

FIRST PRIZE

Princess Laya

Once upon a time, there was a princess named Laya. She saw a little girl crying in the castle. Laya went up to the girl and asked her why she was crying and what her name was.

The little girl said her name was Lowna, and that she lost her toy. It was a special toy of a beautiful glass angel that her mom gave her.

Laya said to Lowna that she would help her find it. So, Laya called all of her castle friends to help them look for it.

Everyone looked in the garden, in all the rooms, and in the toy box. Lowna was getting more worried and said that her toy couldn't be found.

But then, all of a sudden, the castle dog started barking. He found the toy angel on the Christmas tree! It looked so beautiful and shiny. Lowna was so happy and grateful.

by Nadia Benadder (Kindergarten)

Sidney Ledson Institute

North York, Ontario



FIRST PRIZE

The Strawberry and the Watermelon

Once upon a time, there lived a strawberry and a watermelon. They lived in a place called Fairy Tale Land. In Fairy Tale Land, the strawberry and the watermelon were good friends until today. You see, they worked at a hotel, what you would say is a fancy hotel. There were servants, hot tubs, and more.

They loved their jobs, but one day, the strawberry said to the watermelon, "It is the fruit race." The fruit race is when the fastest fruits in Fruit Universe have a race. Most of the fruits that worked at the hotel went to the race, so it was going to be hard.

The watermelon was mad. He wanted to win. He said it out loud.

The strawberry thought that he was his friend. He was mad at the watermelon. He yelled at the watermelon. The strawberry quit, and the watermelon was happy because he didn't like the strawberry anymore.

And then, the watermelon raced. He was leading. He was very fast. The watermelon was very fast, and if he did not win, his land, Fairy Tale Land, would be broken. But there was something that he wanted to see: his friend being broken. He was mad, you could say, so mad that he turned into a huge fruit. Did you know that when a fruit is mad, he turns into a huge fruit? He wanted to break his friend.

He grabbed his friend. So, there he was, in the hand of you know who. When he looked at his friend, he saw his memories with his friend. He dropped his friend and said sorry, and they lived happily ever after.

by Karina Hrynychuk (Grade One)
Westcot Elementary School
West Vancouver, British Columbia



FIRST PRIZE

Chief Robert Nelssey and His Fellow Police Save the Museum

On a Saturday afternoon, Sheriff Robin Kovinsten was at the city museum guarding the pictures and statues as well as some very special things. But something just seemed wrong.

Suddenly, someone yelled, “Hey! Where did the most special art in the world go?”

Sheriff Robin Kovinsten ran over to the man, who happened to be the manager.

“Help! Help! Call your boss right now! Please! Please! *Pleeese!*” cried the manager.

“Okay, okay. I will if you stop screaming and yelling like *koo-koo!*” replied Robin.

He stopped. So, Robin called Robert Nelssey.

Robert came with five other officers who were part of the SWAT team. Robert commanded two officers to stay with him and the other three to investigate the crime scene, starting with who, what, when, where, and why. Who? Not sure. What? A crime. When? At one o’clock. Where? At the city museum. Why? To get rich (probably).

Suddenly, one officer spotted three crooks named Tom, Timmy, and Kim. Then, a kid came over and said, “I think I saw two other crooks driving away in a bright red van with a million or a hundred billion dollars!”

Robert just stood there, but Robin gulped three times.

The crooks charged into an Olympic soccer field. One player immediately called Robert Nelssey.

Robin, Robert, and Detective Albert rushed over to the Olympic soccer field. The crooks had left them a note. It read, “You’ll catch us at Main Street, but only if you know our hideout better than we do.”

They went to Main Street. They saw a grey abandoned house. “This must be it,” said Robert. They rushed inside.

Then, Albert and Robin spotted the crooks heading back out. Robert, Albert, and Robin rushed for their vehicles.

They chased them to a random building, which actually was the police station just decorated as one. The crooks rushed inside, and the five SWAT team members captured them and returned the art back to the museum.

by Sean Gao (Grade Two)
Laurelwood Public School
Waterloo, Ontario



FIRST PRIZE

The Cave of Cries

A beautiful girl named Aria walked towards the glistening stream to pick up a drink but found a note in the water. She put her hand in the water and picked up the note. She read the note in her head: *“Help us! We’re in The Stream of Magic. Help! Help!”*

Aria finished reading and was scared and shocked to find a boy sitting on the other side of the stream crying quietly. “Hi, what are you doing here? You scared me,” gasped Aria.

