

*An Anthology of Short Stories*

# WHITTIER YOUNG AUTHORS

2019-2020



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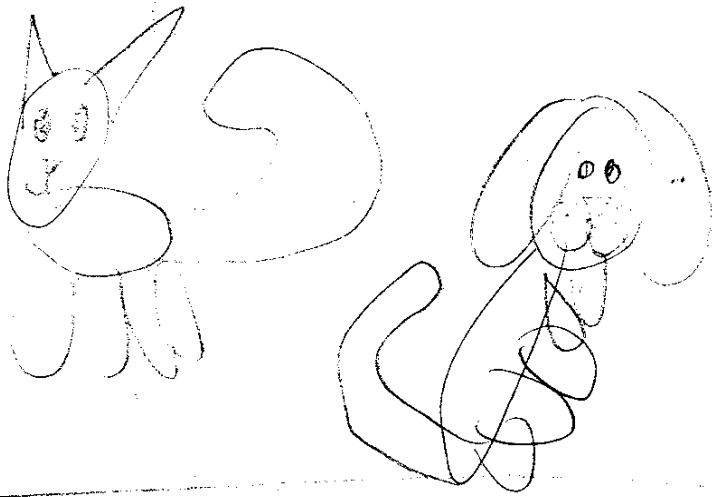
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# 1 The little Cat and Dog



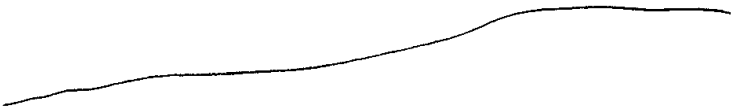
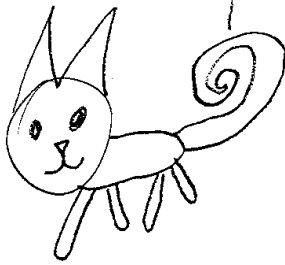
1 By Rooney Snea



this is dog



this is CAT



then there  
was  
a  
storm



Lightning  
struck

Her  
paw  
and it  
was

Bleeding



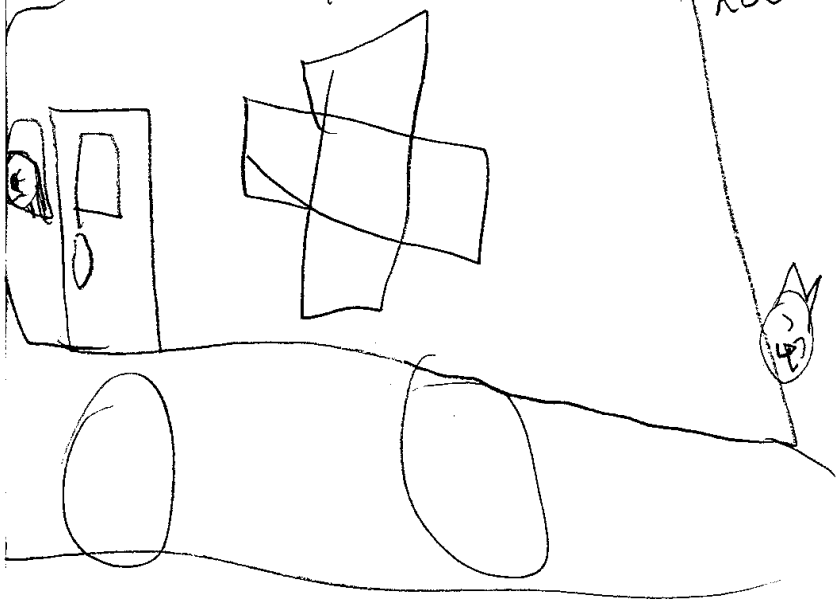
then  
Dog  
came  
along  
and  
called  
911



then

the ambulance

KAP:



