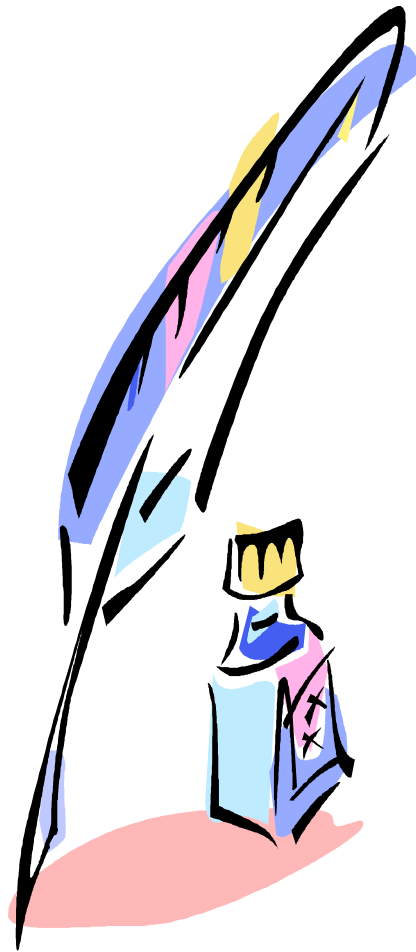


**SOUTHEAST CONSOLIDATED  
9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST  
3<sup>RD</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES  
April, 2009**



### Third Grade

#### Poetry

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Elle Findlay**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Austin Hickey**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Samantha Shafer**

#### Short Story

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Samantha Shafer**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hunter Howard**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Breanna Nagunst**

#### Play

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Sheldon Rightsell**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Elle Findlay**

### Fourth Grade

#### Poetry

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Angel Milke**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tayten O'Brien**

#### Short Story

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tayten O'Brien**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Angel Milke**

### Fifth Grade

#### Poetry

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Kanani Fankhauser**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Te'a Faulks**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sheree Hickey**

#### Short Story

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Braden Shiley**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Te'a Faulks**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kanani Fankhauser**

### Sixth Grade

#### Poetry

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jared Muller**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Taylor O'Brien**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ryan McMann**

## Short Story

**1<sup>st</sup> – Taylor O'Brien**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Ryan McMann**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Jared Muller**

## Judges

**Jan Chism Wright**

**Jan McMullen**

## Special Mention

There were 35 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 those who entered but did not place as follows: Third Grade – Brett Gerdes, Kaje Faulks. Fifth Grade – Tessa Huey, Brett Stevenson. Sixth Grade – Dalton Huey, Carli Reed.

## Third Grade

### Poetry

#### **THE OLD MAN**

By ELLE FINDLAY (1<sup>st</sup>)

THERE WAS AN OLD MAN NAMED DAN  
WHO WAS USING A MECHANICAL FAN.  
IT WAS JUST AS HE FEARD,  
IT GOT STUCK IN HIS BEARD,  
THEN HE WAS SHEARD LIKE A LAMB.

#### **CRAZY DAISY**

BY AUSTIN HICKEY (2<sup>nd</sup>)

There once was a dog named Daisy  
Who liked to act very lazy  
She laid on the ground  
And made a weird sound  
And everyone thought she was crazy.

#### **Lurking in the Night Woods**

By Samantha Shafer (3<sup>rd</sup>)

What's that sound?  
It's just an owl  
Calling in a tree  
What's that sound?  
It's just a rat  
Rustling in the leaves  
What's that sound?  
It's just me  
Walking and wondering  
What's that sound?  
Lurking in the night woods.

## **Short Story**

### **Fire!**

By Samantha Shafer (1<sup>st</sup>)

One evening Cynthia, Jessica, and Veronica went over to Amy's house for a sleepover. Amy said, "Just put your sleeping bags in my room for now." Amy's parents had not come home from work yet, so the girls painted their nails while they waited.

Cynthia went to Amy's room to get different nail polish colors. She saw a spark of lightning from outside, and then heard Amy screaming, "Fire, fire!" Cynthia was going to see what had happened when suddenly the door caught on fire. Cynthia screamed, "Help me!" She was trapped!

