

FIRST PRIZE

The Cheetah and the Two Boys

One day a boy named Christian decided to have a race with his friend Maiwand. Christian was riding a black and yellow motorcycle and his friend was driving a red and yellow car with lightning streaks. They started the race near their houses. The race was going to take them through the jungle.

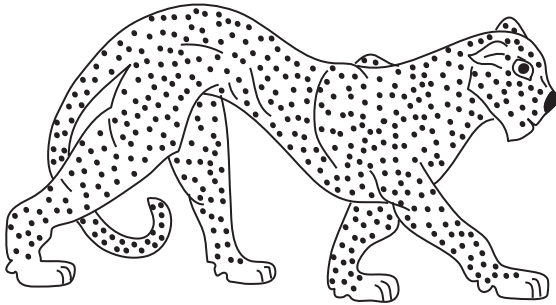
First they met a cheetah that wanted to race. The boys stopped and said, "Okay, you can join us."

The boys took a shortcut because the cheetah was a fast animal. When they were getting closer to the finish line, Christian and Maiwand were in front of the cheetah. The boys tied for first place and got a big trophy.

The cheetah was mad. He took a shortcut and went back home.

by Christian Di Vito (Kindergarten)

Century Private School
Richmond Hill, Ontario



FIRST PRIZE

My Sweet Home

Once upon a time there was a girl named Emma. She wanted to be a princess. She said, “I am a princess,” to everyone in the town. People laughed and laughed at her.

Emma asked her mom, “Am I a princess?”

“Of course,” said her mom.

“Then why do people laugh at me?” asked Emma.

“You are our princess, but not to others,” said Mom. Emma was sad.

The king was having a wishing contest in the town. Emma entered the contest and won. The king asked, “What is your wish?”

“I want to be a princess.”

The king was surprised to hear that. The king let her be in the palace for one week. Emma was so happy. She played with all the fancy toys all day. Then she started to miss her own toys. At dinnertime she missed her favourite food her mom would make. At bed she missed her mom, her dad, and her sister. Without her teddy bear and pink bed she couldn’t fall asleep.

The next morning Emma woke up with tears in her eyes. She told the king she wanted to go home.

“If that is your wish you can go home today,” said the king.

Emma ran home and gave hugs and kisses to her mom, her dad, and her sister. She gave hugs and kisses to her favourite toys too. Emma said to her family, “It feels good to be home.”

by *Shrena Sribalan* (Grade One)
Tiger Jeet Singh Public School
Milton, Ontario



FIRST PRIZE

Monkey Wants Gold

Once there was a monkey and a pig. They were so poor they wanted to steal gold from the bank. So the monkey and the pig walked to the bank, but it was closed.

The next day they went to the bank after they had eaten breakfast. They snuck into a room where they kept gold. They took some gold and ran to the beach as quickly as they could, but it was too late. The whole entire bank saw them and called the police.

The police were far away from the beach, but only took ten minutes to get there. The police were so fast Monkey and Pig could not run because all the sand fell on top of them. The police used a rope and tied Monkey and Pig into a big knot, impossible to untie. The police pulled Monkey and Pig to the police car. The police said when Monkey and Pig were in jail they were not going to be beside each other. They were going to be one on top of the other.

The floor on the top layer of the jail was glass. Monkey was on the top layer and Pig was on the bottom. Monkey tried to break the glass. Monkey hit the glass almost one hundred times. There was a secret code for Monkey to break the glass. The police had put the answer in Pig's layer. Pig told Monkey the secret code, but the policemen were snoring too loudly for Monkey to hear. After a while the snoring was not loud anymore. Then Pig told Monkey the secret code was 9101. Monkey pressed those numbers and fell down to Pig's layer. Pig said the police had the key to free them.

Then Monkey found a stick. It looked like it could free them so Monkey tried, but it did not work. Monkey gave Pig the stick. Pig knew what to do. He used the stick and got the key. Pig unlocked the cage and they were free. They tiptoed behind the sleeping policemen, but Monkey wasn't careful. He accidentally kicked the policeman. The policeman woke up and chased Monkey and Pig. Monkey threw a stick and the policeman tripped on it. They ran back to the beach.