Hand  
the  
Said

Nurse

She will pet ok



She is  
Bart CAT is  
Bart

Hooray

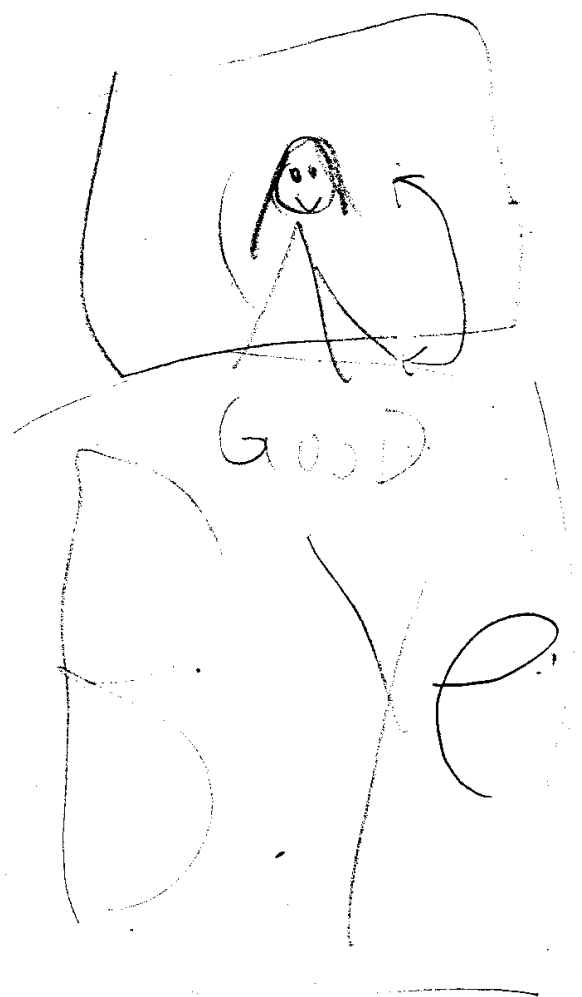
Yay







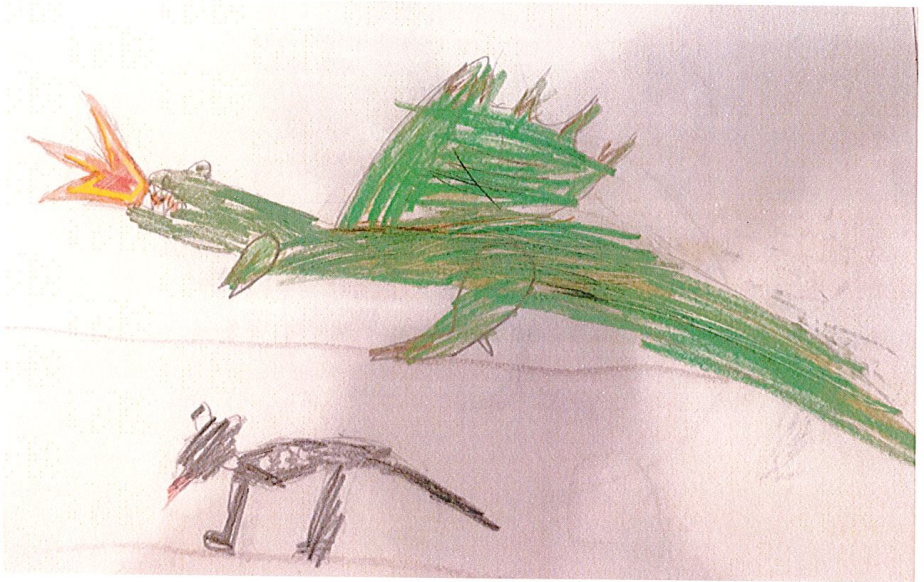




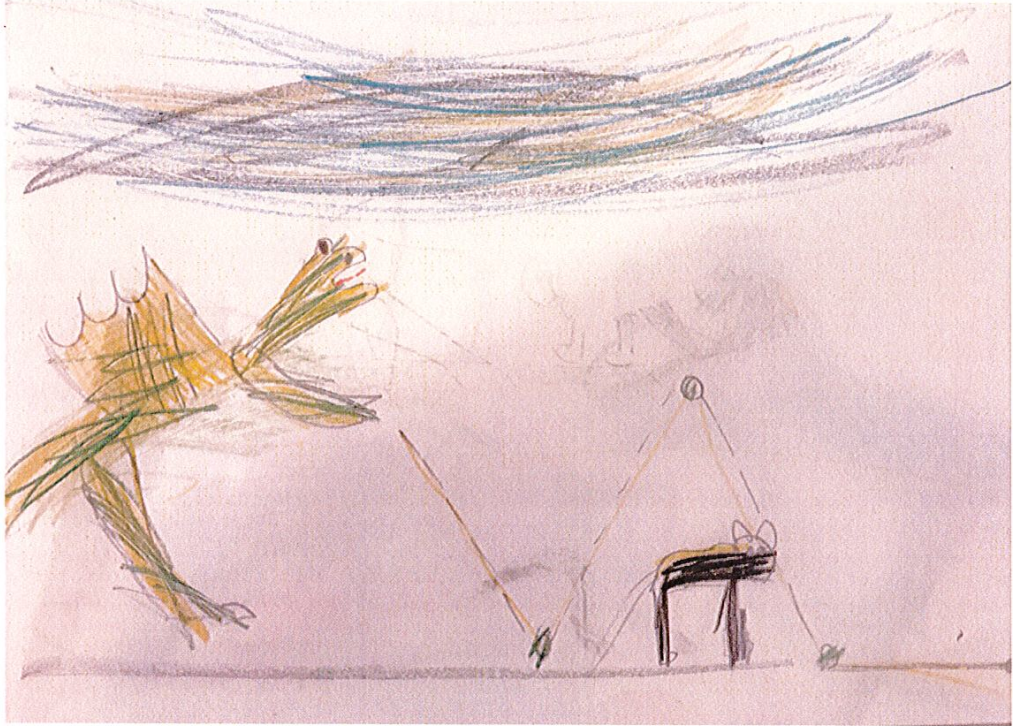
**2020 Illinois Young Authors' Contest**