Veronica looked everywhere for Cynthia, but she couldn't find her. Soon the roof started to cave in so Cynthia dove under the bed because she was very scared.

Amy, Jessica, and Veronica got out of the house safely. Jessica went to call the fire department at the neighbor's house. The firemen got there as fast as they could to put out the fire. They climbed up a ladder and went in the window. They found Cynthia hiding under the bed gasping for air. The brave firefighters rescued Cynthia and put out the fire.

The crowd cheered as she was carried out of the house. Cynthia had a small burn on her leg, but otherwise everyone else was fine. "Wait, where is Amy's dog?" asked Jessica.

"Look, he just escaped the house," exclaimed Veronica.

"I'm so glad you are safe," Amy said as she hugged her dog. All the parents were relieved that their children were safe. The girls got to spend the rest of the night at Jessica's house watching movies and eating popcorn.

### **Kaje the Alligator**

By Hunter Howard (2<sup>nd</sup>)

One day a bird had a present for an alligator. The bird met the alligator, and gave him the present and they became friends. They played video games and helped each other. One day the bird said to the alligator, "Let's go to the park."

The alligator said, "My Name is Kaje."

So the bird said "My name is Hunter."

Then the next day they met in the parking lot at Pet Co. Bird had a bird, and alligator had an alligator. Then they switched, and they liked the different pets better.

One day, bird and alligator both got caught in a net. Then alligator chewed the net apart and they escaped. After that they went to suck up milk shakes.

The next year they were 9 years old, and they had the best year ever. Then the next year when they were 10, it was awesome. They had become brothers. They lived the rest of their lives together.

### **Best Friends!**

By Breanna Nagunst (3<sup>rd</sup>)

We were in line and Sally pushed Larry and Larry pushed Con and Con pushed me. We were mad at each other. Have you ever been mad at your best friends? Well, I have, and it is not fun. We had a lot of feelings for each other. I told my friends, I hope we don't fight again right?" We all said yes.

I said, "Can we be friends again? 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... Best Friends!" Then we were friends again because we trusted each other.

We were best friends until we were 13. We decided not to be friends after 13 because our school was closing and we were all going to different schools. We missed each other at our new schools, but we found new best friends.

### **Play**

### **DAVID & ME, A Baseball Card Adventure**

By Sheldon Rightsell (1<sup>st</sup>)

"Max Gomez," Mrs. Gomez yelled. "You aren't going back in time again, with one of those cards." Max gets yelled at a lot, because he travels back in time with cards. It's just not any cards, they're baseball cards.

"I'm leaving now mom," Max said. BAM!! He was gone like a plane. He ended up back in 1991. He was doing an essay on David Cone. Max felt something move in his pocket, but he ignored it. He had more important things to think about. Max had found out David didn't try out for the Pro Leagues. When he found Mr. Cone, he was at Ebbets Stadium. Sitting by the door was Mr. Cone. He wasn't in time for the tryouts. Max ran to him. Max then tried to open the locked door. "Shucks," Max moaned. "What do you want with Ebbets Stadium, son?" asked Mr. Cone. "I want them to unlock this gosh darn door for you," Max said. "Why me," he said. "Because I know you can kick butt out there!" Max said. "Well we can go back to my place," David said. "What are we suppose to do there?" Max said. "We can eat some Oreos with milk and look off the balcony for pretty girls," said Mr. Cone. "No thank you," Max said. "Now, they are holding tryouts tomorrow too." The next morning David was up early. He was ready for tryouts. David was already outside Ebbets Stadium. He had a duffel bag in his blistered hand. "So Max, how are you getting back home?" David asked. "I'm going to travel back in time with this baseball card....," said Max. "You don't have a baseball card," David said. That's when Max realized he didn't have the card. Early the next day, Flip Valinitini, a young boy, was discovering a future baseball card. It was Max's baseball cards. Max had realized on the first day he was there, something moved in his pocket. It must have dropped out of his pocket. So when David went to Ebbets Stadium, Max went too. He saw a kid. He went over and asked the kid his name. It was Flip. Flip Valinitini. He asked Flip if he had seen a baseball card. "Ya, in fact I found a card, a cool card," Flip said. "What do you want for it?" Max asked. "75 cents," said Flip. "That's not a lot for just a card." Max mumbled. "Ok, here you go." "Thanks Flip," Max said. "So how did it go with Flip?" asked David. "I got the card," said Max. "So are you in the pro leagues yet?" "YES!" yelled David. "I thought so now I am in pro leagues, I could buy the card back for you." "Well I better get going," said Max. "Ok, come back soon!" David said. "Oh ya, here's my baseball card." "Bye" Max yelled. BAM! ! He was gone like a plane. He was back in his time again. His mom gave him the biggest kiss on the cheek ever. David won the World Series. They all lived baseball-loving happily ever after.

