

**SOUTHEAST CONSOLIDATED
6TH ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST
2005 Winners**

Third Grade

Poetry

- 1st – Krynn Prater
2nd – Jonathan Sailors
3rd – Desirae Hager

Short Story

- 1st – Jonathan Sailors
2nd – Libbey Anderson
3rd - Paige Shiley

Fourth Grade

Poetry

- 1st – Paige Watkins
2nd – Haley Huey
3rd – J. C. McMann

Short Story

- 1st – Hayley Huey
2nd – Paige Watkins

Plays

- 1st – Chelsi Shubert

Fifth Grade

Poetry

- 1st – Dean Lewis
2nd – Peyton Kuker
3rd – Victoria Williams

Short Story

- 1st – Dean Lewis
2nd – Victoria Williams
3rd – Peyton Kuker

Plays

- 1st – Dean Lewis
2nd – Peyton Kuker

Sixth Grade

Poetry

- 1st – Steven Hickey
2nd – Dylan Watkins
3rd – Jasmyne Strauss

Short Story

- 1st – Cameron Milke

Judges

- 3rd Grade
Jan Chism Wright*
4th Grade
Bonnie Hathaway*
5th Grade
Jan McMullen*
6th Grade
Jennifer Andel

***Members of Brownville Lyceum Writers Guild**

Special Mention

There were 56 excellent entries this year that made it especially hard to pick the top three winners in each grade and category. According to the judges, they were all winners. So we would like to recognize and congratulate all of the entrants as follows: Second Grade – Ryan McMann, Taylor O’Brien; Third Grade – Carmen Alexander, Rachel Herr, Rebecca Scarberry; Fourth Grade – Daron Hovious, Josie Morehead; Fifth Grade – Carlee Alexander, Devin Anderson, Shaun Herr, Bailey Jones, Neshay Nichols, Kade Stanley, Logan Vice; Sixth Grade – Kyle Gossman, Brandon Herr, Kelby Jones, Matthew Milke.

Third Grade

Poetry

IF I LIVED ON THE MOON

By Krynn Prater (1st)

If I lived on the moon,
I would see you every night.
If I lived on the moon,
I would be best friends with the North Star.
If I lived on the moon,
I would drink from the big dipper.
If I lived on the moon,
I would sleep all day and stay up all night.
If I lived on the moon,
I would ride a shooting star.

THE DAY I GOT A MOUSE IN MY SWEATER

By Jonathan Sailors (2nd)

I was sitting by the heater
When a mouse ran up my sweater.
It made me cry critter, CRITTER, CRITTER
Dad asked what’s the matter.
I said a CRITTER!
Then out plop came not
A critter but a mouse.
Dad stepped on the mouse
Causing the mouse to flatten out
And die.

SNOWFLAKE SEASON

By Desirae Hager (3rd)

Once flowers were blooming
And birds were chirping.
Now snow is on the ground
And the sky is cloudy,
But there is one thing
That has not changed,
LIFE.

Short Story

JOURNEY OF PARAKEETS

By Jonathan Sailors (1st)

One Sunday afternoon my mother, father, my brother Ben, and I had to clean Daisy and Diego’s cage. So we took the cage into the exercise room, and we clothes-pinned the doors on the cage open, but Daisy and Diego would not come out.

So Dad came in and you won’t believe what he did to their cage! He yanked the top of the cage off and turned it upside down! And boy did Daisy and Diego make a fly for it. They headed towards the window. Trying to get away they started eating the paint off the curtains in hopes of getting out. Ben tried to grab them but, being smarter, they flew away from the window. Diego had many wall accidents, playing “chase me” around the room with Ben. He did dive bombs right into the door and window. Daisy only had two or three dive bombs. So Daisy thought it would be funny to perch on one of the arm handles of the treadmill. Then Daisy went back into the black cage which is the taming cage. She was trying to get away from my mother’s flashing camera. All of a sudden I felt something on my shoulder. It was Diego! Ben had put Diego on my shoulder. Diego started to scrape at my shirt but it tickled more than it hurt. The sight of Diego on my shoulder made Ben want to take a picture. The picture looked kind of spooky because Diego was not looking at the camera. So while Diego was playing I got him to perch to on my finger. Do you know how I got Diego to perch on my finger? I will tell you. I put my finger up to Diego’s breast and told him to “step up, step up.” And he obeyed.