**Rex Spidey & Little Flame**

By Patrick O'Malley  
Whittier Elementary School  
Ms. Boehm - Kindergarten



Once upon a time, there once lived a dragon named, Rex Spidey and his dog, Little Flame. They lived in a castle in Germany and loved to play and chase each other in the courtyard. They were best friends and did everything together. They loved to play hide-n-go seek, hop scotch and soccer.



After playing in the yard Rex Spidey and Little Flame went hunting for dinner. Rex carried his net looking for dinosaur and lizard eggs. Once they caught their meal, they headed back to the castle to store the eggs in the basement to keep them cool and dry in case any hatched.





Once it was time for dinner they sat at a big long table and ate their favorite meal, cricket sandwiches and turtle milk. Yum Yum!! It was delicious.



The next morning they woke up early and hopped a boat for a two day journey to the great volcano island. When they saw the volcano erupting they got scared, turned around and went back home. During their trip they sang songs, counted seagulls and swam in the ocean with the dolphins. It was a long journey but they enjoyed their time together.





Little Flame and Rex Spidery returned home to find that their dinosaur and lizard eggs had hatched in the basement. Little lizards and dinosaurs were everywhere!! Now they had new friends to play with in the castle! They were happy to all be together and live happily ever after.



**The End**

## Fox and Hen

One day Fox saw Hen trapped in a cage. Hen told Fox she needed help. And Fox helped Hen get out of the cage.

Then a man came to catch Fox but Hen bit the man and the man screamed, "OUCH!"

Fox told Hen, "Thanks for helping me." And Hen told Fox, "Thanks for helping me, too." Fox told Hen, "I never had a hen for a friend." And Hen told Fox, "I never had a fox for a friend."

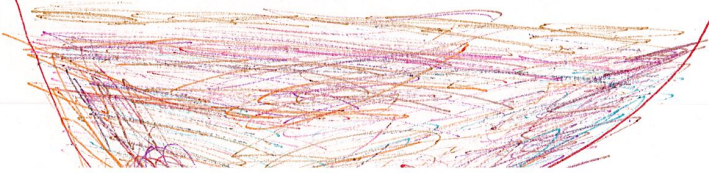
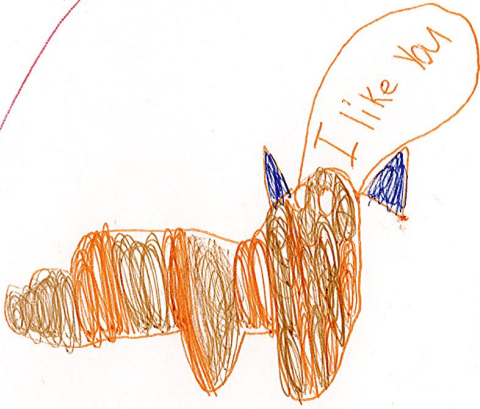
Then Fox said, "I like you!"  
And Hen said, "I like you, too!"

Fox and Hen lived happily ever after.

THE END



# fox and hen



Super Max

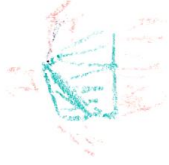
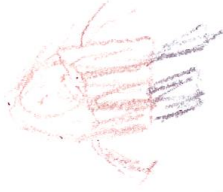
and

Super Tax

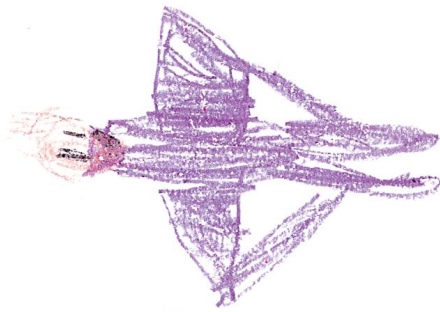
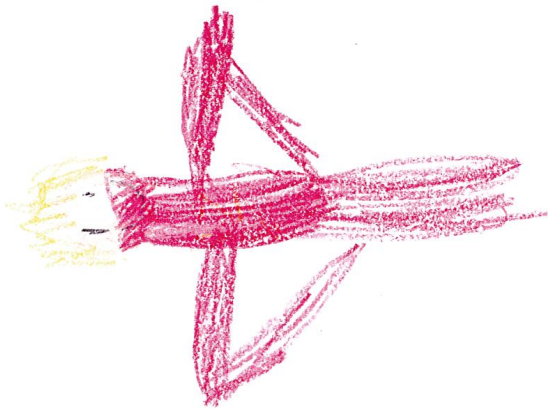
B.v. Tax Maxnet and Max Pembolan