### **The Cook** By Elle Findlay (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Everything was going well except one thing: the health inspector was coming. I wasn't stressed, but I would like to know who or what .....What was that? I thought I heard something! Oh well, I guess it was the waiter. You see, I run a 5 star restaurant. We have a bell on the door so we know when people come in and out. The doorbell just rang. It's nothing to worry about. It's just the health inspector. The HEALTH INSPECTOR!!!!!! "Everyone to your stations!" I said. "Hello, welcome to our restaurant or more commonly known as the kitchen." "Mind if I inspect your kitchen?" asked the inspector. "Yes of course you can," I said. "What was that noise?" "HOLY CHEESE!! You have a rat infestation, and by the looks of it they have rabies too! Evacuate your restaurant IMMEDIATELY." So the waiter, the inspector, and I went to Soap Central, where all the cleaning supplies are. They have soap, brushes, and clean water. We cleaned the rats. The next time those rats come, we'll get them. We went back to the kitchen and never saw those rats again. After changing his wet clothes, the health inspector gave us a good report. THE END

## **Fourth Grade**

### **Poetry**

#### **Matt**

By Angel Milke (1<sup>st</sup>)

There once was a dolphin named Matt  
Who was scared of a great big red cat.  
The cat was so lazy  
He started to go crazy.  
So the dolphin called him a dingbat.

#### **Rainbows**

By Tayten O'Brien (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Ruby red rainbows glittering,  
Sparkling in the bright sunlight.  
Arching into a pot of glistening gold.  
Brightens my day.

### **Short Story**

#### **Princess Tater's Get-Away**

By Tayten O'Brien (1<sup>st</sup>)

Once in a far away land, locked in the tallest tower, was a very beautiful and ungraceful princess. Her name was Tater. Her hair was short and pink. Her skin was a milky caramel. She was guarded by the meanest, ugliest, and oddest purple colored dragon, you would ever see.

Now Tater wasn't like most princesses. She loved hot lava skipping, yippy-cola belching, and most of all snake bungee jumping. Her favorite food was grown in her own window box. It was polka-dot pickles. She ate them every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. She especially loved the pink and yellow polka dot ones.

The only friend she had was an aqua colored moth named Mothlongtail, who occasionally stopped by to check on her. Mothlongtail was an odd moth. He could speak and was Princess Tater's fairy Godfather. Every time he saw Princess Tater, he started off with the same question, "Why so blue?" Princess Tater would simply tell Mothlongtail the story of how her parents were turned into goats, and sent Princess Tater to Uglyville, to be safe from Lord Gertrude. He was an evil wizard who took over their kingdom. When she was done with her sad story, she would sit and play with Mothlongtail. They would play yippy-pippy-troll.

One day Tater woke up and heard ... nothing. It was absolutely quiet. Then she looked at her Prince Zeke calendar and the day was Monday. Duh! Monday was the day the dragon got her weekly tan. Princess Tater just sat there, not in the mood to eat her polka-dot pickles, when she got an amazing idea. She decided to use her snake bungee jumper to climb down to the magic ferry, get on it, drive it across the poisonous tar pit, and go find Mothlongtail to turn her parents back into humans. She then climbed down, got on the ferry, and left. She made it past Sour Troll Bridge, Poison Candy Apple Way, and almost made it to Ogrelan.

