching a scary movie and enjoyed the tasty snacks.

After the movie, Walther had to go home. One was worried as her parents still had not come home. She tried calling their phones, but they did not answer. Eventually One fell asleep.

The next morning One looked for her parents. But they still weren't home so she got a bit worried. She thinks they could possibly be at work still. They must have had a long night and slept at work again. This wasn't that unusual for them but normally they would call.

Just then the phone rang. One answered. The other voice was not familiar to her. But the voice said "One, your parents are spies. They need you. They are being held hostage in Russia. Go the airport and I will meet you there." Before One could ask any questions, the voice hung up.

One got to the airport and realised she did not know what plane to catch. It did not matter. A young man dressed in a dark hoodie came up to her and said, "Hi One. I am Tommy. I am here to help you. Let's go." One was scared. Could she trust Tommy? She did not really have a choice. She followed and they checked in, boarded the flight, and took off.

One and Tommy travelled to Russia. They were picked up at the airport and driven to a forest. They got out and Tommy made a phone call. He said for One to follow him. They went through the forest for hours until they came across a cottage. Tommy told her to wait behind the tree. He went to the cottage. He then waved at One to join him. They saw through the window One's parents tied up. There was a guard with a gun.

Tommy snuck around and distracted the guard. One ran in and rescued her parents. One's mum tripped the guard over and they all ran back to the limo that had dropped them off. They sped back to the airport and flew back to home.

On the way home, One's parents told her and Tommy how they were spies and they had been kidnapped by a Russian gang, Tommy and One had saved their lives. When they got home, Walther rang One and asked if she found her parents. One said yes. Walther asked where they were. One looked at her parents and they all smiled...oh, not too far away! They all laughed. They were happy to be safe at home.