Monkey told Pig, "Let's swim to the other side of the ocean so the policeman won't catch us." Pig and Monkey tried to swim but they could not breathe. Pig and Monkey went back to the shore. Pig asked Monkey how there were going to breathe underwater. Monkey said he knew a magic spell to breathe underwater. When the policeman arrived at the beach he did not know where Monkey and Pig were.

by Loretta Lam (Grade Two)
Trillium School
Markham, Ontario



FIRST PRIZE

The Magical Jewel

Once upon a time an eight-year-old girl named Olivia went hiking with her father. While they were hiking, Olivia found a very shiny jewel on the ground. It sparkled with all the colours of the rainbow. “Do you think it’s a trap?” Olivia asked.

“Of course not,” said her father. “We only see traps in movies and books about ancient times so I do not think so.”

“What if it takes us to a tropical land when we rub it?” said Olivia.

“Don’t be silly,” said her father.

Suddenly Olivia said, “I feel something! It’s like the ground is collapsing.”

Whoosh! “We’re on a tropical island!” said Olivia. “What are we going to do here?”

Olivia’s father answered, “First we have to know if they speak our language.”

“How will we do that?”

“I’ll handle this one.” Olivia’s dad asked, “Hello, how are you doing?”

A woman answered, “Just fine.”

Daddy whispered to Olivia, “They do speak our language.”

“How about we go swimming, Dad? The water looks beautiful.”

Olivia’s dad answered, “We do not have our swimsuits though. And we have to find somewhere to stay.”

“How about a hotel or even a mansion?”

“Are you kidding? We aren’t staying forever. So let’s check into this hotel right here, okay?”

“Sure,” said Olivia.

The person at the counter in the hotel said, “Hello, if you want a room you do not have to pay any money only for today!”

“Oh, so that’s great,” said Olivia’s dad. “Thank you.”

“Let’s take the elevator,” said Olivia.

“Wow! I bet this room is the biggest room in the hotel,” said Olivia. When Olivia and her father entered the room they were surprised to see an inflatable bed and fresh flowers placed all over the room. It was the most beautiful room Olivia had ever seen. “I’m hungry,” said Olivia.

“Let’s go to the restaurant I saw on our way called Rib Crib,” said Olivia’s dad.

“Come on, the last one there is a rotten egg,” said Olivia.

After they ate the best meal ever, Olivia’s dad said, “How about we return to the room, get the jewel, and leave this place?”

“But I love this place,” said Olivia.

“Well, we can’t stay here forever,” Olivia’s dad replied.

“Okay, we’ll go back,” said Olivia.

They found the jewel on the bed exactly where they left it. “So how did you get this thing to work?” asked Olivia’s dad.

“Just hold it very tight,” said Olivia.

“I got it,” said Olivia’s dad.

Whoosh! Before they knew it they were magically home again. They both dreamt about the magical island when they got home but it was their secret.

by Olivia Abraham (Grade Three)

Philopateer Christian College

Mississauga, Ontario

FIRST PRIZE

The Magical Whap

A long, long time ago, there was an invention of an ancient hairbrush. The ancient hairbrush had two certain magical functions: as you brushed your hair it would make your hair grow or glow, it was your choice.

In the meantime I was secretly working on the invention of the “magical whap,” which I was making from a special piece of driftwood I found at my secret place at the beach. Well, the magical whap had way more magical functions and powers than the stinky old ancient hairbrush; people could never imagine the things it could do or transform into. The magical whap could turn into a magic wand, a portable telephone, a whip, a radio, a light, any type of writing tool . . . oh, the list could go on and on. Basically whatever you wanted it to be it could be. I loved it!

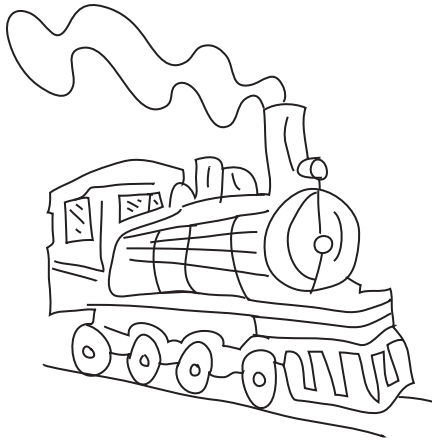
So as I was working on my invention, something terrible was going on with the ancient hairbrush and they couldn’t do anything to fix it. Well, nobody was buying the ancient hairbrush anymore and it was no longer famous because it had a bad malfunction, which was causing people to get lice. People were getting angry at one another thinking they were getting lice from being around this person or that person, but it was really coming from the ancient hairbrush. The whole village looked like a ghost town, nobody was going to school or work or any events.