All of a sudden, the ugliest ogre Princess Tater ever saw trudged through the forest and snatched her up like someone picking a pumpkin. He took her to his sick, nasty, gross cottage. Tater could never get out of the cottage. The door was chained up and nailed. She said, "Help, help, let me out!" The ogre said, "Shut up or I am going to make you into Princess Stew!"

"If I only had Prince Zeke!" thought Princess Tater.

Prince Zeke was on his ogre hunt, and heard her crying. He said, "Don't cry my love."

She said, "Prince Zeke you have come to save me!" He jumped off of his noble steed, and surprisingly tripped. Princess Tater laughed so hard that it pierced the Ogre's tiny eardrums, and he fell unconscious. Princess Tater and Prince Zeke got away. They fled to Prince Zeke's castle, and while there, he got down on one knee and proposed marriage to Princess Tater. He promised that if she would marry him, he'd rescue her parents and save her kingdom from Lord Gertrude. She excitedly accepted. And as all the fairy tales go, they lived happily ever after!

**The Lions**  
By Angel Milke (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Once upon a time there lived a baby lion named Fancey. His mother was at a store and his father was at home with him. The father taught him to stay home alone in case he dies.

So one day, the mother and father both left and Fancey said, "I would like to see a mouse." So he looked upstairs, outside, and he looked his parents' room, but he still could not find a mouse until he heard a voice like this. "Squeak, Squeak!"

He said, "I think I should look behind the stove." Then the mouse ran upstairs because he was afraid.

Then mother and father came back and said, "Where are you Fancey?"

"Upstairs, Mother!" Mother said that was fine.

When Fancey came down, he was holding the mouse and the parents said, "Get that thing away!" Fancey said, "It is a mouse!" Fancey asked, "Can I keep the mouse as a pet?" His mother said, "Yes." Then he named the mouse Daisey.

Fancey and Daisey became best friends forever.

**Fifth Grade**

**Poetry**

**Winter Things**

By Kanani Fankhauser (1<sup>st</sup>)

The shiny glittery snow in the playground that brightens your eyes.  
The swishy cold air that smells like the fresh fragrance of the snow falling  
from the sky.

The sudden crunch of the icy snow.

The glittery snow tastes  
Like an ice cycle melting on my tongue, yuck!

The wet sparkling crispy snow.

**My Second Home**

By Te'a Faulks (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Southeast is my second home  
Growing with teachers  
Hurrying through those doors  
Anticipating a wonderful day to happen  
Seeing my friends and telling silly jokes throughout the day and spending time together  
but...  
The best part of all  
Is just being at the  
School

**Summertime**

By Sheree Hickey (3<sup>rd</sup>)

The water on my body is swishing like waves.  
And the fresh juice of the just picked summer strawberries  
And the ugly, ugly dry dirt but the cute, pretty green grass and the red roses,  
Blooming from the garden when watered.  
Little kids playing in the yard and having fun!

**Short Story**

**The Skate Park**

By Braden Shiley (1<sup>st</sup>)

In a little town called Shilleyville Toney and Bam skate boarded up town. They were wondering if Bam's mom would take them to the skate park. This would be Bam's first time at the skate park. This skate park was small; it used to be a tennis court. When Bam and Tony arrived at the skate park Bam was nervous. There were only two people there, Bam, and Tony. Tony got up on the quarter pipe (a ramp that goes straight up at one point). Tony said "Come on

Bam drop in" Bam got on the quarter pipe and said, "I don't know if I can." Tony dropped in the stopped, he looked at Bam. The Barn tried, he fell straight down the ramp. Tony helped Bam up and said "Don't think about it as much." Bam tries that, and almost gets it. Then Tony says, "Just think that you can do it." When Bam tries that he got halfway down and then falls. Then Bam thought, "If I don't stand on the top so long and think, I can do it." When Bam tries that, he gets halfway down then starts to wobble then gets all the way down stops, looks at Tony and says, "Thanks for the help!" Tony said "Good job, now lets skate the rest of the skate park."