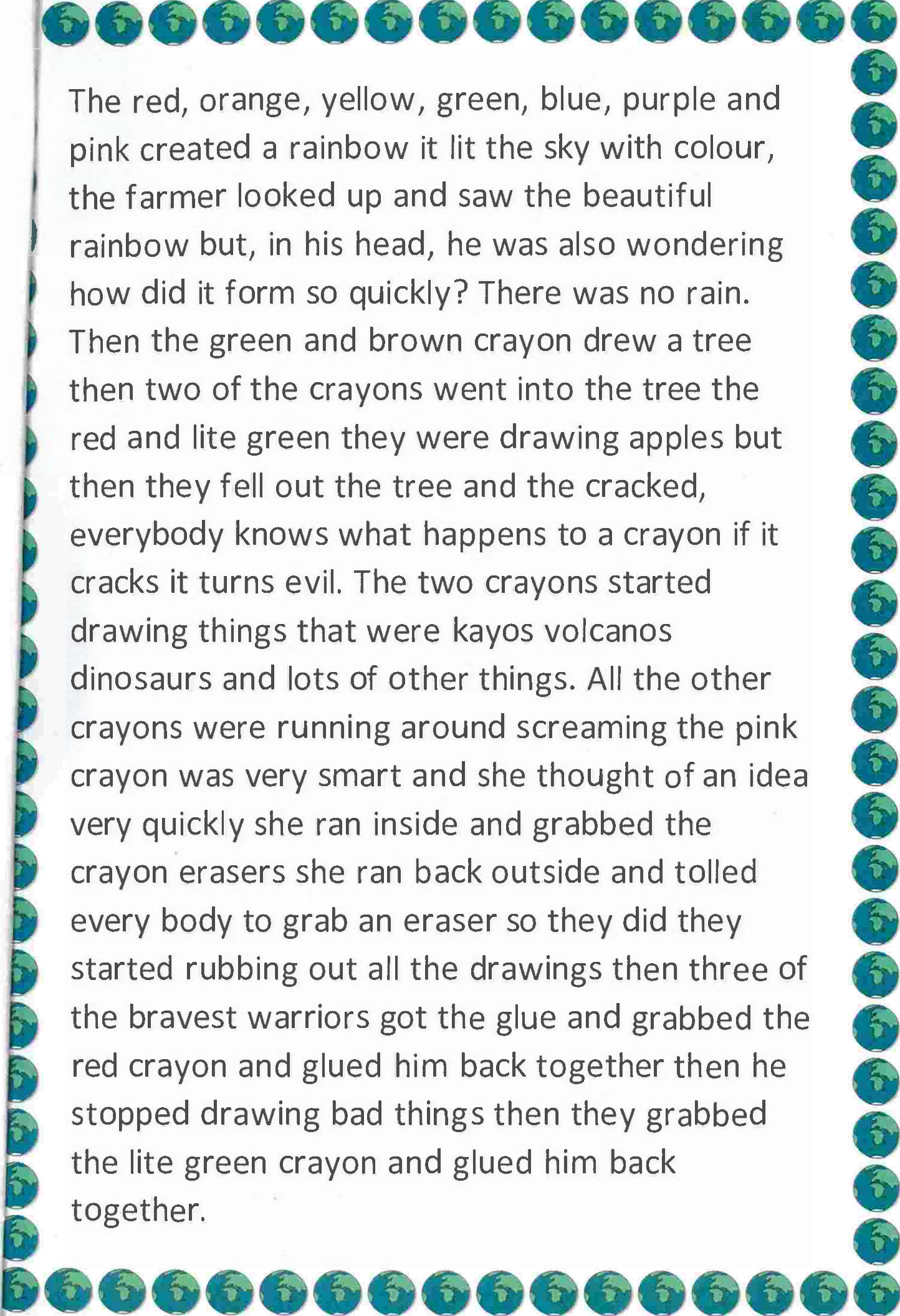
By Willow Russo



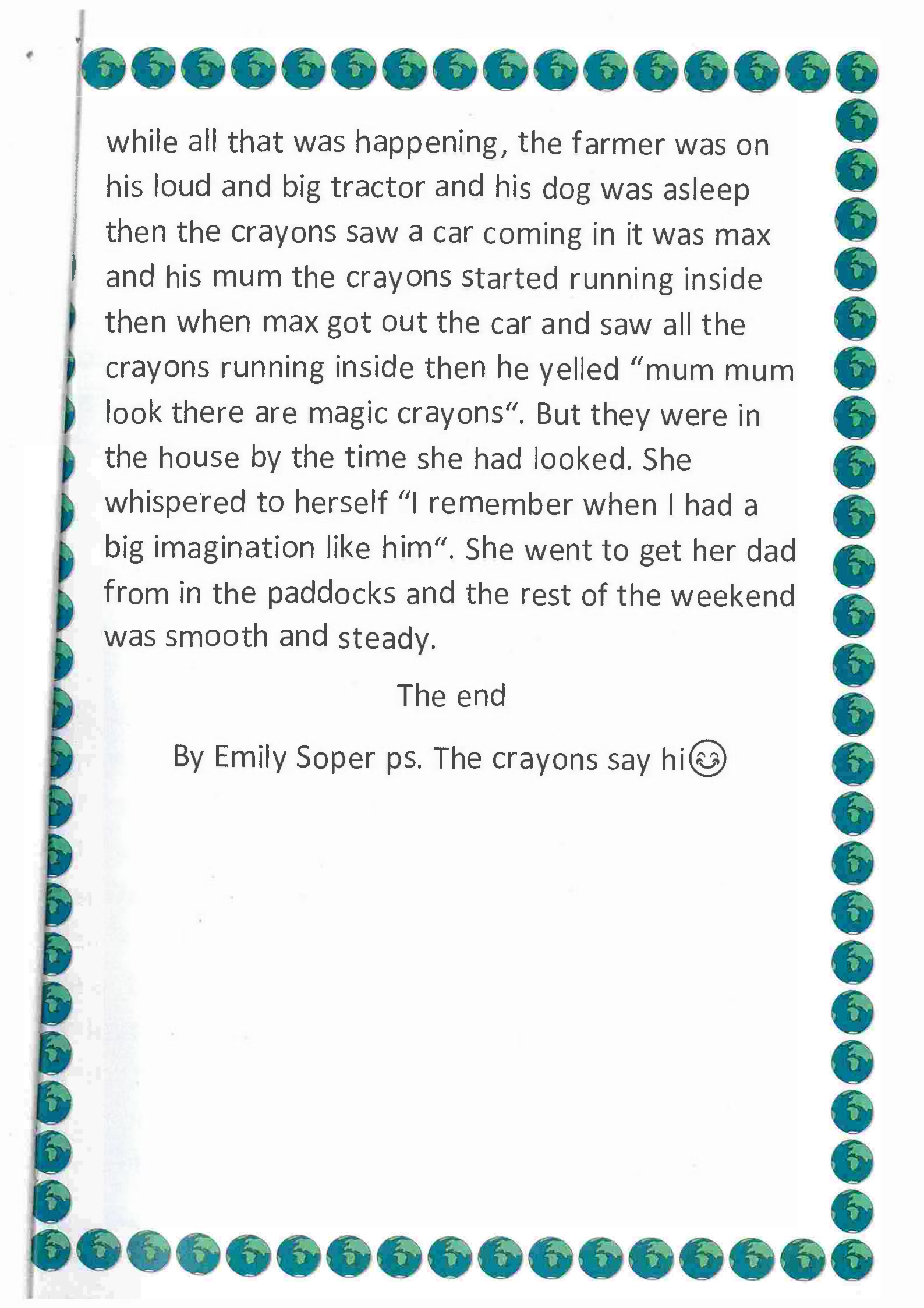
emily SoPer 4/5 A
Yr 4

The magic crayons

Once there was a boy his name was max. he lived in a small town that town was called seaside. max was packing his bag because he was going to his grandpa's farm. he was staying there for a couple of nights. it took three hours to get there. He had just finished packing and his mum beeped the car horn to say, "come on time to go". He picked up is bag and ran downstairs he grabbed his sandwich that was on the bench and got in the car it was a long drive so to by time they had played games, made up jokes and read books they would be around halfway. soon after all those things max fell asleep he was also more exited because his second-best friend lived near his grandpa's farm ben, his best friend was dusty his grandpa's dog. Meanwhile at the farm while his grandpa was on the tractor in the attic was a pack of crayons, but they were not normal crayons they were magical if they drew some thing it would come to life. All the crayons got out the box and ran outside.



The red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple and pink created a rainbow it lit the sky with colour, the farmer looked up and saw the beautiful rainbow but, in his head, he was also wondering how did it form so quickly? There was no rain. Then the green and brown crayon drew a tree then two of the crayons went into the tree the red and lite green they were drawing apples but then they fell out the tree and the cracked, everybody knows what happens to a crayon if it cracks it turns evil. The two crayons started drawing things that were kayos volcanos dinosaurs and lots of other things. All the other crayons were running around screaming the pink crayon was very smart and she thought of an idea very quickly she ran inside and grabbed the crayon erasers she ran back outside and tolled every body to grab an eraser so they did they started rubbing out all the drawings then three of the bravest warriors got the glue and grabbed the red crayon and glued him back together then he stopped drawing bad things then they grabbed the lite green crayon and glued him back together.



while all that was happening, the farmer was on his loud and big tractor and his dog was asleep then the crayons saw a car coming in it was max and his mum the crayons started running inside then when max got out the car and saw all the crayons running inside then he yelled “mum mum look there are magic crayons”. But they were in the house by the time she had looked. She whispered to herself “I remember when I had a big imagination like him”. She went to get her dad from in the paddocks and the rest of the weekend was smooth and steady.