The boy turned around, and his face had scars and scratches and was really red.

Aria was thinking and finally said, “Come with me, I have a surprise!”

The boy followed and said, “My name’s Adam, Adam Chimet.”

“My name is Aria, Aria Lincento.” Aria had never told anyone her last name. She was afraid that people would laugh at Lincento.

Aria led Adam to her house of cobblestones. She started rummaging through her cabinet labelled “Precious Gems of Memories.” She took out a really light-blue gem that represented breath or air, a normal blue one for the sky, and a dark blue for the ocean. She split them and said, “Eat these and think of the place you were.” The boy ate the gems and so did Aria and. . .

Zoom! Whoosh! Zoom!

They were in a cave with a lot of flying sparks and flying stars. “Whoa, is this where you live?” asked Aria.

“No, it’s where they took me!” yelled Adam.

“Who’s they?” asked Aria.

“Help me! Help me!” cried a girl.

Aria ran towards the girl, picked her up, and ran towards a big rock. “First of all, what’s your name?” asked Aria quietly.

“My name’s Rosemary Ginny,” quivered Rosemary.

Aria put her hands on her waist and took out something labelled “teleport.” “Teleport all children,” whispered Aria, Rosemary, and Adam. All the children got teleported to Aria, and she handed Adam the three blue gems, and gave the other children the gems too.

“Hey! There they are! Get them!” yelled one of the guards.

“Hurry, everyone, eat the gems. Hurry!” exclaimed Aria. Rosemary was the first to teleport away.

All of the children were back in the rainforest, and all said thank you to Aria, Adam, and Rosemary for saving them. Just then, somebody grabbed Aria by the wrist, and the person said, “Got ya!”

Aria kicked the stranger in the legs and said in a threatening tone, “Don’t!” The stranger ran away and disappeared from view.

“Come with me,” said Aria calmly.

Rosemary and Adam followed and sat down by the glistening stream. “Beautiful, isn’t it, guys?” said Aria.

by Sara Toth (Grade Three)

Langley Montessori School

Langley, British Columbia

FIRST PRIZE

An Unlikely Pair

Once, there lived a lizard named Jeff, and he was friends with a snake named Joe. This is how they became friends.

One day in the hot summer sun, Jeff was taking a bath in the stream. He saw a snake slithering by. He quickly ducked under the water to hide, but a big wave swept Jeff away. The snake raced to get him because he thought the lizard would be an easy dinner. And after all, he was hungry.

The snake moved fast, wiggled into the water, and caught up with Jeff. He wrapped his tail around Jeff and pulled him to shore.

Once Jeff caught his breath, he said, "Thank you for saving my life!"

"I only brought you out of the water because I want to eat you."

"You really don't want to eat me," replied Jeff. "I am lactose intolerant, and I just ate a cheese pizza for lunch. The cheese gives me really bad gas, but I couldn't help myself. Cheese pizza is my favourite."

"Well, now what am I supposed to do?" complained the snake. "I'm hungry."

"I have an idea. I will come to this spot every day after school until my gas goes away, and then you can eat me," said Jeff.

"Good plan. How long will that take?"

"Hmm . . . probably three days. By the way, my name's Jeff. What's yours?"

"My name's Joe, and I go to Slithering Elementary."

"Hey, I go to Crawling Christian School down the road. We're practically neighbours."

The next day, as Jeff was walking to the river, he spotted a dead mouse and thought of Joe. Jeff wanted to be sure Joe wouldn't try to eat him, so he scooped up the mouse and hurried off to the river.

When he got there, Joe was already waiting. "What took you so long?" asked Joe.

"I saw a dead mouse and thought how hungry you might be. Would you like it?"

"Yes, please!"

"So, what do you like to do for fun?" asked Jeff.

"Well," thought Joe, "I like to play tag."

"Hey! I like to play tag too. You wanna play? Tag, you're it." They played tag all afternoon and went home and fell right asleep.