## Super Max and Super Jax

Once upon a time there were two super heroes named Super Max and Super Jax. They were always trying to save the world, but two bad guys named evil Jake and evil Luci slowed them down.



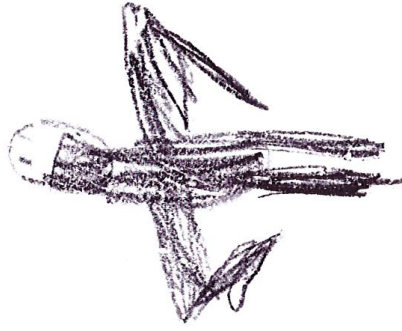
Super Jax had a super power of speed and Super Max had a super power of poisonous liquid webbing. Jax would get to the bad guys and Max would come along and wrap them in his poisonous web until the police came to take them to jail.



Evil Luci and Evil Jake were trying to take over the world by destroying the buildings with people in them. Da, da, da, da.....Super Jax got to the evil Jake and evil Luci just in time. They were setting the buildings on fire and Super Jax kept circling around them to make them dizzy and Super Max came over and sprayed his poisonous web over them. Super Jax ran around the burning building so fast to cause wind to blow out the fires while Super Max sprayed his poisonous liquid over the flames to put the fire out. Super Max and Super Jax stopped the fire and stopped Evil Luci and Evil Jake from destroying the buildings.



Stay tuned to find out how Super Jax and Super Max save the world from Da, da, da, da, Sam the Horrible and Sophie the Despicable.







## The Penny in the Fountain

By

Kendall Cable and Alice Berger

Once upon a time there was a boy named Oliver. He was 10 years old. He wanted world peace. He also had a sister and a brother. They were twins

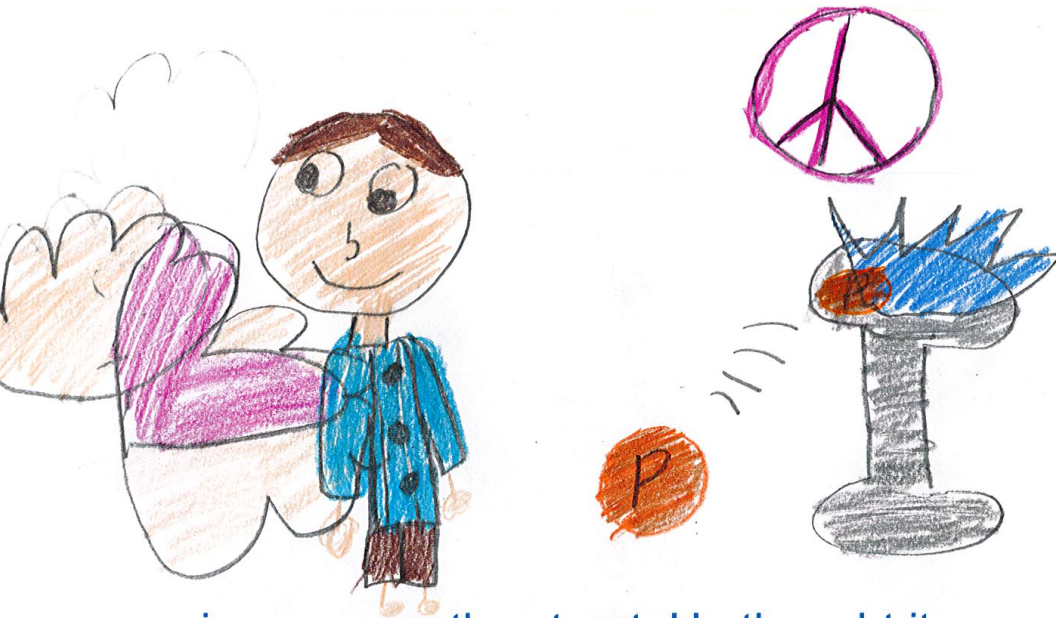


and their names were Jack and Emma. They were 14 years old. Oliver liked to take walks with his dog, Hunter.

Oliver had a wish. Not a greedy wish, a kind wish. He wished for world peace. Enough of that we will get started with the story!