### **A Lucky Ending**

By: Te'a Faulks (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Malexa Lucky, a wild and exciting name, but the girl that owns it is shy. So shy she wouldn't go to school. She is home schooled in a five-story mansion and has everything a kid would ever want, Her family was the only one in the neighborhood to actually own a colored T.V. But she still didn't feel complete. Malexa was adopted and never knew her birth parents. She was alone except for her sister Mario.

One morning Malexa woke up and got a sudden shot of curiosity about her real parents. She knew what she was going to do that day. And faster than she ever moved, she grabbed her suite case and started gathering her belongings because she was going to find her parents! But there was only one problem, she didn't just want to leave and hurt everyone she knew, but she had too. She scurried to the window, unlocked the latches, and then hopped out.

She had never really walked the busy streets of Chicago. But then she realized she had no idea where to look. Maybe her parents would like the things she liked, bright colors, big shoes, rubber chickens, juggling and making people laugh. Then it dawned on her to try the playground in Town Square! She picked up her stuff and hurried off.

But when she arrived there were no bright colors, big shoes, rubber chickens, juggling, nor any laughing. It was completely deserted. She knew for sure this wasn't the place.

Feeling depressed she sat down on a swing, put her hands on her knees and took a long, deep sigh. Then she got an idea to go to the mall, of course. She had to at least check there. She rushed to the subway station and took out the little money she had and got on.

She sat down and picked up a newspaper and on the back was an ad for a circus with two clowns with the last name "Lucky". That's it! She was going to the Paper Back Pencil Circus in New York.

Five hours later she arrived in New York where she followed signs to huge red and white striped tents.

After the show she found the two clowns. She walked up to them and said, "Hi! My name is Malexa Lucky."

"Nice to meet you Malexa, my name is Loo Lee Lucky, this is my husband Mark, what are you doing in New York sweetie?"

"Well I'm looking for my parents." Suddenly there was a very long silence. The clown's eyes widened.

"Honey, is that truly you? I've found you," said Loo Lee crying and hugging Malexa at the same time.

Malexa joined the circus with her parents. She was complete with a family of her own. Malexa wrote to Mario every week.

### **The Mysterious Night**

By: Kanani Fankhauser (3<sup>rd</sup>)

It was about 12:00 at night when everybody was asleep while Brooke was laying in bed. She heard some weird noises, like someone murmuring outside. Brooke got up out of bed to look out of the window and it was so dark, that she thought a robber was hiding from her and waiting to rob her house. Brooke went to her mom and dad's room to see if they were awake and they weren't. Brooke went downstairs and got her dog and brought it upstairs because she thought someone was robbing her house, but she is not supposed to bring the dog upstairs in her room. Brooke hoped her mom and dad would not get up and see the dog in her room. Brooke went back to her room and when she walked in her room she heard a cat meowing, so when she walked past her dresser her cat jumped from underneath her bed and scared her. She walked over to the window, looked down, no one was there. Brooke still heard the talking noise. She waited a little bit. Then she looked out her bedroom door to see if someone was there. When she looked out the window there was an alien outside her window on the window sill, and it was staring at her. Brooke started screaming. Her mom and dad came running down the hallway and she heard them coming down the hall. So she stuffed the dog under her bed. When her mom and dad walked in and saw the alien they started screaming too. They went downstairs and got a baseball bat and when the alien saw the baseball bat in Brookes mom's hand, he thought they were going to hit him with the baseball bat. So the alien ran back up to space and when to Pluto and ate his breakfast So Brook and her mom and dad when downstairs to have breakfast, too. They hoped that they would never see an alien again.



## **Sixth Grade**

### **Poetry**

#### **The Roman Army**

By Jared Muller (1<sup>st</sup>)

Bold armies marching,  
Lifeless, barren battlefields,  
Smokey, destructive fires,  
Heartily fortified citadels.  
Odor of sweat from the soldiers,  
Smoke from hot fires,  
The stale dry air.  
Fierce armies charging,  
Horses galloping,  
Siege bursting through fortifications,  
Clang of iron swords and spears  
Against bronze shields.  
Taste the dry air,  
Feeling of squeezing armor and helmets,  
The wind in my face,  
Your arms thrusting weapons into enemies,  
The agony of being struck down,  
The grief of defeat,  
The glory of victory,  
The hope of surviving and salvation.