They played for all three days while Jeff's gas was going away. In that time, they realized that they were really good friends. On the third day, Joe said, "If we're really good friends, why would I eat you?"

"I don't know," replied Jeff. "Could we just be friends and no one gets eaten?"

"Sure."

From that day on, Jeff and Joe played at the river every day after school.

by Titus Kennedy (Grade Four)
Crofton Elementary School
Crofton, British Columbia

SECOND PRIZE

A Princess

Once upon a time, there was a princess who loved to dance with her prince, but the princess had a problem. The princess couldn't find her prince! She was going to get married but couldn't find her prince to get married to him. So, she looked high, and she looked low, but her prince was nowhere to be found.

So, the princess named Bella went into the forest to find him. But instead she found a purple bunny-dragon, but this purple bunny-dragon was a baby purple bunny-dragon and couldn't fly yet. So, Bella taught the baby purple bunny-dragon how to fly.

Now, the baby purple bunny-dragon could fly and led Bella straight to her prince, and the baby purple bunny-dragon flew away to her mommy, but now, Bella and her prince were lost in the middle of the forest! Bella and her prince named Brandon found a trail of Skittles and followed it. They followed the Skittles and found their way home!

So, Bella and Brandon had a wonderful wedding and lived happily ever after.

by Abigail Henein (Kindergarten)

John Knox Christian School

Oakville, Ontario



SECOND PRIZE

The Book Reader

Once, there was a cute little girl named Zonaira. She loved reading books. She was six years old but used to enjoy reading the story books of her elder sister as well. She enjoyed reading the books to her parents and to her friends.

One day, she brought a very exciting storybook from the library and kept it in her new book bag on the way back home. She wanted to read that storybook to her dad on the weekend.

On the weekend, after her dinner, she ran to her room to grab her storybook but could not find it. She asked her sister, and then her mom, but nobody knew about the book. She searched for the book in her study and everywhere in her home, but could not find the storybook. Zonaira was quite upset, and she thought that she had lost her storybook somewhere.

The next day, on Sunday, she asked her mom to take her to the library again, where she could search for her storybook. She was all ready to leave home with her mom when her dad reminded her to take her book bag along with her. As she picked up her book bag, she smiled with surprise and shouted with joy, "I found it! I found it!"

The storybook was in the book bag, and then Zonaira read the storybook to her whole family, and they all enjoyed the weekend together.

by Zonaira Noaman (Grade One)
Islamic Institute of Toronto Academy
Toronto, Ontario



SECOND PRIZE

The Muffin Thief

Once upon a time, there was a family who had a pet beaver named Alice. She was brown and had a flat tail and wore gold slippers. Alice loved muffins. Her favourite kind was banana chocolate chip.

One day, they made a batch of her favourite muffins. The family lived by the sea and some pirates came and stole the muffins when they were cooling on the windowsill.

“Oh no, where are the muffins? Those pirates must have stolen the muffins. Wait, I have a boat! I can follow them,” said Alice.

Alice caught up to the pirates. She just needed to get on the pirate ship. Alice got an idea. She tied her boat to the pirate ship and climbed up the rope.

She saw a man with an eye patch. He had one gold tooth and only three fingers on each hand. She was very scared. “Please give back the muffins,” said Alice.

“No!” said the pirate captain.

“Why not?” asked Alice.

“Because I have nothing to eat,” said the pirate.

“Oh, you can have them, but stealing isn’t the right thing to do,” replied Alice.

“Then, how do I get food?” asked the pirate.

“You ask,” Alice replied.

“Oh, so I ask?” said the pirate.

“Yes, then you will get a lot more food,” Alice replied.

“So how do I ask?” said the pirate.

“You say, ‘Can I please have some?’ And they will say yes or no. If they say no, you go away and ask someone else. If they say yes, they will give you some,” said Alice.

“Yay! Will you let me have some of these muffins?” the pirate asked.

“Yes. I get five and you get five. Then, we both have muffins,” said Alice.

“Do you want to be friends?” asked the pirate.

“Absolutely!” Alice said.