I was listening to the radio one evening, putting the finishing touches on the magical whap when I heard about the terrible events going on in town. Well, little did the people know I had a magical function that could get rid of lice with the magical whap. So I phoned the radio station to ask them to tell the whole village about how I could fix their problem with the magical whap and to meet me at the summer market the next evening.

Well, the next evening at the summer market there were thousands of people there waiting for my help. So I squirted a liquid in their hand and they rubbed it in their hair. As they did I waved the magical whap over their hair and told them it would heal them from the lice. After all the people got treated they were very happy, so they rewarded me by putting me in a chair, raising me on their shoulders, and parading me around the village. I was so happy I had helped so many people. And I was always there to help anyone I could with my very special magical whap.

by Shanelle Moore (Grade Four)
École Boréale
Hay River, Northwest Territories





FIRST PRIZE

The Proof Is in the Pudding

It was a sunny afternoon at the station and I, Emma Brooks, was in a hurry to catch the train. There was a blinding light as the train glided into the station. I pulled my coat tighter and climbed aboard.

I walked to my cabin in a hall with many doors, each intricately carved. Across the hall was another door leading to more cabins. Along the right was a window showing the mountains and trees, it was truly amazing.

“Aahh!” a high-pitched scream echoed through the train. In the next compartment, a woman was on the ground. Before her was a dog growling. “Are you all right?” I asked her. The woman slowly nodded, but still had a frightened look. *It is strange. . . .*

The next morning, I awoke to the sound of heavy footsteps outside my cabin. They stopped abruptly. I went over to the keyhole in the door and peered through. There was a soft buzz, then the lights went out. I frantically felt around for my flashlight and opened the door. Just as I flicked it on, the lights were back.

“No!” yelled the voice from yesterday. The woman rushed out of her cabin and ran over. She shook my shoulders with such force I could have slumped to the ground. “You’ve got to help me!” she cried. “Somebody has stolen my files!”

For the whole afternoon, I asked the woman questions for more information. After a while, I gave up and went back to read the *Sherlock Holmes* series. Not far, however, something caught my eye. I examined closer and saw it was a page. But if I followed Holmes’s method, then this could be a clue. I snatched the nearest pencil and scribbled on it. The faded words started to appear. It read, “Cabin one, compartment seven.”

At noon, I approached cabin one and took a bobby pin from my hair and twisted it, but it wouldn’t budge. Footsteps echoed in the hall, getting louder. Sweat beaded on my forehead; finally, there was a click. I pushed open the door and slipped inside. I remembered the page and took it out. *Aha!* On the walls were tiles. *If the seventh one is a compartment. . . .*

When I found the seventh one I knocked hard, it was more hollowed out than the others. Suddenly, the tile burst out! It was a lever, I pushed it down. A small patch in the ground burst open. There were the files! I snatched them, but standing at the doorway was a man. “Thief! You were going to accuse me!” he cried.

In the hall, I returned the files. Suddenly, the man ran to the front and tried to jump. Case closed.

by **Julia Nguyen** (Grade Five)
Knoxdale Public School
Nepean, Ontario



SECOND PRIZE

The Princess and the Cheetah

Once there was a princess who lived in a desert. Her name was Isabella. She wanted to explore a forest.

Isabella travelled to find a forest. She was walking and walking in the forest until she found a cheetah. The princess said, “Would you please help me explore the forest?” The cheetah agreed and they became good friends.

They explored the whole entire forest. They found a lot of vines. The princess and the cheetah swung on the vines. They became very tired so they wanted to find a house. They found a cave instead. They stayed there for the night.

The next morning they got up and went back to the desert. The cheetah said goodbye and went back to the forest.

by Stephanie Lee (Kindergarten)

Century Private School

Richmond Hill, Ontario



SECOND PRIZE

The Magical Golden Car

Once upon a time there was a boy whose name was Sam. He was always late to school and children teased him. He was really sad.