The end

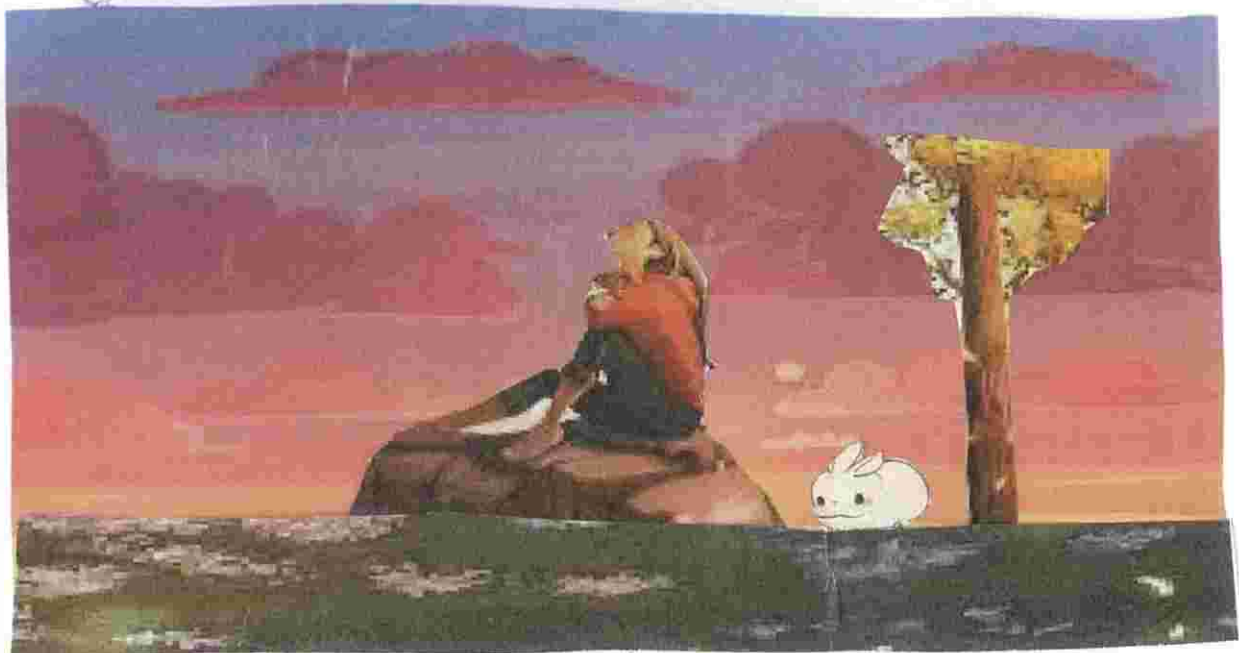
By Emily Soper ps. The crayons say hi 😊

THE ADVENTURE

There is a small house and in that house a girl named Winter lived there. She loved to go on adventures and her dream was to have a baby bunny. One night she was lying in bed and suddenly a flash came from her window she looked through her window and saw a view she has never seen before. So, she decided to go on an adventure to every place she saw. Winter packed her bag and left. First, she went to the beach. She collected lots of lots of shells. Further along Winter found a turtle it had lots of rubbish on it "oh dear" said Winter so she helped the turtle. Six minutes later the turtle had no rubbish on it. Then the turtle went back in the ocean. Winter looked at her watch and saw that it was ten o'clock so she went home but she couldn't find her way home. HELP! Winter cried but nobody answered. Winter was getting very scared then she saw a tree house so she slept in there for the night.

In the morning it as raining but that didn't stop Winter to try to go home "I nearly forgot I brought an umbrella" When it stopped raining she sat down to eat the sandwich she packed "MMM yum" Winter mumbled once she finished she heard a noise coming from the bushes winter went to go see what it was. She saw a baby bunny and it had a hurt foot. Winter took the bunny to shelter when they got to shelter Winter put a bandage on the bunny. "There you go". Said Winter proudly then she walked away but the bunny was following her. Winter could not resist taking her on her home so she took the baby bunny. One hour later Winter was starting to give up so she picked up her baby bunny and then it hit her we will just explore so they did. Eight minutes later Winter and her bunny ate a packet of original chips and got a carrot for her baby bunny. After she finished Winter named her bunny. She named it Hops. " Winter, Winter wake up said Winters mum waking her up with a baby bunny "OMG" Winter gasped " thank you so much I love mum". It turned out that the adventure was all just a dream.

BY ALICE FEARNSEDE.