They became the best of friends and had picnics on the pirate ship every Wednesday. Alice always brought some muffins.

by Emerson Marlatt (Grade Two)

Graminia School
Spruce Grove, Alberta

SECOND PRIZE

Little Blue

If you go into the deep blue sea, anything could happen. One night, Little Blue went into the deep blue sea. In the morning, Little Blue couldn't find his way back. He learned how to hunt. Little Blue never came across a shark. One night, Little Blue came across a shark. Little Blue didn't know what to do. He zigged and zagged, and he finally found a hiding place. He knew the shark would find him, so he found a plan. Luckily, he saw a sunken ship. He dashed to the sunken ship. He stayed there for the night.

Little Blue's mom was terrified. She didn't know what to do. She knew how curious Little Blue was. She blamed herself.

Little Blue checked if there were a shark. The coast was clear. Little Blue got caught in the current and got carried away. He thought, *How can I find my way home?* Little Blue's Mom tried to find a way to be reunited. Little Blue found a coral reef. He did not make any friends, but he got to know where he was. He wasn't close to his home, but he was in a cool coral reef, so he had time to look at the treasures.

Little Blue's mom went to their coral reef to get Little Blue's favourite food.

Back to Little Blue. . . .

"I should get moving. Off I go. This is a good place to stay. No time to lose, I have to go. Who are you?"

"I am Smooth. I have eyes behind my back."

"I need to find my way back home. Smooth, can you help me get back home?"

"Of course."

"Thank you. Now, let's go."

Smooth yelled, "Shark!"

Little Blue's mom went back home. Little Blue's mom lost hope. She thought she was not going to see Little Blue ever again. She was so sad, and no one talked to her.

Okay, Reader, feel how sad that must have been. Okay, back the story, back to Little Blue. . . .

He was on his way. He was not expecting a killer whale. They found a hiding place. Smooth said that he knows a way to get past the whale. Little Blue followed him. They were safe.

In the distance, Little Blue saw a light. He dashed towards it. It was his mom! They were so happy! They were reunited!

by Jaxon Hodgetts (Grade Three)
Brentwood Elementary School
Brentwood Bay, British Columbia

SECOND PRIZE

A Not-so-Merry Christmas

We all know that Christmas is supposed to be happy, fun, and exciting—unless you're in the Whitemouth family. The Whitemouth family's Christmas was the total opposite, thanks to Spoilra Whitemouth, the mother of the family. She turned the holiday upside down. Here's the whole story.

The Whitemouths were getting ready for a perfectly normal Christmas holiday when suddenly Spoilra burst into the living room and shouted, "We are going on vacation!" Before Fusya, Pestia, and Etude could complain, they were already heading to the Vancouver airport.

When they got there, Spoilra rushed them to the gate, and they were off to Mexico.

Three days later, they landed somewhere rough and bumpy. "We're here, astronauts," called the pilot. "Astronauts? Are you crazy? I'm Fusya Whitemouth, not an astronaut," said Fusya in a confused voice.

"Good to know that. Well, anyway, here are your spacesuits and oxygen tanks," he said. "Tell me if you see any aliens." With that, the pilot pushed them off the rocket ship before speeding off.

"Now what? You took the highway to the NASA Space Centre instead of the airport! We're doomed!" whined Pestia.

"Don't worry. We can . . . ask for help," declared Spoilra.

"Ask . . . who?" asked Fusya as she looked around.

"Look! Over there! At that . . . thing!" exclaimed Etude.

A thing that looked like a goldfish tank upside down on a plate was gliding towards them.

Suddenly, there was a blast of bright light, and for some reason, they found themselves standing in a small room. "Hello? Anyone here?" shouted Etude.

"*Neet Gaxien duelu twik*," said an alien, speaking into what looked like a high-tech tablet. The tablet made a buzzing sound and showed the words: "Welcome to the *Gaxien* UFO."

"*Gaxien*?" said Fusya, frowning. The tablet buzzed again and translated the word to "Alien."

"*Huku neaka blub*?" asked the leader of the alien tribe kindly. The tablet buzzed and showed the words "What can I help you with?"

"Food!" exclaimed Etude.

"We need to go back to Earth," said Spoilra.

After the tablet buzzed and translated it to Gaxienicinish in alien language, the leader of the tribe said, "*Nicak zoopa nasik, suka Kityooka*." The tablet showed the words: "We can make a portal for you, but you have to give us something from Earth."