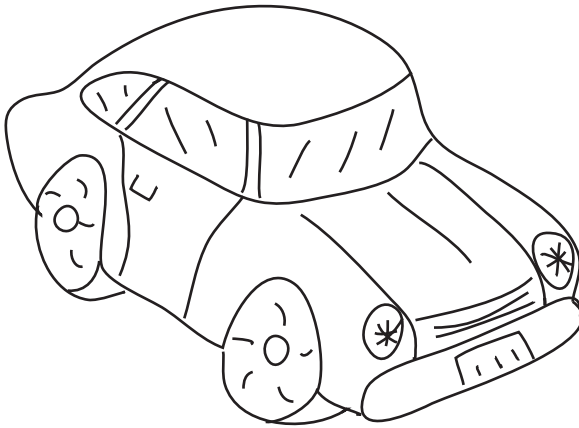
The next day a magic man came and asked Sam whether he was the boy who was late to school and got teased.

“Yes,” said Sam.

Then the magic man gave Sam a golden car. Sam was so happy to get a golden car, but he was worried too. He did not know how to drive a car. But the magic man told Sam this was a magic car. Whenever Sam was about to crash, the magic car would quickly get under control so Sam wouldn't get hurt.

Sam liked his car very much. He loved the car's red horn, purple wheels, and green seats. His car was so cool he took it to school every day and even helped his friends get to school on time. Sam was never late and didn't ever get teased again.

by Nameer Issani (Grade One)
Central Montessori School
Toronto, Ontario



SECOND PRIZE

Caramel's First Family

One Halloween Caramel was born in a small cabin in the deep dark woods. She was a Siamese kitten.

In the morning the sun rose through the damp trees and Caramel stretched her little arms and legs, while her mother licked Caramel's little face. She saw trick-or-treaters going door to door to get candy. Caramel tried to walk to the door, but then she realized she fell on her first step.

"Meow," said Caramel. She thought she was hurt.

Her mother nudged Caramel to say "Don't give up."

So Caramel tried again and this time she got up two steps. Her mother licked Caramel in surprise.

Kids were staring in the cabin window. Her mother hissed at the kids and they ran for their lives.

Day after day her mother was getting sick and they were getting into big fights because Caramel didn't get her food. Finally they settled it by saying, "If you will not get any food, then no food. And if I don't get to a veterinarian there will be nothing you can do about it." So Caramel learned how to walk, so she could go get help and food.

Caramel went to find a street and if a car came she would try to get its attention. She didn't get the first car's attention. She got the second car's attention. A man hopped out of the car and followed Caramel to the old cabin where he found Caramel's very sick mother. He found a veterinarian on a map and picked Caramel's mother up and took her to the veterinarian.

When she got to the veterinarian they rushed to the office and Caramel realized the veterinarian was a lady. As she turned around to talk to them she said in a shout, "What?" and she was very loud. Then she saw Caramel's sick mother.

"Right this way," said the lady.

She fixed her up. "I see," said the lady, "she is going to have a kitten."

Caramel was so excited. She jumped for joy because she didn't like being an only kitten. In one hour the kitten was born. Caramel ran out with her family and she said, "I love this new family." The cat family walked off into the beautiful sunset.

by Aynsley Miller (Grade Two)

Quispamsis Elementary School

Quispamsis, New Brunswick



SECOND PRIZE

Alvin's Chimpanzee

Once there was a boy named Alvin who lived in a small town with his mom and dad. Alvin was a very shy and quiet boy. He had no siblings or friends and always wished for one.

On one Sunday evening, two days before Christmas, Alvin's parents took him to a carnival. Alvin was having a great time at the carnival. He ate cotton candy and popcorn. Then he enjoyed Ferris wheel and roller-coaster rides. Alvin also bought a remote-control toy car.

Then as he was walking along, he suddenly came across a small but beautiful-looking stall. It was called "Wish Come True." Alvin and his parents walked in and started looking at different toys. Alvin liked a stuffed chimpanzee a lot, so his parents decided to buy him the stuffed chimpanzee, not realizing the stall was owned by a wizard and it was enchanted.

At the time of purchase the wizard asked Alvin, "Son, what is it that you wish for?"

Alvin replied, "I wish I could have someone to play with at home."

The wizard smiled. Before packing it the wizard asked his parents, "Would you like for the stuffed chimpanzee to have magic?"

Thinking it was a joke, Alvin's parents said, "Sure, why not?"

After enchanting the chimpanzee, the wizard whispered to Alvin, "Son, find magical water and the fruit of life so your wish will come true on Christmas Eve." Alvin's mom also bought two small empty jars and told Alvin to put them in his bag.