Then Daisy, hiding in the black cage, poked her head out but she quickly went back in and Ben grabbed her and let her fly in the room. Boy did she have a good time flying! Ben had to play “chase me” around the room with Daisy this time instead of Diego. Ben thought it was going to be easy to catch her, but she was a quick little parakeet. Finally Ben caught her and put her back in the cage and she waited awhile and came back out. And boy did she cause a stir again. It was as if she said “Watch out before I whack you!” because all of sudden I was standing on the weight bench and I heard a loud SMACK! I looked back and Daisy was sitting on the ground. She was lucky she didn’t break a single bone in her body. Then my mom came in with the squeaky clean blue cage. Finally we got them put away, but not before Daisy had nibbled at my finger and had given Ben a bloody finger. And the birds lived happily ever after. The End

FOR MY BIRTHDAY WHEN I TURNED NINE

By Libbey Anderson (2nd)

When I turned nine, for my birthday I went to Kearney to see my sister. I wanted to go to the Embassy Suites in Lincoln but we had to go to Linsey’s because we had to help her move in with her dad for the summer. We went to Linsey’s to help her move and we stayed at her apartment for the night. The next day we checked into Holiday Inn. After we unpacked, Devin and I went swimming with Dad. Mom was still unpacking but when she was done she came to the pool to watch us. When we got back to our room we watched T.V. Mom and Dad were looking for a place to eat

Later that evening we went to Whisky Creek where my sister works. While we were eating my sister came to our table to visit with us and sat by me. She ate one of my French fries and this turned out to be a problem. Do you know what the problem was? We didn’t! She got a stomach ache and she didn’t look good. She had to keep working because they were really busy that night. She still didn’t look good when she came home but by the next day she was all better.

The next morning we all got ready to leave, to start for home. But before we went home, we did go shopping to pick up a few things. Finally we started our

three and a half hour drive home to Nemaha. I had so much fun on my ninth birthday with my family. Did you have a good time on this trip?

THE DOG THAT PULLED MY TOOTH
By Paige Shiley (3rd)

One day I was going to play with my dog, Jake. I went outside to him and he got excited and jumped up on me. I had a loose tooth and when he jumped up his paw went in my mouth and got caught on my loose tooth and out came my tooth. I ran and told my mom and dad that Jake pulled out my tooth. So we all walked back over to where the dog was and tried to look for my tooth... We all looked and looked and we could not find my tooth. I was upset because I didn't know how the Tooth Fairy would know that I had lost my tooth. So Mom and I wrote the Tooth Fairy a letter that night. We told the Tooth Fairy what the dog had done and that we couldn't find the tooth, so please be kind and leave me some money. The next morning when I woke up, the Tooth Fairy had been very kind because she left me some money... This is how the dog pulled my tooth.

Fourth Grade

Poetry

BASKETBALL
By Paige Watkins (1st)

Basketball
So big and round
Dribble dribble
Touch the back of the rim
SWISH!
3 points
Awesome
5 to 8
Mustangs lead
Nice snatch, Carlee
5 to 11
MUSTANGS ROCK
BOOM
In your face Sioux City
Mustangs win the championship
Big Trophy
COOL!

SPIDERS
By Hayley Huey (2nd)

Spiders,
Some are scary,
Some not,
Creepy eight legs,
Fuzzy little bodies,
Silk webs,
Some have poisonous bites,
A a a a a a a a a a a a !

FLUFFY
By J. C. McMann (3rd)

Fluffy is a rabbit
Living
Under my
Front porch.
Furry and cute
You'll think so too.