"Deal!" shouted Pestia as she pulled out a chocolate bar and handed it to the leader.

The leader quickly made a portal and pushed them in.

Before all of them knew it, they were standing in the living room. "Let's have Christmas dinner!" shouted Etude.

"Don't be silly! It's Boxing Day! Christmas was yesterday!" said Pestia.

After all, the Whitemouths had a very interesting Christmas.

by Vicky Zhu (Grade Four)
Hope Lutheran School
Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

THIRD PRIZE

Friends

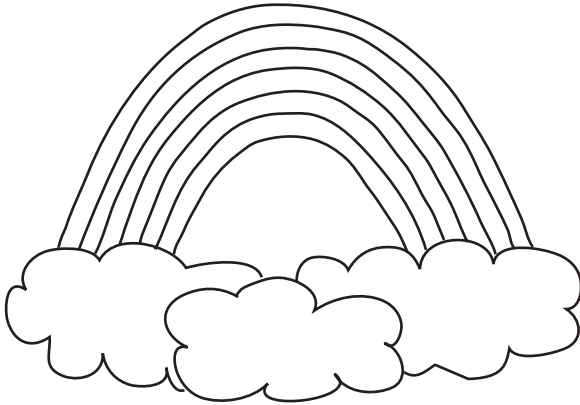
Once upon a time, there was a girl named Serena. She had brown hair and blue eyes. She wore a green dress and purple high heels. She was very nice and lived in a small cottage in New Zealand. Her little cottage was brown, and there was a rainbow in the sky.

Serena went outside to go to the store, but she fell in the pond on the way. Serena felt very sad because she couldn't get out.

Serena called for her friend Lauren, who ran to help her. Lauren grabbed Serena's arms and pulled her out of the pond. The two friends went back to Serena's cottage.

Serena changed into dry clothes, and Lauren went back home.

by Lauren Marsden (Kindergarten)
Glenn Arbour Academy
Burlington, Ontario



THIRD PRIZE

The Rock That Talked

Once upon a time, there was a rock that talked. It talked because it was alive. It could also fly because it was magical.

The next day, something bad happened. A big bird came. It took the rock. The rock said, "Put me down!" The bird got scared. Then, the bird dropped the rock.

Luckily, a person was walking by. The rock fell. It fell on the person's head. He said, "Ouch!"

The rock said, "Hello!"

The boy also said, "Hello!" The boy got surprised that the rock could talk.

The rock said, "My name is Alakazam."

The boy laughed. "That's why you can talk," said the boy. The rock didn't want to tell him that he could fly.

The next day, something bad happened again but worse. Ten eagles circled the boy, and the rock ran to the boy's house.

by Luke Ke (Grade One)

Bayview Hill Elementary School

Richmond Hill, Ontario



THIRD PRIZE

The Big Adventure

Once upon a time, there were two lion cubs named Lucy and Max. They were roaming in the woods, looking for food. They were happy until they found out there was a hunter in the forest. They had to evacuate immediately because they were afraid they would get hunted. They thought there was an easy way out of the woods, but there wasn't. They decided to take the dangerous route out. They packed their belongings and set off.

First, they went through the lava course. They hopped on burning rocks. Lucy went first. She said, "Ouch, these rocks are hot!" Max didn't believe her, so he tried to walk slowly through the lava. He was wrong, and he got burned. Unfortunately, he did not know where they were going.

They finally found the next course. It was moving slime. This time, Max went first. While Max was going through the slime, Lucy spotted the hunter. The hunter grabbed Lucy and ran after Max. The hunter put them in a jail cell. Max noticed he had a toothpick and began to pick the lock. He picked it, and they got out.

The hunter saw them and started to chase them back into the forest. Luckily, Max and Lucy already knew about the lava course, but the hunter didn't. He tripped into lava and got really burned. The cubs ran out of the forest and escaped just in time. They did not see that old, mean hunter ever again.

by Darya Noury (Grade Two)
Trinity Montessori School
Markham, Ontario



THIRD PRIZE

The Legendary Sandwich

One night, a boy named John woke up hungry. He found a plate with sandwiches. But all the sandwich ingredients were disgusting, so he went on a walk where he met two boys named Fred and Matt and two girls named Lily and Isabel. They became friends very quickly.