At the end of the carnival there was a lake, which everybody believed to be magical. The tale went that whoever drinks the water from the lake may be granted a wish. Alvin, remembering the wizard's words "*Water of life*," quickly filled one of the empty jars with the lake water and kept it in his bag. On the way back home, Alvin's parents saw a huge apple tree and told Alvin to put the apple in the last jar, without realizing it was magical as well.

On Christmas Eve, Alvin told his parents what the wizard had told him. Together, they decided to put the water and the apple with the stuffed chimpanzee. But nothing happened and Alvin started to cry. Then suddenly a white light shone from the stuffed chimpanzee. It was so bright Alvin and his parents had to cover their eyes. After a few seconds, the light was gone, but so was the stuffed chimpanzee, the jar of water, and the jar with the apple! Alvin and his parents could not believe their eyes, as in its place was a baby boy. Alvin was very excited and shouted, "I have a brother!"

by Armaan Mirchandani (Grade Three)

Central Montessori School

Toronto, Ontario



SECOND PRIZE

The Mysterious Stone

Emma, her mom, and her dad decided to go for a walk. As they were walking, Emma stumbled upon a funny-looking stone. She picked it up, examined the front, then turned it over. The back was glowing and when she reached out to touch it, it sucked her arm in! She pulled her arm out, nothing harmed. She looked ahead and saw her mom and dad still walking. She put the stone on the ground and stepped into it. Instantly Emma was five inches tall.

Emma scanned the room around her. As she was looking around she noticed three tunnels. The first tunnel was a straight wide hall. At the end, there was a small, wide medieval door. When she opened the door, there was an old bed, dresser, desk, and chair. Emma closed the door and went to the long, narrow second tunnel.

At the end of this tunnel was another door. Inside was a king-sized bed. There was a polished new dresser made of teak wood and gold handles. Emma wanted to lie down on the bed but wasn't sure whether it was safe. She went to the third tunnel.

There was a faint light from it. It was short with a lot of twists and turns. At the end was a dutch door. Emma peeked through a crack. All she could see was a little kitchen and living room. The roof was lined with crystals. Something was moving on the couch. Emma heard another sound behind her. She turned around very slowly and carefully.

A boy about Emma's age was standing there. "Who are you?" asked Emma, surprised.

"I'm an elf. Do you want to see my family?" asked Jimmy.

"S-s-sure," stuttered Emma. When he opened the door in the third tunnel, his mom and dad turned to see who came in. "Hello," said Emma shyly.

"How did you find the entrance?" questioned the dad.

"I found a mysterious glowing stone and went through it," said Emma.

"Emma, you have found the entrance to our world and we feel safe when you're with us. So will you keep this secret stone in your room and take care of us?" asked the mother.

Emma was so excited all she could say was, "Yes!"

From that day on Jimmy's family stayed in Emma's room feeling safe and sound.

by Kylene Van Straten (Grade Four)

St. Augustine School

Ponoka, Alberta



SECOND PRIZE

The Legend of Castleen

*On the corner of the daylight,
In a kingdom time afar,
There stood a king whose kingdom,
Was on the brink of dangerous war.*

That is the poem people tell today about Castleen, a kingdom of peace, happiness, and celebration ruled by King Chiacktok, long forgotten.

Miles away, an opposing kingdom, Rockarnston, was ruled by an evil, powerful sorcerer. Rockarnston was rife with evil, hatred, and murder.

Legend tells the sorcerer was nameless, being cast away at birth. For lack of loving parents, he became evil and angry. He felt empty inside and filled this void with greed for power. This is why he decided to seize the nearest kingdom: Castleen.

Soldiers of Rockarnston would trek to Castleen carrying maces, swords, and bows and arrows, fighting bravely but reluctantly each time. Sir Goe, the backbone of Castleen's army, was constantly complimented for his sterling advances defending Castleen from Rockarnston.

One morning, Sir Goe spotted three travellers heading towards the castle. "We have visitors," Sir Goe announced. He faced Chiacktok. "My Lord, travellers are approaching!"

"Friend or foe?" demanded the gate guard.

"Is this Castleen?" said one of the travellers.

"Yes," said the gate guard.

"We must see the king!"

"Bring them in," said Chiacktok.

The gate guard tugged on a pulley and the gate opened, allowing them entry.