Short Story

MY DOG RICCO
By Hayley Huey (1st)

In the middle of January my mom came home with a new puppy. I was very excited. The new puppy was white and had lots of hair. My mom said that he was a miniature Maltese and he would not get very big. He will only weigh about 4 pounds when he is a full grown dog.

The puppy was very excited and jumped around a lot. We were having a hard time finding a name for him. Tessa wanted to name him Prince Charming. Kyla wanted to name him Usher. I could not think of a good name for him. My brother Dalton was watching one of his favorite movies when the perfect name came to him. Dalton picked the name Ricco off of the movie "Home On The Range."

One week after my mom brought Ricco home he had a seizure. My mom took him to Dr. Herring, a veterinarian in Falls City. She kept him overnight and gave him some special medicine. My mom picked him up the next day and was told that he was a diabetic dog. My mom had to learn how to give him special medicine.

Dr. Herring says we have to be careful not to let Ricco eat junk food and other things. He has to eat a special dog food and special snacks. My mom says it is okay to share things sometimes. She says to give him but a bite or two and no more.

If I am not careful he likes to steal slices of orange away from me when I am eating one. It is not just oranges that he likes to steal. He will steal any fruit that I am eating, apples, bananas, kiwis, and raisins. Raisins are dried cranberries and one of mine and Ricco's favorite fruits.

I am careful not to let him have too many fruits. I want him to live a long time and be a part of our family. Ricco is now eight months old and has not had another seizure. He goes to see Dr. Herring for regular check ups. His hair is almost long enough to touch the ground now. My mom takes him to a groomer to have him trimmed and bathed. I will go help the groomer this summer when I am not in school. I am very excited about going to help the groomer this summer when I am not in school.

Ricco is a fun dog to have around. Even though he snores sometimes, and has not quite got the hang of pottying on the puppy pads all of the time.

BUFFALO STAMPEDING
By Paige Watkins (2nd)

Hi, my name is Sanchos. I am 14 years old. I'm from part of a nomadic tribe. My tribe's name is Arapaho. We call ourselves "Our People." I used to live in North Dakota and Minnesota. I am now found in Southwestern Nebraska. I spend most of my time hunting.

One day I was out riding my horse and all of a sudden I heard what sounded like thunder. I turned around and saw a big swarm of buffalo. I hurried and I scattered off. I rode toward the tree and climbed up. As I was turning around to look if the swarm of buffalo had calmed down, I saw that my horse had gotten trampled. I had no way to get back to the tipi. After I climbed back down the tree, I started to cry. I was so sad; I had no intention of going back out riding by myself ever again.

That was the most exciting and saddest day of my young years.

Plays

BUTCH'S NIGHTMARE
By Chelsi Shubert (1st)

Characters

Butch - brave, clever dog
Scooter - lazy, slow, not so smart dog
Frank - Butch's owner, slow going cattle farmer

Setting
In a Barn

Butch: (Speaking to the audience) **SCOOTER:** (acts startled)"Hi, Butch again. It all started on a Thursday in April with a bad nightmare of my pal Scooter. He was in my face the whole time or sleeping in my bed. What a nightmare! Oh well, glad I'm not sleeping anymore no wait, I'm NOT glad because Scooter is slobbering again, even worse in MY water bowl! YUCK! So I'm going to tell him in case he doesn't know ... he's slobbering again. Here I go - wish me luck. **SCOOTER!**"

Scooter:(acts startled) "AHHH! Oh, it's just you. What Butch?"

Butch: (in an annoyed voice) "You're slobbering AGAIN."

Scooter: (laying on his old dirty pillow, sleepily says..."Oh that's a shame. How can I help you Butch?"

Butch: "Not me Scooter, you are."

Scooter:(FINALLY realizes what Butch is talking about) "Ohhhhkay, what can I do?"

Butch: (whispering into Scooter's ear) "Plan A. First, we clog your mouth with cotton. If that doesn't work plan B - suck on your thumb. "

Scooter:(trying to get Butch's attention) "Hey Butch..."