#### **Friends**

By: Taylor O'Brien (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Smiling faces...  
Memories of past good times.  
The things we did together  
will be remembered forever.  
Even the really crazy ones  
laughing at good jokes, even the bad ones.  
Being in a class of just two.

Homecoming...  
Cheering for the Mustangs  
in subzero temperatures and  
losing your voice the next day.

Field trips...  
Listening to music  
waving to truckers  
reminiscing about the day.

Band...  
Blaring instruments and  
fantastic concerts.  
Rehearsing the dance  
over and over again.

My friends.

**Wide Open Range**  
By Ryan McMann (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Sitting patiently in the green pickup truck with my dad,  
    scanning the wide open range  
        as the scent of fresh air awakens me at dawn.  
Quietly watching for deer,  
    listening to the chirping birds  
        as I devour a cinnamon roll to curb my hunger.  
Spotting a large buck,  
    waiting for it to roam closer  
        scoping and aiming to hit our target.

**Short Story**

**UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER**

By Taylor O'Brien (1<sup>st</sup>)

It was the first day of summer. Blair was neither excited nor disappointed. To her, Poocker County Middle School wasn't anything special. The only thing she was looking forward to doing this summer was swimming in the lake at her grandpa's little farm. Her grandpa was her only friend. She woke up this morning feeling happy, today was the day she got to see him. She already had her things packed. Her mom, Kenna, was already starting the Nissan. She and her mom didn't really get along. Ever since her dad died they sort of drifted apart. She looked excited, not to see her aging dad who could give her and Blair everything they would ever need, but to go someplace special with her someone special, Alec, the man who wants to replace Blair's daddy. Blair used to love Alec. He and Blair's dad were the best of friends. They would take Blair on motorcycle rides and to the zoo. The Nissan was a gift from him and Blair couldn't stand looking at the deceiving car. The way that Kenna looked at Alec made Blair feel as if her mom forgot that Blair's dad ever existed. Her mom said "Lets go sleepy head, Alec can't wait at the airport for me forever." They were going to the one place she could only dream of going to, New York. She defiantly got in to the car and latched the hot black buckle and they started to drive.

When they got to his house the first thing she did was hug him then go see the picture of her beautiful grandma. She passed away when Blair was five but eve after seven years she could still taste her awesome country fried chicken. Her grandpa's house has the smell of good cooking and of their grandma's favorite candy apple cinnamon spice. There was nothing like her old musky smelling house. Kenna said goodbye to Blair and her grandpa and left as quick as lightning.

After Kenna left, Blair's grandpa said, "Well aren't you gonna go swimming kiddo? I know you're dying to." So as fast as Blair could say "Cannon ball" she jumped into the lake. She was only in there for 15 minutes when the lake started to sort of bubble, and bubble is what it did. It bubbled so hard it practically engulfed Blair. She sunk farther and farther down. She couldn't breathe as she was struggling for her life. Then she thought how could there be a light It was underneath her, and then all of a sudden she was falling. She landed in a bed of flowers. Then she saw someone heading toward her. She was very pail with bleach blonde hair and sparkling blue eyes. She was wearing a crown and said, "Hello, my name is Princess Linger. Welcome to Belinger. We've been expecting you." "Umm, hi, I guess," said Blair. "Come, come," hollered Linger. They went to a lab were two men were analyzing Blair's fall. "So, how will we get you back darling?" asked the more bearded one. "I was thinking that same thing" Blair cooed. The men were working on it for days. They didn't know how to get Blair home. She just had to ask, "How did you know I was coming?" "It's in our prophecy, dear. We've been working for years to get you back home," they answered. After about another month Blair was starting to get used to Belinger. She made friends with the people at the library and the girls at the science lab. She actually had friends there and her best one of all was Linger, She showed Blair all there was to know about Belinger. Blair really felt at home for the first time. Something was missing though. She missed her grandpa and her mom! She really wanted to go home so she could see her grandpa. She and Linger were walking home when the sky started to turn in circles and actually open up! She raced to the top of the highest hill where everyone was waiting for her and shouting her name.