Once upon a time there was a kid named Oliver. One day he found a





magic penny on the street. He thought it was a normal penny but it was not. He saw a fountain next to him and threw the penny in but little did he know, the fountain was magical. When he threw it in, he wished for world peace.

World peace was hard at this time because there was a war going on. World war two was going on. He lived where it was happening, so he could not

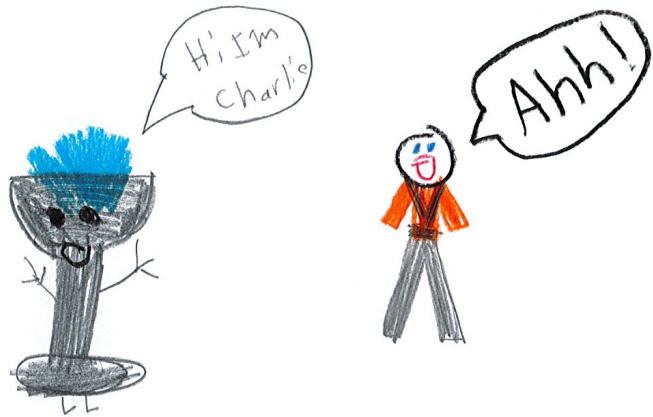


do his favorite things anymore. He could not take his dogs for a walk anymore. He could not play outside with his friends anymore and most of all, he could not breathe in the fresh air because smoke from the fire made him sick.

He saw the penny sink down to the sparkling white floor of the fountain. He started to leave and then he heard a



noise. A strange noise like a bumblebee buzzing it's delicate wings on a warm spring day. He turned his back slowly and walked to the fountain. The water was jiggling and it was trembling like a person on a cold winter day. The fountain started to shake like a piece of jello on a plate. It started to grow arms and legs. Oliver was super weirded out. He thought he was going to faint! His eyes were as big as candy bullseyes!



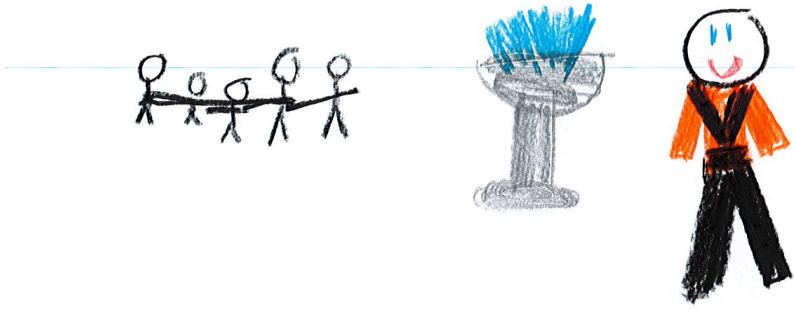
The fountain introduced himself to Oliver.

Oliver started to run away when he heard a sound like a human one. It said "Don't be afraid, I'm granting your wish." said the fountain. Oliver stopped running and turned back toward the voice and said "What is your name?" The voice said "My name is Charlie." "You said you will grant my wish" said Oliver. "Yes,





indeed I did. I can take you around World War II” said Charlie. “Will we get hurt?” asked Oliver. “Of course not, silly. We will fly through the sky over the battle field. So we won’t get hurt. Now it’s almost sun down and I need to take a rest and you do too! We will meet at this exact spot at 9:00 sharp!” Oliver said okay, went home and fell asleep. The next morning, he got dressed, brushed his teeth, packed his bag and



ate some breakfast. He met Charlie and they were off!

They flew to Europe and saw the two teams fighting on the field. They flew down to the field and they solved world peace by, gathering everybody in a circle, they had them hold hands and that is how they made world peace. They flew to every other war that was going on and solved those problems



too. Before they knew it, they were natural heroes! When they got back his family was so proud of him. They gave him so many hugs because they were so impressed. His family never doubted him again! Charlie always wanted to travel the world for good deeds, and he accomplished that dream!

The penny can still be found and someone else's wish will be granted. Charlie and Oliver are still waiting for



someone to find the penny once again.  
Until next time...

**The End**



## °+~The Kittens Of Hope~+°

By Sully Shea and Leah Achilles!

Leaves swayed as the wind howled. Thunder was heard throughout the area. Dark gray clouds were seen on the skyline. Raindrops splattered on their nest. Everyone was in a bad mood. Luna, Snowy, and Leafy were sitting on their tremendously wet nest near the road. Luna was bawling, Snowy was trying to stay strong, Leafy was crying just as hard as Luna. Their mother had died. She hadn't come back to the nest for days. Luna wailed, "I want my Mom!" With a flick of her tail Snowy replied with a snuffle, "We can't live here forever. We need to find somewhere else to live." "I agree," Leafy answered with some tears. Luna nodded and gazed at the sky. Snowy is a white cat with blue eyes. Luna is all about stargazing. She is a black cat with yellow eyes. She is also the runt of the family. Leafy is brown with faint black stripes and green eyes.