Butch: "Yes Scooter."

Scooter:"I don't have thumbs."

Butch: "Oh, well then suck on your tail. (Putting cotton in Scooter mouth)"Here we go Scooter, let's FILLLL... this doggy!"

Scooter:(tries to speak but muffled sounds come out because of the cotton in his mouth)

Butch: "Hey Scooter, now I need you to sleep ok?"

Scooter:(audience hears a muffled ok) "Kul klay."

Butch: (shouting with relief) "FINALLY! I found a way for Scooter to not drool." (With excitement, Butch has his chest puffed out acting proud like he's accomplished a GREAT thing - speaking to audience) "I should get a medal for this. It should say ... thanks to Butch for saving our lives and not stepping into Scooter's drool. Or maybe I should get a trophy filled with dog treats," (Butch acts as if he's celebrating and blowing kisses to imaginary people in the barn.) "Thank you thank you"

Scooter:(still with a muffled voice) "Butch."

Butch: "What Scooter?"

Scooter:(makes noises as if spitting out the cotton) "Pleweee." (now speaking clearly again) "This is NOT working.

Butch: (in a voice that sounds like duh... isn't it obvious?) "Then suck on your thu... I mean your tail, ok?" (Whispering to the audience) "Doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that one out."

Scooter:(acts like he is putting his tail in his mouth) "Here I go." (Sticks tail in mouth) "Plewee! Yuck! I need some water bad. It tastes like I ate a bug or something."

Butch: "When did you take a bath last?"

Scooter:"You don't need to know when I did or didn't take a bath."

Butch: "in order for this to work, we plan C." Put Frank's boot into your mouth."

Scooter:"Wait a minute. You're saying I have to put a BOOT in MY mouth?"

Butch: "Well, you're the one who is slobbering."

Scooter:(acts surprised as if he didn't realize he was slobbering) "Wait, I'M Slobbering?"

Butch: (Throwing his front paws up in the air exhausted, speaking to audience) "Well, bye ... I'll have to deal with this myself."

Scooter:"Who are you talking to?"

Butch: (rolls his eyes and droops his shoulders and walks back to his bed)

Fifth Grade

Poetry

MY GAME
By Dean Lewis (1st)

Yu-Gi-Oh is my date
A special, clever playmate
I could study to create
Better homework which I hate.

I'll get to my homework soon
Yu-Gi-Oh is my doom
My cards are in my room
My homework waits till noon.

Yu-Gi-Oh is in my head
After all that has been said.
Mom wishes Yu-Gi-Oh was dead
My homework is still on my bed.

I should put these cards away
And play with them another day
I'll do my homework and obey
Make my mom happy, today.

MOVING UP IN YEARS
By Peyton Kuker (2nd)

I started Southeast six years ago,
With a class of girls and boys.
In Kindergarten we learned our letters,
And played with lots of toys.

In time we moved to first grade,
And learned to subtract and add.
We learned that playtime was over,
And that made us kind of sad.

Next we went to second grade,
With a move across the hall.
We learned that we were growing up
And getting very tall.

Third grade came upon us fast,
We had to write instead of print.
The school year went by very fast,
We wondered where it went.

Then we went to fourth grade
Writing reports was what we learned to do
We had to work hard to get them done
But we learned a lot from them too.

Now we are in fifth grade,
We're learning the capitals of each state.
We have a lot of homework now,
And it's not good if you do it late.

Next year I'm going to a new school
I'll really miss my class,
Cause we were all like family
And we always had a blast.

FRIENDS
By Victoria Williams (3rd)

Friends are always there for you.
Friends will always care for you.
Friends will never let you down.
Friends will never make you frown.
Friends are the ones who will share.
Friends are the ones who will always be there.
Friends are the most important care.