They all went on the walk together. Things went from bad to worse. Suddenly, there was a little, thin light; it got brighter and brighter.

Once the friends reached the light, Isabel disappeared, followed by Matt and Fred and Lily. John was frightened, so he put his hand in the light, and the magical journey began.

Once he landed, John saw his friends and very weird things around them. Nobody knew where they were.

Then, Isabel suggested that they should move on. The friends asked anyone for directions.

Soon, they saw a man who had a face that looked like Picasso's paintings. Matt asked if he could help them. The man answered, "There are a lot of portals: human, sandwich, dead, and historical ones. I can give you any map that you want."

Lily asked, "What are the dead portal and the historical portal?"

The man answered, "Oh, the dead portal is where you can make yourself dead and the historical portal is where you can go to historic times like the days of Abraham Lincoln."

Lily asked, "Can you give us a map to the human portal?"

The man said, "Sure, but be careful!"

"Okay, can we also have a map to one of the sandwich portals?" asked John.

The friends received the map to Sandwichia, The Land of Never-Ending Sandwiches.

Soon, the children reached the sandwich portals. They were starved to death, almost, and they fell asleep halfway through the journey.

Once they woke up, John saw a sandwich that was floating. He thought that the sandwich would taste better, so he charged at the sandwich. But the sandwich dodged his attack, and then turned around and bounced to John. John was getting scared, and then the sandwich started to talk: "Welcome, Earthlings! You have just realized the secret of life, you just don't know how to explain it. But I can tell you that everybody must die; only sandwiches must live. *You will never stop me!*"

"John, do something!" cried Lily.

John ate the sandwich, and no harm was caused. The sandwich mumbled in his stomach, "You will pay, you will!"

All four friends got superpowers. Matt became a robot, Isabel got dark magic and could fly, Fred could change into any animal, and Lily could blast lasers out of her eyes and hands. John became vigilant, and together, they became crime fighters.

by Anastasia Gal (Grade Three)
Central Montessori School
Toronto, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

The Lost Village

Once upon a time in a small village in London, England, a family of four lived happily on a small street. It was a colourful street as everyone painted their doors bright, fun colours. There were a lot of trees and flowers, especially rose bushes.

Abigail, the mom, loved gardening, and Mathew, the dad, took great pride in his weed-free lawn. Max, their dog, was *not* allowed to use the lawn as his bathroom. One more thing about Max was he thought he was a kid—not a dog! There were two more members of the family: best-friend sisters Charlotte and Bella. They were a happy family living on a friendly street in a beautiful village. That was all about to change.

A tornado came through the village. Before anyone realized what was happening, it was over. The village was gone! The families were confused and frightened. Slowly, everyone started coming out of their houses. Abigail stayed calm and gathered Max and the girls. Max did not know what happened. Neither did any of the neighbours.

The houses were the same, even some of the roses were in place, but after looking around, they all realized they certainly weren't in the lovely little village. But, where were they?

Instead of the pond at the end of the street, there was a huge body of water with huge waves. Instead of ducks, there were flamingos. Along with their neighbours were new people, people who looked, dressed, and talked much differently than their old neighbours.

The new people looked just as confused, but walked towards Abigail and Mathew with a basket of berries and the biggest pineapple Abigail had ever seen. Bella tried to speak Bulgarian, but that did not work, so she got her violin. Charlotte started to dance. Max thought tricks were in order. The new people started to cheer, and before you knew it, there was a party going on!

Everybody brought food and musical instruments, and they had a lovely dinner with food Abigail and Mathew had never even seen before, but it tasted really good. The kids played until dark. Even though they couldn't talk to each other, they all became best friends. Long after their normal bedtime, everyone went to bed.

Charlotte was first to wake up. She sat up and rubbed her eyes as she looked out the window. She couldn't believe her eyes. She was in her own bed in her own village! She smiled as she thought to herself, *People can look different, eat different food, and speak a different language, but really, everyone is the same, aren't they?*

by Charlotte Beveridge (Grade Four)

Park Lawn Junior Middle School

Etobicoke, Ontario