"It works!" hollered one of the men. "Go!" shouted Linger. Blair stepped onto the platform and started to rise into the sky. She felt sadness wash over her. She would miss Linger and the whole town of Belinger. The spectators started to look like little ants as Blair rose higher and higher until she couldn't see them at all. Blair finally felt water and couldn't breathe. Then she saw a light so she swam and kicked her way up to the surface. Blair was amazed at what she saw, her grandpa coming toward her with some lemonade. "Hey there kiddo," he said. "You stayed under there for a long time." "Longer than you would believe," she answered.

**Saving the World**  
By: Ryan McMann (2<sup>nd</sup>)

In the year 3025, aliens were coming to take over our world. So a small group of galactic cops decided to try and stop the attack.

Boom! "Everyone get out!" Aliens start marching into a cops station. "People of Earth, we mean no harm," said the Alien. "What do you want?" "Not a lot, only you are our servants." "No way!" "O.K. then prepare to die!" The aliens start marching and everyone starts shooting. The chief tells Ryan to take some people and go get help. So he grabbed some people and left for the jungle. When they got there, there was a thud so Ryan went out to see what was going on. It was a baseball. Suddenly 26 sloths came over the hill and started throwing baseballs so he got back in the ship and they left. After flying a little the team saw smoke. When they landed everything was wrecked. "The aliens must have been here," said Max. "Doc, you and Max stay and help the wounded." So Ryan and Gunny go off with some survivors and head back to base. When they get there some people are grouped at the front. So Ryan told everyone to make a distraction so he can go around and capture the head alien. So while everyone was battling, Ryan went around and captured the alien and made him surrender.

## THE EPIC OF ARKANTAS

By: Jared Muller (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Arkantas narrowly dodges a flying dagger thrown by Theris the Anubite. It clashes against the stone walls of the Midgo Stronghold. A lot was on Arkantas' mind. His wife being killed by Theris' bandits, driving off the bandits who left Atlantis burning, years of tracking Theris, all to end here. It was time for some revenge. Theris was of daggers. Arkantas closed in with his sword. Later, he sailed on a ship with Theris' head lashed to the bow. Finally, he thought Atlantis is safe again. Then he headed home to tell the people of the good news.

At the temple of Poseidon, though all was not well. Krios, head of the Atlantean High Council, was not happy. A couple of years ago, the Trojan War had started in Greece. Krios said they should send Arkantas to Troy. Arkantas argued till the end, but suddenly a huge crab swims into the harbor and starts ravaging ships and warships! Arkantas tells his son to stay in the temple, then leads the guards in an attack to slay the crab. They succeed, but then, pirate ships known as Black Sails sail into the harbor and unload some troops onto the beach who start burning ships! Arkantas gathers up all the temple guards together in an attempt to drive off the pirates. Later, they are able to drive away the pirates. After the pirates had been driven away, Arkantas agreed to go to Troy and that he will find the attacker, Kamos the Minotaur.

So Arkantas set out for Troy to help the Greeks. On the way, a sailor exclaimed that there were Black Sails ahead! So Arkantas sent most of his fleet to Troy, but followed the Black Sails which led them to Komos' island base. They slowly went around the defenses to the heart of his base. They defeated the guards and ambushed Komos. He said that someday, Arkantas' head will hang from the mast of his ship, then he jumped down to his trained leviathan, and went away. Once he arrived at Troy, king Aggemennon was surprised at Arkantas, Atlantis' best admiral being here. Then a huge warrior who Arkantas recognized as Ajax lumbered towards him. Ajax explained the situation of the war to him, then Aggemennon said Arkantas has come in time for their final push. So on that day, the Greeks were supported by the Atlanteans. It was tough going at first but eventually the Greeks surrounded Troy and prepared to storm the south gate of Troy. On the day of the attack, Arkantas and another hero, Oddyseus, went over the plan. First Arkantas' and Oddyseus' armies would storm the south gate. Second, Ajax will rush his men in to clear out the Trojan defenders. Last, Aggemennon and his troops will overrun the Trojan royal palace.