Short Story

MY MEMORIES
By Dean Lewis (1st)

I have written and told stories before about my dad serving in Iraq, but I want to share an experience of mine while he was gone for that year and a half. Mom and I attended a Purple Heart Ceremony in November 2004 for a fellow soldier in my dad's unit. Spc. Stineman was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device near Samarra, Iraq. This got me interested in the history of the Purple Heart Medal.

George Washington was the designer and creator of this Badge of Military Merit which it was called then. In the Revolution, money was hard to get, and the soldiers were fighting but not getting paid. Washington created two badges of honor. One award was a chevron worn on the left sleeve of their coat recognizing three years of service for bravery, fidelity, and good conduct. The second award for meritorious action was a heart in purple cloth or silk, which was worn on the left breast.

This award was for the Army, but over the years, adjustments were made to include the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. President Kennedy added the award to civilians who participated in the armed forces. President Reagan let those wounded in an international terrorist attack get one also.

Master Sgt. Linda Tarango-Griess and Ssg. Jeremy Fischer were killed in this same roadside bombing in which Spc. Stineman was injured. Dad worked with these three soldiers each day. Mom and I were friends to all of these soldiers too. Linda was especially dear to us as she was my pen pal. It was a hard time to go through when that bomb went off in July 2004.

These three soldiers in Dad's unit received a Purple Heart. My pen pal, Linda's family, received a Purple Heart, and Jeremy's family also received one because they had been killed. Spc. Stineman received his medal after his injuries were healed at a ceremony at the Penterman Armory in Lincoln, Nebraska on November 6, 2004. Mom and I witnessed this award being given. This was a heartfelt ceremony to attend, and again the tears came with all the memories that we experienced. I feel honored and proud to be one of the military family members of the soldiers of the 267 Ordnance Company, my dad's unit, to see this award being presented. We shed many tears over those lost, but we were glad that my dad was safe.

OLD MAN PRITCHARD
By Victoria William (2nd)

Whack!! "Fly Ball," Jamie called. It went over the fence into Old Man Pritchard's yard. "Great now we don't get to play baseball anymore!" Kyle said. "We will go," Jamie, Tosha, and I said. "We will sneak in his yard tonight at 8:00. That way he won't see us." Ding, dong, ding, dong. The clock struck 8:00 and we left the house. We were talking about Old Man Pritchard and Tosha said that he steals little kids and feeds them to his pets. That made us worry. Finally we reached his house and we walked very quietly into his yard. But Jamie accidentally stepped on a branch and it made a loud snapping noise. The front porch light turned on and we ran as fast as we could to the gate but the lock wouldn't open. All of a sudden we heard footsteps and Old Man Pritchard was standing right behind us and he took us inside the house and he asked if we wanted our ball back and he gave it to us. Then he went in the kitchen and brought back a piece of candy for us. He said we may go home, and that we might want to hurry up because it is getting late. We walked outside and then ran home. "What flavor of jolly rancher did you get, Tori?" Jamie asked. "I got wild raspberry." "Tosha what flavor did you get?" "I got green apple." "I got cherry," said Jamie. The next day we played baseball and I told my friends about Old Man Pritchard. They said that they wanted to meet him. I said they probably would.

VACATION TO COLORADO
By Peyton Kuker (3rd)

Last summer we went on a vacation to Colorado. We visited Estes Park, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Limon Colorado. We rented a Jeep Grand Cherokee to take on our trip. It took about 9 hours to get to Estes Park. We had a motel across from a big lake and it was very pretty. I liked Estes Park the best. We went downtown to all the shops and bought some souvenirs. We drove through Rocky Mountain National Park. We saw several elk, mountain sheep, and a lot of ground squirrels. We went to a park and jumped on a bungee trampoline, drove go-carts and went down some big slides.

A few days later, we moved on to Denver and went to a huge water park called Water World. We rode a lot of big water slides and some other rides in huge tubes. We had a blast at the water park. Next, we moved on to Colorado Springs. We visited Cave of the Winds and Garden of the Gods. We also went to the top of Pikes Peak and it was cold on top. We also stayed in a motel that had an indoor/outdoor pool with a big indoor waterslide. We spent one whole day playing on the waterslides.