They kneeled before Chiacktok. A traveller handed Chiacktok a scroll showing the sorcerer's bloodline. Beside the sorcerer's picture was an image of young Chiacktok.

"Where did you get this?" Chiacktok asked.

"We stole it from Rockarnston."

"Sir Goe, gather some armour for our guests!" said Chiacktok.

In the armoury, Sir Goe found extra armour and presented it to the king.

"Ah, perfect," said Chiacktok, turning to the visitors. "I present you with this armour."

Chiacktok and his most trusted knights grabbed their weapons and headed to the battlefield where they would confront the sorcerer. Sir Goe led the way, accompanied by the visitors.

Chiacktok and the sorcerer battled. The sorcerer began to overpower Chiacktok when Chiacktok breathed, "I know the truth about your past." The sorcerer narrowed his eyes and growled.

Breathlessly, Chiacktok said, "I a-am your b-brother—your older brother. Our parents loved us dearly. They knew you had special powers. Unfortunately, you were kidnapped before you were named. I want you to know I am sorry for your misfortune, but I think our parents would have named you Reen."

Fighting back tears, Reen said, "I will join you and destroy Rockarnston."

"No!" exclaimed Chiacktok.

"We will bind our kingdoms together, brother," said Reen.

"We will both be kings and share the land, our land, together," Chiacktok said as they both watched the sunset over their newly forged kingdom.

by Sterling Davidson Center (Grade Five)
Calgary Arts Academy
Calgary, Alberta

THIRD PRIZE

Rainbow Bird

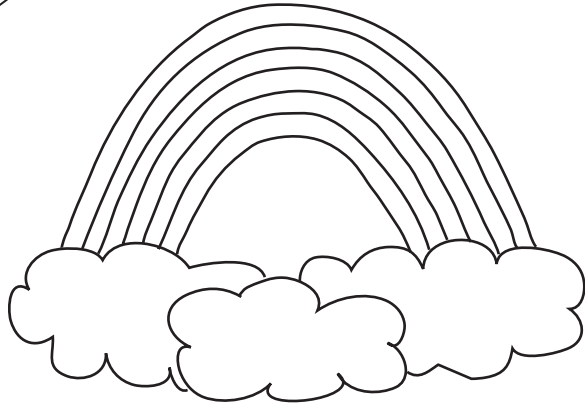
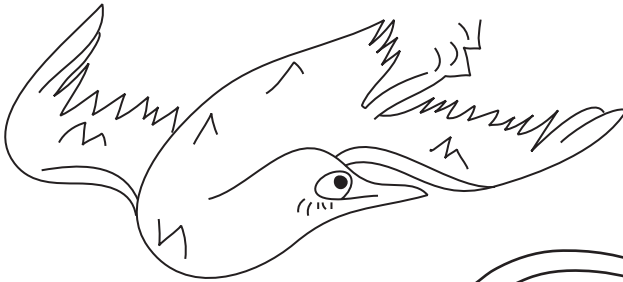
The rainbow bird is the cleverest creature. The rainbow bird makes all the rainbows happen in the world. That is why he's called the rainbow bird.

He flies to every city and he knows when it is raining in every city. And if there are two rainstorms in a city he goes to two cities.

He also makes really low rainbows and he poops out the rainbows to make them happen. He can only do one colour at a time, so he comes back to do the other colours.

He also puts a lot of rainbows on garages and cars because he is a rainbow bird that flies so low. When the sun appears the rainbows go away.

by *Justin Goetz* (Kindergarten)
Ebus Academy
Vanderhoof, British Columbia



THIRD PRIZE

The Sparkling Fairies

The fairies lived in Flowertown. There were many kinds of flowers and there were little houses. The houses matched the flowers, so nobody could see the fairies and they wouldn't get trapped.

All of the fairies were happy until somebody came. One of the fairies got trapped in the man's net. She couldn't get out of the net. The man put her in a dark box.

When the sun wasn't shining the fairies lost their dust off their wings and then they couldn't fly, so the fairy tried to think of an idea for a way to get out of the box. She wanted to get back to her home to see her other fairy friends and then she would tell them she was trapped in a box. She would tell them to be careful of the man with the net, so they wouldn't get trapped like she did.