They knew they had to search for shelter. They had been walking for days. Dark gray clouds were still looming along the skyline. They knew another storm was about to start. They started to speed up their walking pace. Finally, they found a dark, narrow alley to live in. They were getting tired, so they went to sleep. After a few months of living in the dark, smelly alley, they found ways to survive. For example, scavenging human food or collecting water from pipes. It was getting cold so they huddled together and chatted. Eventually they started to fall asleep. When they woke up they spotted a delicious, juicy, mouse freshly caught waiting for them. Suddenly they heard a high pitched voice, "Looks like you kitties need to be mentored. Come join The Colony of Running Wind. We never stay in one place for more than a couple of weeks. Think about it. I'll be back tomorrow. P.S. I just became a fighter. I'm so awesome, right?" Luna, Snowy, and Leafy murmured, "Uh ok?" They all thought differently about the mysterious cat. Then Luna finally spoke up, "What's a fighter?" "Oh, I think it's a cat who defends other

cats or maybe the colony thing that dude was talking about,” replied Leafy.



They decided to try and learn things by themselves for tomorrow just in case they decided to join. Luna thought, “He’s so cute and charming. We have to join!” Snowy thought, “How can we trust him? I don’t think we should trust him. We don’t know him. We don’t know any cats in The Colony though there might be herbs there.” Leafy thought “This alley is an ok place to live. But, I would like some adventure in my life.” The next morning they argued if they should join the Colony of the Running Wind or leave the offer. Eventually, they agreed they would join The Colony of the Running Wind. Instead of having the dude come to the alley, they went to find him instead. Snowy followed his scent trail. After half an hour they found him. That dude took them to The Colony of The Running Wind. It looked as if he was annoyed that Luna, Leafy, and Snowy came to him.



A colony is a group of cats who live together. They train for seven months. While they train they are called fighters. Once their training is complete they become defenders. While they are kittens they stay in the nursery for five months. A herb cat is a doctor for cats. There are usually one or two leaders. The Colony of Running Wind has a code. Their code is a set of rules they live by. The colony of the Dancing Stars are the dead colony cats that are very mysterious. They also deliver prophecies and omens.



When they arrived in the colony the dude explained why they were here. The dude's name was Blaze. Cats started coming out of their dens to see what was happening. Blaze announced, "We have new recruits." Some cats were happy about Blaze's announcement, others were not. The leader's name is Dusty. Luna got mentored by Dawn. Snowy got mentored by Ice. Leafy got mentored by Soft. Dawn thought "Luna, Snowy, and Leafy look like some of my kin. But, they can't be my kin. Besides, many cats look like my kin." After Luna, Snowy, and Leafy learned about the colony's customs, they learned some hunting tips. They would be leaving tomorrow morning because the colony never stayed in one place for more than a few weeks.

The next morning Dusty began to get everyone up and moving. They were going to travel for the day. Once they arrived they would set up a camp. They began the journey. They traveled through a nearby desert and found an oasis. They thought this would be a good place to stop. The tribe knew how to hunt in all places. For example they could hunt in snowy places, deserts, woodlands, moors, swamps, and many more places. They began to set up a temporary camp near the oasis. Mist recommended with a point of her tail, "We should set up camp on the tiny beach over there." So, they did. There were lizards, fish, snakes, and many more animals to hunt. There was plenty of water in the oasis for all the cats to drink. They decided to hunt. Dawn was teaching Luna how to hunt lizards and snakes. Eventually, Luna caught a lizard. Then on accident she tripped on a cactus. Luna yowled, "Ow!" Before they arrived at camp, Dawn asked, "What was the color of your mother's fur? What was her name? What color were her eyes?" Luna answered sadly, "White fur, Frozen, blue eyes, at least that's what I remember." Dawn gasped and said, "That's my mate! She used to be the leader! I'm your father!" Luna was so shocked she forgot about her pain for a minute. They grabbed their prey and ran back to tell the tribe. Everyone was shocked, especially Leafy and Snowy. Blaze said, "Wow! Seriously! She was amazing! At least when I knew her when I was a kit." Luna answered, "I know! Wait, do I know? I was only with her for a tiny segment of my life. By the way, can we deal with my paw now." "Good idea," replied Silk. Silk and Luna padded over to the herb cat den.