Category winner

Lauren Vales, Year 7
The fire
Yankalilla Area School

Shortlisted students

Lauren Vales, Year 7
The fire
Yankalilla Area School

Abbey Page, Year 6
A taste of fashion
Yankalilla Area School

Lilly Wenham, Year 7
The Mystery Fire
Yankalilla Area School

Royce Williss, Year 6
The impossible adventures of Percy the pig
Rapid Bay Primary School

Years 5 to 7



The fire

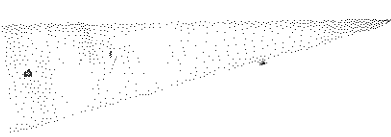
The blazing fire burning down our house layer by layer eating at the old lounge, my fifth grade art work and everything I ever loved. Ashes piling up to my waist and blowing in my face. I couldn't tell if the burning sensation in my eyes was the ashes or tears streaming down my face. The heat was like a campfire but 10 times hotter. Friends and family piling into cars, counting to make sure no one was forgotten. The neighbourhood was sent into a frenzy. I stood there astonished, watching my childhood home burn down in front of me, I knew I lost everything.

Today was the first day at my new school. New friends, new teachers, new life. I walk into this hell my parents sent me to. Girls with eyeshadow all the way up to their eyebrows, lipstick that is as red as blood and flawless bodies walking around like they own the school. I walk aimlessly around trying to find my class knowing that I would be here for hours trying to find it. With my head buried in the map that I was given I barely notice my surroundings that within seconds I am on the ground trying to get back up. A hand is laid out in front of me, my hand instantly falls into his and I suddenly feel at home, his soft smooth palms rub against mine, our fingers interlock with each other. He pulls me up brushing me off. His voice like an angel, deep like the oceans furthest point, it soothed me. Maybe this new school wouldn't be too bad.

The rest of the day went by in one large delirious blur. I rush to the exit door as soon as the bell rings, moving my legs as fast as I can to almost a slight jog. I almost reached the large exit door but then a soft hand pulls me back. I instantly recognise it and my legs go numb, like I was tranquilised by the strongest. I feel a firm but gentle second hand reach and grab my waist pulling me closer, then we start walking. Jacob Lindsey, I noticed that name, like I have known him my whole life.

He takes me to this dark, black alley way, I assumed it was the back of the school. His long muscular arms pull me away from him like I was poisonous, his bright blue eyes stare into mine, his light brown hair sways in the wind, his luscious pink lips slowly separate like he was going to speak then he reconsidered, he was perfect.

He passes me a note, our hands touching again. Every time we touch it is like all of my important organs stop and I just fail to talk or move. He flawless face turns away and his long legs swiftly move past me with his soft arms brushing



past mine. I contemplate staying in this gloomy alley way or going back out there and trying to find the person that makes me feel special.

I bolt up the stairs straight to my room, jump directly into the middle of my soft, comfortable bed, unravelling the strange note curious to see what it says. I unfold the last part and my heart rolls around like a pig in mud. This note was the very first note I had ever gotten, I thought that I had lost it forever. The old crunched up paper sits there in my hands, I knew that Jacob looked familiar. Jacob was my only childhood friend who was supposed to die in my child hood fire.

- Lauren vales

A taste in fashion

Have you ever felt trapped? Maybe like you don't know if the future is so bright? Well, if so then meet Luis O'Connell. He's a 14-year-old boy who's just trying to survive middle school. Maybe not your average boy. But that sounds like every story, so I'm going to say he might be.

Anyways, *today* was an average day (and I can say that confidently). For breakfast he had some sort of oatmeal and orange mix. For lunch he had a sloppy carrot soup and dinner was a burnt piece of steak. But the reason why I said that this boy might not be average is because this boy can...sew! And it pains me that I'm saying this so surprised, because boys (and girls) should be able to do whatever they want, without being judged, or people being surprised when he says so.