After begging my mom the whole trip, I finally got to call my aunt Cheryl, who lives in Limon, and we decided to meet for a visit. She gave us directions to her house and we drove to see her and my cousin Brady. It was a long, boring ride to Limon. We even traveled through a small town named Peyton. I had my picture taken at the city limits sign. We stayed at my aunt Cheryl's and visited for the afternoon before heading back toward Nebraska. We made it as far as North Platte before we decided to get a motel and start driving again the next day. I really enjoyed seeing the mountains, but the next time I visit them, I would like to go skiing.

Plays

OUR HOMEWORK
By Dean Lewis (1st)

Characters: Yami
Kiva
Joey
Mr. George, their teacher

Act I - At the dig sight

Yami: Do you have all the gear ready?
Kiva: I think so. Joey, did you pick up the brushes we need?
Joey: Got them.
Yami: Let's get out there and start digging.
Kiva: I like looking for these ancient artifacts.
Joey: We found quite a bit on our dig yesterday.
Kiva: These bowls are real awesome.
Yami: We have to be close to a burial site or something.
Joey: I bet we find some cool things today.
Kiva: I never thought I would be in Peru looking for artifacts.
Yami: Me either.
Joey: Here we are. I will take this area.
Yami: I better go over to the other side.
Kiva: I will go in the middle. Good luck finding a treasure.

Act II - Several hours later

Joey: Hey! Look here!
Yami: What is it?
Kiva: I think it is a stone tablet.
Joey: Give me one of those brushes, so I can clean this dirt away from it.
Yami: Wow! Look at that!
Kiva: You found a great treasure.
Joey: What are those markings?
Yami: Probably the way the Egyptians wrote in those days.
Kiva: I bet those pictures mean something.
Yami: This has to be very old.
Kiva: I can't believe we found this site.
Joey: We will have to ask our teacher what he knows about this type of find.
Yami: Mr. George, took here what we found.
Mr. George comes over to the boy's area of digging
Mr. George: Boys, you found the treasure of the day. What a find!
Joey: Do you know what these drawings mean?
Mr. George: Not all of it, but we will take this into the lab. They will analyze it.
Kiva: Guys, come here.
Yami: What did you find?
Kiva: Looks like scrolls and some gold coins. Probably, all of these things are made of gold.
Joey: It sure looks like it.
Mr. George: We will mark this spot and the professional diggers will finish up.
Yami: Let's take our finds to the lab.
Kiva: This is our last day at the spot. We were lucky to find it.
Joey: I really enjoyed finding these things.
Kiva: I bet a Pharaoh was buried here.
Yami: Don't get so crazy in your thinking.
Kiva: I can dream can't I?
Joey: We don't know for sure, but it could have been something like that buried here.
Yami: I got all the gear packed up.
Kiva: Good. We better get back.

Act III - In the classroom, the next day

Yami: I learned quite a bit on our dig.
Kiva: I hope we can go on another dig sometime.
Joey: It sure was an experience I will never forget.
Mr. George: I'm glad to hear that you boys enjoyed this dig. Now, everyone has to write up a term paper on their experience.
All boys: Do we have to?
Mr. George: That is part of your lesson.
Yami: I already know how I am writing up my paper.
Kiva: Yes, I guess it won't be so bad.
Joey: Every time I hear term paper I go blank.
Mr. George: Try your best. Just write about what you did at the dig.
Joey: Ok
Mr. George: The Museum of Ancient History for Peru like our findings and want to put them in a special display.