At first it went well, but then disaster struck. As Oddyseus' and Arkantas armies broke through the gate, Trojan cavalry countered attacked and Ajax was in danger! So they had to pull back and rescue Ajax, who told them of a secret forward base outside of Troy. They gather their armies and destroy the base, but then a wounded guard from the camp informs them that Aggemennon has been attacked. They all pulled back to main camp. A wounded Aggemennon suggested retreat. But Arkantas refused. After debating, wise Oddyseus came up with a plan to make a wooden horse, which the Trojans would take into the city to give to Athena, their patron god. Then, several heroes would come out of a trap door to open the gates to let the Greek army in the city. The plan succeeded, so that night, Troy burned. After Troy was looted and ravaged, Oddyseus advised Arkantas to get his boats repaired.

So Ajax led Arkantas to Ioklos a port city. But when they arrived, an old man explained that bandits have attacked the city and taken a centaur named Chiron prisoner. Arkantas and Ajax retook the city, eventually freeing Chiron, who told them that a man named Kensyt marched the prisoners into the mountains. So they all split up and eventually found the prisoners in a huge quarry digging up a building of some sort. The Cyclops overseeing them bellowed his name was Gargerensis. Then he chanted a spell to make them attack each other. In the confusion, he escaped into a strange building. Our heroes followed him where Chiron pointed out that they were in the underworld, but then a huge Thump, THUMP, then they saw a huge ram hitting a gate. Arkantas thought that they should destroy the ram, which they did. They Gargerensis called them fools for thwarting his plans, and trapped them, saying there were other routes to Tartarus. So Arkantas, Ajax, and Chiron eventually found a way out. They came out in an oasis surrounded by camels. A woman came with soldiers and asked a few questions. After they answered, she looked stunned. She said that she is Amanra and was planning an attack on her enemy Kensyt. Chiron negotiated and an even greater treasure, a box said to contain part of a god, Osiris. She explained that if they gathered the pieces, Osiris would live again! So Amanra went south and united Nile farmers to get a piece from Kensyt. Chiron went west to get the head from a tamarisk tree, where he met some Norsemen who had tracked Gargerensis. Arkantas and Ajax went east and ambushed Kamos where he jumped from a cliff to his death.

Finally, they met at Abydos, the city where the pieces were united just in time to destroy Gargerensis' army. But Gargerensis escaped to the north. Our heroes tracked him to the Norselands where they met a hermit, Skult, who said the warring Norse clans could be united by a flag of his. But instead, the tribes attacked them! After the skirmish was over, Skult revealed he had tricked them! He disappeared, then a woman named Reginleif helped unite the tribes by doing tasks for them. They holed up Gargerensis near an

underworld passage, the well of Urd. They stalled Gargerensis from opening it, but to hold off the enemy, Chiron stayed and held them off. Chiron the centaur died a hero. Then our remaining heroes ran into some dwarves recreating Thor's hammer. Thor was the protector of the Norse who had his hammer smashed. The dwarves were able to recreate it, just when Gargerensis opened the gate. Thor was able to seal the gate, which made a huge explosion! After they gathered their troops, Arkantas Ajax, Amanra, and Oddyseus made a final counter attack in which they captured Gargerensis. They thought Ajax killed him, but when Arkantas wanted Gargerensis's head to be lashed to the bow, Kensyt's head rolled out of the box. They realized Gargerensis had tricked them and attacked Atlantis. After rescuing as many Atlanteans as they could, Arkantas stayed and found his destiny. Zeus granted him with powers that he used to defeat a giant living statue of Posiedon had animated. When the statue fell, its weapon impaled Gargerensis, slaying the evil Cyclops. Later, Arkantas lay sleeping on the beach. Athena came to him in a dream and took him up to Mount Olympus to be a god. Amanra became queen of Egypt, Ajax inherited most of Greece, and his son Kastor became a hero. But that's a whole other story.