And well, because some people don't understand that anyone can do whatever they want, they are surprised when they hear these words come out of a boy's mouth. but never the less it is true! And he doesn't just sew every now and then he'd sew whenever he can. Sometimes even late into the night, you will find him at his sewing table with the light still on and him inches away from falling of the chair!

Anyways back to the ordinary day. He had just come back from school and plonked his bag on the nearest chair. which happened to be his mum's favourite chair. He headed back to his room and stared at the wall. Which was completely absurd, knowing that he would normally sew all day after school. But the bullies had found him in the classroom that day. And teased him about his clothing choices and called him names. Sadly, this was normal but for some reason the words kept at him all night long.

The next day wasn't any better having the words felt like tiny little knives stabbing at him. To his luck Ash, Apollo and Banjo hadn't found him that day. And the day just kept getting better after that! And no, this is not one of those times where your mum has to tell you to stop being sarcastic because I'm not being sarcastic. The day really got a whole lot better!

"Honey!" came the cheerful voice from mum. But Luis didn't respond. "HONEY!" then some creaking floor boards and a door opening. Luis turned his head around to see a cheerful smile on his mothers face with her phone in on hand.

"Guess what darling!?" said the grinning mother. "what happened?"

"there was one more spot open to make a dress for the next model on the front page of Vogue... AND YOUR IN IT!"

Tears of joy fell from the boy's eyes. He opened his arms for a hug. Kim fell straight into them with joy. Straight away the boy got started on designing the

dress. It was a purple flowing dress with sequence dotted all over it. The next day was Saturday and for the whole weekend it was just him and his sewing machine. And in 3 full days of working on it, it was finally finished! Ready to be sent to the model. That was the quickest he had ever made a dress before!

Now, all that happened was waiting. Waiting and waiting and waiting. Waiting for the new Vogue magazine to come out. To see if his dress had made it in. The next day there was a ding at the door, and Luis knew what it was straight away. It was the vogue magazine, because they have it mailed to them every month. He snatched it of the mail man said "thank you!" and slammed the door closed only to find that...he had actually made it!! There his dress was! Right in front of his eyes! On one of the most popular fashion magazines and on one of the most famous models. In the description was an article where dove Brice (the model) had a say in the dress...

"I have never seen anything quite like this before!" says dove. "The royal purple goes so well with the whit and the way it flows makes me feel like a queen! The designer isn't usual. He's a 14-year-old boy with a big passion for fashion! Luis if you are reading this right now, I want you to know that you should never stop doing what you love, because you have got a talent that not a lot of people have got! Be proud. "

And from then on, he got loads of request's for new clothes or even old clothes that needed repairing. The bullies however didn't do quite so well. They tried to tease him some more but that didn't work. There was never one ore doubt in his mind that he was wrong.

He was proud.

By Abbey Page



The Mystery Fire

Beep! I wake up to the sound of the smoke alarm. My eyes adjust to the dark room. Then I smell it... smoke. I jump out of my bed while grabbing my phone and jumper. I make it to my door in two long strides despite my long room. I yell at the top of my lungs "SMOKE! I THINK THERES A FIRE!" I run down the stairs two at a time. As I reach the living room floor at the bottom of the stairs the smoke gets thicker, and the room is brighter than it should be at 2 am.

As I sprint through the living room, I can hear the thuds of my parents' footsteps above as they run around trying to grasp what I just said. I fling myself around the dividing wall between the living room and the kitchen. I stop, frozen in my tracks as I see it.

Large yellow and orange flames tower above me covering the room with light, licking the roof with the tips of the flame. As the flame rapidly begins to grow the heat blows into my face making my cheeks turn red. The cupboards that hold the cups and plates were disappearing, the smash of glass breaking at the bottom if the fire.

The pictures on the fridge melted in their plastic frames. I stare frozen in shock as I watch my face melt beneath the blazing heat. My five-year-old face young and red pulled into a laugh as dad tells a joke. Mum behind us visibly pregnant with the twins as she watched me and dad as we laid on the soft sand. Dad laughing with me with a beer in his hand as he smiles his white teeth shining against his copper-coloured tan.