Boys: Really?
 Joey: That is real cool.
 Mr. George: The area they will put your artifacts in will be your special display with all your names on it.
 Yami: You mean everyone will know that we found all these artifacts?
 Kiva: It will be nice to give a talk about the display.
 Yami: Sure will.
 Joey: I feel important.
 Yami: I bet the lab enjoyed analyzing all of our artifacts.
 Mr. George: Ok, class enough talking and start writing your papers.
 Yami: When will we be able to go on another dig?
 Mr. George: Anytime, but you know you will have to write a term paper on it.
 Boys: OH NO!! (They all laugh)

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR
 By Peyton Kuker (2nd)

Characters:

Dad - John
 Mom - Megan
 10 yr. old girl - Hope
 6 yr. old girl - Georgia

Setting: John, Megan, Hope and Georgia are getting ready to go on vacation to Colorado to see the mountains.

Scene I

Megan: "Come on girls, we've got to get packed and go pick up the rental car. It won't be long and we'll be in the mountains."
 Hope: "We are hurrying, mom."
 Georgia: "How long did you say it would take us to get to Colorado?"
 John: "It will take about 9 hours to get to where we are staying the first few nights. We are going to have so much fun, girls!"

Scene 2

The family got the rental car they were wanting to take on vacation. They got a new Jeep Grand Cherokee to drive in the mountains.

Hope: "This is a nice vehicle. I wish we had one of these for our very own."
 John: "I like it too. It drives real nice."
 Georgia: "I hope we get there fast, I really want to see some mountains."
 Megan: "Don't wish our trip to go by fast, this is part of having a good vacation."
 Hope: "What kinds of things will we be seeing the first couple of days?"
 John: "We are going to be staying at Estes Park the first 4 days. Besides seeing the mountains, we will be souvenir shopping and driving around looking at the sights."
 Hope: "I wonder what kinds of animals we will see in the mountains? I hope we see a lot of neat things."
 Georgia: "I don't want to see anything scary. I just want to see the nice animals."
 John: "I hope we see some elk, mountain sheep, mountains lions and get to feed the chipmunks. I really wish I could see an elk up close."
 Megan: "I will have my camera ready to take pictures of all the different animals."

Scene 3

The first day, the family decided to take a drive up through Rocky Mountain National Park. Everyone was excited to see some wild animals in the mountains.

John: "I am ready to see some animals up close. I want to get some good pictures."
 Hope: "I don't want to see the mountain lions up close, but everything else would be fine."
 Georgia: "I want to feed the chipmunks. I think that sounds fun!"
 Megan: "Seeing all the scenery will be exciting. I hope to get some good pictures too. I will have my camera ready."
 Georgia: "Look over there, I see some elk."
 John: "Too bad they are so faraway. I just want to see one close up."
 Hope: "I see a mountain sheep over there on that bluff! Look there are a lot of elk over there!"
 John: "They are still too far away, I want to see one up close!"

The family drove all over Rocky Mountain National Park and got to see a lot of different animals and some up close but John never got to see his elk up close like he wanted.

Scene 4

It was around supper time so the family left the motel to drive down town to get some food at Taco Bell.

Georgia: "Are we going to go anywhere after we eat or can we go back to the motel and go swimming?"
 Hope: "I want to go swimming too, we can go see more sights tomorrow."
 Megan: "That would be fine, I think we should relax in the pool tonight and we will look at some pamphlets to see where we would like to go tomorrow."
 John: "I think we should drive up in the park around dusk to see if we can see any elk, then we can go back to the motel to swim."

After everyone was done eating, it was about dusk, so they decided to take a drive out of town and up to the park.

John: "We'll just drive out of town and take a look around then we will head back to the motel."
 Megan: "JOHN, WATCH OUT!"

John had to slam on the brakes and swerve the jeep over because there in the middle of town, on the road, was a huge elk strolling across the highway. The elk acted as if he owned the road and didn't have a care in the world. It was so close that the elk practically stuck his head right in John's driver side window.

Hope: "Wow! That was so close. I thought we were going to hit the poor thing."
 Georgia: "That scared me!"
 Megan: "Are you happy now, you finally got to see your elk UP CLOSE! You had been asking for that the whole trip."
 John: "Okay, I saw my elk and I don't want to ever see one that close again!"