The next morning they questioned Dawn (their father) what their mother was like. He answered, "She was sweet and took care of everyone. She put other cats' needs first. Oh, she was just the best!" One day, in the desert it was extra dry. Snowy thought "I wish it were raining." Then, it started to drizzle. Snowy wished again and it actually started raining. Snowy was so shocked she almost fainted. She tried over and over again. Eventually, she knew she could control the weather. She decided to keep it a secret for a little while. A couple days later Leafy was staring at a plant hoping it would grow, and she thought, "If this plant would grow then I could become Silk's apprentice. I've always wanted to be a herb cat since I knew it existed." Then, it immediately grew into watermint. She would tell her family in a couple days. But right now she asked to be Silk's apprentice. She became her apprentice the next day. (Silk is a herb cat.) Luna was sitting by her littermates. She stared at some water and tried to bring it

closer to her using her mind. It worked. Then she somehow read her littermates' minds too. They were thinking "Wow! Should I tell the others about my powers, or should I not." They all told each other what they figured out about their powers. They told Dawn too. He said "Your mother had ice powers." Dawn told the tribe about their powers. Everyone was shocked. Sun, Rain, Dusk, and Snake all fainted. Just then a yowl sounded across the ginormous desert. The colony of Sparkling Rocks was here to battle for the Snake Cliff.

Luna said, "We are only going to stay here for a few weeks, so calm down!" Reed said, "Who's the leader?" Dusty answered, "Me." The leaders had a private chat. (Reed is a leader. He is a descendant of the five sisters. The sisters became the first colony leaders. Only descendants of them could become leaders. Dusty is Frozen's younger brother. Frozen was a descendant of the five sisters.) They decided they would be two colonies living nearby each other until the Colony of the Running Wind left. The Colony of the Running Wind would set up a bigger newer camp near Snake Cliff. Dawn and Luna were scouting for a good area for camp. Meanwhile, Leaf and Silk were growing herbs. They had everything Lungwort, Catmint, Poppy seeds, Tansy, Marigold... Luna and Dawn eventually found a suitable place to camp. Eventually, everyone made it over there. They started making camp. Luckily, they made camp near an oasis. Not the same one, but in a bigger one in a cave. They did not know how that happened but they didn't care. There were enough dens for everyone. There was a leaders' den, a nursery, a herb cat den, an elders' den, a defenders' den, and a fighters' den. When they were setting up camp they heard leaves blow and paw steps coming closer. When suddenly, a random cat barged in the camp. She was very thin and looked sick. She choked out, "Where's Dawn. I need him now." Then, she went unconscious. She was a white cat with blue eyes. Her fur was white, but dirty.

When she finally woke up there was a freshly caught lizard for her. Dawn was at her side. Silk and Leafy were beside her too. Along with Snowy and Luna. She said weakly, "Dawn where are you? Are my kits here?" Then, Silk gave her herbs. Everyone was confused about who she was. Then the cat weakly said, "Doesn't anyone recognize me? Or am I in the wrong colony. It's me Frozen. Then everyone gasped Dusty, Dawn, Snowy, Luna, and Leafy were the most shocked. Dusty said, "Sis your alive!" Then, he explained what had happened

while she was gone. Then suddenly, Leafy had a vision. The Tribe of The Dancing Stars gave her a prophecy. They said, " Danger is near. Find Lightning, Rocks, Sky, and Shadow, for the storm to clear." Leafy immediately told her tribe about it. Everyone tried to interpret what it meant. Eventually, Frozen said "Maybe it means we need to bring all the colonies together. But, I'm not sure. It could mean anything." Luna padded around camp deep in thought. Luna said "If it means that, we've already found the tribe of Sparkling Rocks."

Eventually, when Frozen was well enough to do her defender duties she went hunting. She was one of the best hunters. One minute, she was tracking prey. Another minute, she had prey in her jaws. Eventually, she went to her kits and asked, "What do you think the prophecy means?" Luna replied, "Aren't Lightning, Shadow, Rocks, and Sky part of colony names." "Yes! They are," Frozen answered. Then, Leafy had another vision, "A ghostly, mysterious cat said "Bring all the colonies to the depths of darkening shadows." Then, he faded away. Leafy told Frozen and her sisters immediately. Next, Frozen said, "Maybe we need to find all the colonies and take them to the colony of the Darkening Shadow's territory." Leafy, Snowy, and Luna nodded in agreement. They told the colony they were going to set off on a journey in a few days. The colony would stay put and wait for their return. They also invited Dawn to come with them. He agreed. They would begin the journey in a couple of days. Leafy had another vision. This time that same cat showed her a path of golden sand and said "Follow the golden sand trail." Then, he disappeared. The next morning Frozen told the colony they were leaving.