I snapped out in my memory trance as the blaze from the fire began to get hotter. Oh no! the fire had grown and was devouring the dining room table. The fire was moving with speed as it became larger each second. Behind me I hear mum gasp in shock as she stares as the fire slowly breaking the home, we've lived in for 11 years. Her face was frozen as her mouth hung wide open. Her dark brown hair pulled into a loose ponytail as it ran down her back, with streaks of grey running through it.

I heard voices upstairs, only faint, over the cracking of the ginormous fire in front of me. I jumped up and sprinted up the narrow stairs. I had to get my siblings out! As I reached the top of the stairs, I could hear dad getting the twins up and out. I yelled out to him hoping he could hear me over the roar of the fire and the faint sirens I could hear outside, I guess mum called the CFS, "DAD! I'LL GET MAY, MAKE SURE YOU, MUM AND THE TWINS ARE OUT OF THE HOUSE!".

As I bolted into May's room, I heard a faint "ok!" from out in the hallway. I flicked on the lamp at the door of her room, the light sent a faint glow around the room making the animals across her room look like they were falling asleep. I could hear her stirring in her bed across the room. As I reached to side of her cot, I looked down on her face to see the tears on her cheeks, the fire must have woken her from her sleep. Behind me the fire was getting louder as the fire began to get bigger.

I scooped her up into my arms and ran. I flew down the stairs making sure that May was still safe. As I reached the bottom of the stairs, I could see that the fire had taken over the front

half of the living room and the front door! I could hear the screams of my parents over the blazing fire. In my loudest voice I yelled out "ITS OK I'VE GOT MAY AND IM GOING AROUND THE BACK!" I ran through the bottom hallway past the bathroom ad through the laundry. As I pushed the door open the air was clear as I took a deep breath inhaling fresh, clean air.

I walked slowly around the non-burnt side of the house to find my family. Mum was in tears, dad was yelling "HOPE! HOPE ARE YOU STILL IN THERE" and the twins were sitting on the floor together tiered and confused. Then they saw us Mike yelled out "Daaaaaaaad! Hope and May are over there" pointing his little finger in our direction.

Dad turned his head and locked eyes with me, then he bolted in our direction. Once he reached us, he grabbed us into a very strong hug as he said, "oh you're ok, you're OK!". Within seconds mum was over at our side as she grabbed us too with tears running down her face. Although the sirens and the talking when we all let go, I found baby May asleep in my arms.

After the firefighters extinguished the flames, they told us that the fire had spread everywhere in the house except the laundry and Mays room. The house was destroyed. I'd lived in there most my life. All the memories we made in that house gone, never to be seen again. All my stuff, gone. But why, that's my question. Why was there a fire? And who started it?

Lilly Wenham

The impossible adventures of Percy the pig

My name is Percy. If you didn't guess from the title, I am a pig. I live on pig island. I don't know where that is on the map, but that isn't important right now. What is important right now is what happened...

Three weeks earlier!

First thing's first: I have a secret laboratory under my house, and I am the only one who knows about it. Well, other than you. But anyway, I was in my laboratory, putting the finishing touches on my time machine, when I heard a strange noise coming from my apocalypse detection room. The apocalypse detection room has everything I need to prevent pig island from going poof. I headed to the source of the sound and found my seismograph sending a jagged line across the paper. Uh oh...

I stood in my apocalypse detection room as it began to quake. I had to warn the island! I sped up the stairs, into my house, and burst outside. I saw everyone running around screaming. I saw the pig island volcano. These were the first signs of an eruption. The volcano was becoming active.

The mayor ran up to me and yelled over the rumbling and screaming "what's happening!" "the volcano is becoming active! If we don't leave this island soon, we will be destroyed!" I called back. "Well when will it erupt!?" KABOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!!!! A burning hot chunk of lava slammed down on top of the mayor! I stared at the burning crater where the mayor had been standing. The eruption was starting early. Way early. There was only one way to save the island. My time machine.