The fairy had scissors in her pocket and she cut a hole in the box. She snuck out of the box and she flew home safe and sound.

by Jada Roberts (Grade One)

Harrington Harbour School

Harrington Harbour, Québec



THIRD PRIZE

A Royal Quest

Once upon a time there lived three friends: a wizard, a knight, and a princess. They lived in harmony in a magical castle until one day when an evil king kidnapped the princess. He took her through a mysterious portal that led to his gloomy castle and it was up to the knight and the wizard to help her. The wizard looked into his crystal ball to track the king's path, but he didn't see the portal. It was closed. The wizard searched his crystal ball for a way to open the portal. He realized they had to access a switch hidden in an ogre's cave. The wizard and the knight set off for the cave.

When they arrived, the ogre was sleeping, so the knight approached quietly. He accidentally stepped on a twig with a crackle and woke the ogre! The big, scary ogre had horns and a huge thorny club and was stomping towards the knight and the wizard. The knight punched the ogre, but that only made him angry! The wizard quickly mixed a potion. When he splashed some on the ogre, it disappeared. They went into the cave and flicked the switch to reveal the portal.

On the other side, the knight and the wizard found a frightening land with a red sky, burnt trees, and vultures swooping. They carefully walked towards the castle, but something stopped them. A skeleton army attacked! The wizard and the knight fought and fought until only one skeleton was left. Suddenly, it grew five times its size into a giant skeleton. The knight was brave and kept fighting until finally the giant skeleton was defeated!

They continued to the castle. A big black dragon swooped down with fiery breath. The wizard mixed a shrinking potion. When it wet the dragon, it got smaller. The knight swung the dragon and launched it into the sky and out of their way.

The wizard and the knight finally entered the dark castle and found the evil king at the very top. He was tall, with spiky armour and a giant sword. He told them the princess had to be his prisoner because he needed company in his lonely land. They saw her in a cage. The knight and evil king battled with their swords. While the knight distracted him, the wizard put the rest of the disappearing potion on the king. When the king vanished, a key fell to the ground. They unlocked the cage and released the princess. All three of them hurried back through the portal and returned home where they lived happily ever after.

by Caleb Gourzong (Grade Two)

St. Anthony of Padua School

Milton, Ontario



THIRD PRIZE

The Magic Clock

Once there was a boy who believed in magic. His name was Azad, which means freedom in Kurdish. When he came back from school on Friday, his parents said, “We need to go shopping today.” Azad was excited because his parents promised to buy him a new clock.

They saw a big clock shop in the mall. Azad said, “Mom, Dad there it is!” They went inside and saw big clocks, small clocks, funny-shaped clocks, and fancy clocks. Azad spied a big dusty clock in the corner. The clock was about one century old! Azad touched the clock very tenderly.

There was something suspicious about the clock. The owner looked at Azad and smirked. He told Azad, “This clock has been here since I was a kid like you.”

Azad told his parents, “I want that clock.” His parents couldn’t believe he wanted that clock. Azad said, “Please buy me that clock, pretty please.”

“It seems it works but it’s old,” said his father.

His mother said, “It must be cheap too!”

Azad asked the owner, “How much is the clock?”

The owner said, “Well it has been here for a while and I don’t mind getting rid of it. It is ten dollars!” So they bought the clock.

Azad’s dad helped put the clock in his room. Azad cleaned up the dust on the huge clock. He was happy because he liked collecting antique things, like paintings, handmade toys, very old books, and dusty old treasure boxes.

It was Azad’s bedtime. He lay down on his bed. Azad said, “Oh boy, I miss my cousins.” He wanted them to see the clock.

“I can make your wish come true,” he heard.

He thought he was dreaming, but it was the clock. Azad couldn’t believe his eyes, then he looked at the clock. Azad noticed the clock talking. “What things can you do?” asked Azad.

The clock answered, “I can take you to any place in the world you want.”

Azad got really excited. “Can you take me to my cousins?” said Azad.

“Sure!” said the clock.

Azad stepped into the clock, the clock turned around three times and said, “*Abbadabbadooo!*” The clock told Azad, “Wherever you go, you have to come back in one hour or else you will be there forever.”

After coming back from Kurdistan, Azad was happy. Azad wanted to tell his parents about the clock, but he changed his mind. He thought they wouldn’t believe him. Azad couldn’t think of where he should go next! He wanted to see the seven wonders of the world, and the World Cup in Brazil. His dreams were coming true. Azad would go to every country in the world!

by *Diako Taban* (Grade Three)

Kingslake Public School

North York, Ontario



THIRD PRIZE

Prince and Princess School

Once upon a time in a faraway land there were many kingdoms ruled by many royal families. The young princes and princesses would go to a special royal school when they were fifteen to learn royal things like manners, dancing, singing, and how to protect themselves.