Sixth Grade

Poetry

KITTEN/CAT
By Steven Hickey (1st)

Kitten
Small, playful
Running, playing, falling
Ball, mice, bell, bird
Learning, growing, hunting
Careful, alert
Cat

FORD/CHEVY
By Dylan Watkins (2nd)

Ford
Fast, dangerous
Whipping, sliding, speeding
Duals, interior, pedals
Wrecking, ramming, stalling
Slow, undependable
Chevy

CHILD/ADULT
By Jasmyne Aray Strauss (3rd)

Child
Playful, small
Growing, sleeping, dancing
Games, fun, family, job
Driving, watching, babysitting
Busy, responsible
Adult

Short Story

THE VENTURE
By Cameron Milke (1st)

One December day in 1873, I wanted some hounds. My name is Scott, I was twelve years old. We lived in Stella on the Nebraska plains. I started to try to earn some money for my dogs. I had two jobs picking up glass bottles and cleaning elders' yards. So three months went by and I had two hundred eighty three dollars. Pa wanted a new wagon so I was afraid he wouldn't let me go to the town to get my dogs. My grandmother thought I was crazy after I told her about it but she said she wouldn't say anything. So the journey began.

The next morning at about three forty in the morning, I woke up and headed to town. I was ready for the twenty one mile journey I was about to take. After three hours I decided to take a break and try to get some food. I looked for berries, mushrooms and animals since I had my gun with me. But I had no luck. Then all of a sudden I saw an Indian boy come running out of the bushes and behind him came a male mountain lion. Next thing I knew, the boy tried to go across the river down below. So I shot the mountain lion right before it went in after the boy. Then all I saw was a glimpse of the boy and he was gone. That night I just stayed there wondering if the boy would come back.

So I pitched camp and made a fire. The next morning I woke up and was scared to death because there was a heart lying beside my head. After the wits got scared out of me, I got dressed and set off again. I finally got to a railroad station to get some food and some water. After I left, I decided I was half way there. Not too long after that, I came upon an Indian tribe and, come to find out, a not too pleasant one. All of a sudden I felt a burn in the back of my arm and my leg. I thought I was done for until the young boy picked me up and we ran to a so called club. Then, come to find out, he could speak English. His name was Jack. Jack's father was a military sergeant, and supposedly died in a war. So he was raised in the village.

I thought I should tell him what I was doing here. He said he would lead me through a short cut to the town. So we started off. We came across many animals and even killed a bison. Then, on the fourth day, we finally reached the town. I looked and looked. Finally, after almost giving up, I found the elder's house with two beagles. One was a rosy color and the other was black, brown and white. We went in and she said she wanted three hundred dollars for both dogs. But since we had come all that way she said she would take what we had. So we started home. Then we saw the tribe. I felt my dogs knew something was wrong.

So we decided to go around. All of a sudden, I swear, I heard an Indian. The next thing I knew, Jack had disappeared. I decided he was probably at the tribe by now. So I decided to go to the tribe and try to get him back even if it killed me. On my way to the tribe, I saw a bluff. So I took my gun out and hid behind some brush. Below was a fire and Jack was tied to a tree. I decided to wait and see what would happen to him. Nothing happened so I went down and got Jack. On the way out, the Chief tried to kill me for trespassing and stealing their sacrifice. So I just walked away. Then the last thing I knew I was knocked over and Jack had my gun. The Chief had shot me in the chest with a bow and arrow.

The next thing I heard was a rifle shot. Jack shot the Chief right between the eyes and he dropped dead. My dogs went over and sniffed the chief. The arrow didn't hurt any arteries so I was fine. Finally, after many mosquitoes and no food, we reached the outskirts of my town. My dogs were still following. We finally reached the house. Ma and Pa were asleep so we just slept on the porch. The next morning I woke up and practically everyone in my family was staring at me. I explained everything, even about Jack, and asked if he could stay with us. They said yes. We named my dogs Lightning and Rosy. Over the years we became great hunters. I loved the Midwest.