I ran towards my house. Chunks of lava were falling left and right. I shrieked as a lava chunk smashed down right next to me. The blast threw me backwards, and my life flashed before my eyes. I saw my child self being teased at school. I saw people laughing at my supposedly useless inventions. I saw every one of my inventions that had been laughed at by the community. I saw my parents. They were the only ones who believed in me. That was until they disappeared. I felt like giving up. But I knew that my parents wouldn't want me to do that. I got up and ran to my house, Down the stairs and into my lab. I found my time machine, and remembered that I hadn't yet tested it. But I needed to save pig island. I got in the time machine, set the time machine to the same day then last year, and then everything went black.

I opened my eyes, and got out of the time machine. The volcano wasn't erupting, and there was a good chance the mayor was alive. I then began: PROJECT SAVE PIG ISLAND'S POPULATION!

The end

Category winner

Georgina Williams, Year 8
Wolf Whisperer
Yankalilla Area School

Shortlisted students

Georgina Williams, Year 8
Wolf Whisperer
Yankalilla Area School

Years 8 to 10



WOLF WHISPERER.

CHAPTER 1.

I slowly open my eyes as I wake in my dark cabin bedroom. I look to my right to see the alarm clock sitting on my wooden dresser showing the time-3:46am. My alarm doesn't go off for another 4 hours. I slowly sit up, letting my long dark chocolate hair brush against the lower part of my back. I make my way to the white bathroom, shivering from the cold wind brushing against my legs that aren't covered by my short bed shorts. I stop making my way to the bathroom and walk towards the back door that is open 3 quarters of a way. I look outside and there is no one to be seen. Just the cold breeze blowing the empty trees that surround my cabin. I shut the wooden door and turn the bright outside light off. I start heading across the smooth floors towards the kitchen to get a glass of water. As I'm walking, I hear a glass plate smashing against the cold marbled tiles in the kitchen. I stop and freeze, I can hear my heartbeat in my own ears and throat. I feel as heavy as a brick.

I slowly and carefully make my way to the kitchen, seeing a small blood trail heading to the same place as I'm going. My heart beats faster and I start to worry. As I'm entering the kitchen I see a small wolf lying on the floor licking its wound. The red blood smeared over its pure white fur. He looks like he's only a few weeks old, which explains his curiosity, brave enough to go into a cabin. I stop staring and make my way to him. When he sees me, he tries to get up and run, but can't. That's when I know I might not be able to actually help him without either of us getting hurt. I can't help but feel bad for the pup so I go to my first aid kit, and grab some antiseptic wipes and a bandage or two. I rush back to the pup and slowly make my way to him. As I'm near him, he's growling and I don't know what to do. I open the packet of antiseptic Wipes and carefully apply the wipes to the open bleeding wound. It looks like he was attacked by another wolf, older than him.

He growls even louder and strikes. His teeth dig into my wrist and pain strikes threw my arm. Once he lets go, I don't stop helping him. He strikes again, this time biting above the first place he bit. His teeth digging in deeper to the skin and bone in my arm. He starts to become tired so his aim isn't the best. I tend to dodge the rest of his bites, by my luck. The pup is still bleeding, but it's not just his blood on him, its mine too. Before I place the bandage around his waist, I give him a bath and he enjoys it.

Once he's all strapped up, I let him go outside, him still trying to bite me. Once I carefully place him down, he tries to bite me but then realises that the cold wind outside is now blowing onto him. He runs away hesitantly while limping. Once he's through the thick snow and in the forest out of sight, I turn and start making my way to the kitchen. I carefully pick up the broken glass and throw it into the empty grey bin. Before I clean the blood off the floor, I clean my own numb arm. Once my arm is all clean and bandaged, I grab a bucket of hot water with soap, and scrub the kitchen tiles that are covered in the pup's blood as well as my own. The deep red blood stains my hand, but luckily it doesn't stain the marbled tiles.

I go to my room to change out of my wet clothes that are covered in blood. When I walk into my wooden clean room, the sun is slightly up, shining through my curtains. I look at the time on my alarm clock and its 6:02am. Once I'm dressed, I grab my laptop and search...

HOW DO I TRACK DOWN A WOLF?