Mileah was a princess, but not a girly princess. She liked horses, archery, and animals, but she was shy around people. Prince Adam was nice. He liked riding horses and sword fighting. He didn't like fancy clothes or girly girls. The school was called The Academy of Royal Training.

On the first day of school for Mileah and Prince Adam, Mileah quickly saw she was not like the other girly princesses. Prince Adam saw the school was full of girly princesses. They spent their first week doing classes they hated, like sewing for Mileah and dancing for Prince Adam. Finally on Friday they had horseback riding, which they both liked, except he thought the girls looked silly riding sidesaddle.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, Mileah started racing on her horse. Prince Adam wondered who she was and stood with amazement. Then she started doing cool tricks. Prince Adam thought, *I have to meet this girl*. Prince Adam walked up to Mileah and gave her a smile.

Mileah thought, *Who is this creepy boy smiling at me?* Then Mileah ran away.

Prince Adam thought, *Did I scare her away or do I smell?* Then he thought of a plan to meet this girl. First, he decided he was going to challenge her to a sword fight. Then he decided he might sing her a song. But then he thought that might creep her out even more. So he went with writing her a note: "Hi, horse girl," he began, but then he thought horse girl didn't sound nice. He then tried, "Hello, my name is Adam. . .," and he wrote how she was great riding her horse and he'd never seen a girl do that before. He asked if they could be friends.

The next day he slipped it in her locker. Mileah found it and it made her feel happy. She wanted to find Adam to say yes. So Mileah went to the principal to ask what class Adam was in for second period.

"Archery with you," said the principal.

Mileah tried to think of who Adam could be. Mileah couldn't wait for second period, because she'd finally have a friend.

by Paige LeBlanc (Grade Four)
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THIRD PRIZE

Our Snowman Friend

Big fluffy snowflakes twirled around in the sky as they fell. It had been snowing like this for a while now. My sister had become tired of playing inside for the past few days. Now, as I gazed out the window, I had an idea. “Molly,” I called, eager to share my plan.

She rushed over to the couch where I was sitting. “What is it?” she asked.

“There’s a lot of snow outside,” I said slowly, “so we should build a snowman!”

Molly didn’t even need to answer. We quickly bundled up and headed outside.

The snow was light and fluffy, but stuck like glue. In no time we had made a big round base for our snowman. I let my sister make the head as I rolled a perfect-sized middle. When the snowman was assembled, Molly and I stopped and admired our work. Our fingers were numb and our toes were cold, but we knew the snowman wasn’t finished. We gathered sticks for the arms, and since no carrots were nearby, we used pebbles for the nose and face. “Now that’s a good snowman!” I exclaimed.

Molly nodded. “We should go inside and get some hot chocolate.”

Before I could agree, the snowman started shaking! Both of us stared in awe as it started to slide towards us. “Hello,” the snowman said in a deep, cheerful voice. Seeing Molly and I weren’t responding, the snowman added, “Can you talk?”

“Yes,” I answered quietly.

“Then why aren’t you?” the snowman returned.

“Well, you aren’t supposed to talk. You’re a snowman,” Molly stated.

The snowman looked at us like we were crazy. “What? Do you mean snowmen aren’t supposed to talk?”

Molly gestured to a snowman next door. “That snowman doesn’t talk,” she said clearly.

“Well, it should,” the snowman mumbled.

I decided to be nice to our new friend and asked him what his name was.

“Henry,” he answered proudly.

“So, Henry,” I said, “would you like to have a snowball fight?”

Henry’s confused expression showed he didn’t know what a snowball fight was. Molly explained you just throw snowballs at one another. After a nod from Henry, we spread out around the yard.

Without warning, Molly and Henry both threw a snowball right at my face. I dove behind a bush and threw one at Molly. It exploded on her arm. Molly returned fire. We continued lobbing snowballs at each other, unaware Henry was sneaking over the sidewalk. With a mound of snowballs beside him, he was ready to take aim. We sprinted to the door, but not fast enough to escape Henry’s snowball rapid-fire.

by Aidan Roberts (Grade Five)

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