They began the journey. Only a few hours had passed. Then, Luna saw shiny golden looking sand. Luna has the best eyesight. They decided to follow it because the weird, mysterious cat told them to. After following the trail for about three days, the trail stopped. They arrived at a dark forest. They were looking for other tribes. When suddenly, they heard a voice, "Get off our territory! We will give you ten seconds! 10... 9... 8..." Then, Frozen said, "Calm down! We're from the colony of the Running Wind." When suddenly, Blaze came out of nowhere. Then, Luna read his mind, and he thought, "I'm so sneaky. I can't believe they didn't notice me." Then, Luna told her traveling group what she heard. Next, they told the colony of Darkening Shadows what they were doing here. They told them about the prophecy. They told them they were going to bring all the tribes here.

The leader of the Darkening Shadows replied, "We will be ready for the tribes. Now go continue your journey." They set off to find the tribe of the Powerful Lightning. All they knew about them is that they live on a moor by an ocean.

It had been a couple weeks since they left to find the tribe of the Powerful Lightning. They had just arrived at a swamp. While they were traveling through the swamp they found an alligator. Luna moved it with her mind, so it was above the swampy water. She dropped it in the water and it made a huge splash! The splash was so big that it soaked every cat. No cat was happy with Luna's splashy decision. Then, it swam away. Soon after that, they found the golden sand trail. After it seemed like ages they finally came across a moor by an ocean. They had been traveling through forests and swamps for forever. Then, Blaze yelled, "Colony of the Powerful Lightning, where are you?" Frozen scolded him and replied, "Seriously Blaze, do you really want them to know we're here! We don't have a plan yet!" Blaze looked down at his paws. When suddenly, the colony of the Powerful Lightning said, "Who's there!? Why are you here!?" Then, Frozen made Blaze explain. He did, guiltily while staring at his paws.

About three-quarters of a month had passed. They had brought the colony of Powerful Lightning to the colony of the Darkening Shadows. Now they were going to find the colony of the Cloudy Sky. They were traveling for a while. Eventually, they found the golden sand trail. The golden sand trail led them to a mountain called Mount Everest. They started climbing the tall, narrow mountain that the golden sand trail was on. They traveled for hours and hours and hours... It seemed as if the peak of the mountain never came closer. After it seemed like weeks they finally made it to the peak of the mountain. The colony of the Cloudy Sky welcomed them since they don't have many visitors. They told them about the prophecy. The colony of the Cloudy Sky was suspicious at first, but joined in eventually. They forgot the way back so, the golden sand trail randomly appeared out of the middle of nowhere.

They came across a big, wide cave. Luna padded around and thought for a while. Then she said, "The golden sand trail is leading us to this cave, so we will follow it" Considering there are huge pointy rocks hanging from the ceiling, and a tiny space above the rocks that was jagged, and it smelled like badger. Some cats were a little nervous. "We can't go in there," Blaze yelled from the crowd.



"And why is that," Frozen answered sternly. "Because I smell badgers," He replied with his fur sticking out and his tail fluffed. "Haha!!! Scaredy-mouse! It's a stale scent anyway," A Cloudy Sky apprentice laughed. "No need to be rude, Wren. Now apologize," a Cloudy Sky warrior replied calmly. "Sorry, Badger. Sorry, Blaze," Wren replied. Blaze then noticed the young she-cat's beauty. Then, Blaze thought, "Oh, I love Luna but I also love Wren." "Come on," A defender of the Cloudy Sky yelled. Then, he raced into the cave.

"Panther no," A warrior called from the crowd. "I'll get him," Badger said sighing. "Badger," Wren cried. So of course Wren had to run after Badger, and of course Blaze had to run after Wren, and OF COURSE Luna had to run after Blaze. OF COURSE Snowy had to run after Luna. OF COURSE Leafy had to run after Snowy. OF COURSE Frozen had to run after Leafy. Just then every other fighter ran into the cave. Blaze was right! There, standing before them, growling was a huge female badger and some other huge badgers with some foxes. It looked like they had allied. Wren stared in horror as she watched her mentor, Badger dangle from the badger's jaws. "Badger!!!!!! No," Wren wailed. The badger looked at them. Then, the badger dropped Badger and lashed at Snake. Luckily Badger was still alive. "I-I'm f-f-ine W-wren," Badger choked out. Frozen used her ice powers to make the foxes and badgers slip on the ice. Snowy started to make it hail on the badgers and foxes. Leafy started growing herbs while everyone else was attacking the foxes and badgers. Blood was spilled everywhere! Blaze said while fighting, "We got this guys!! We can do it!!" Then, Leafy answered with a hiss, "Don't waste your energy." Leafy was a great medicine cat so Blaze obeyed. Eventually, they were able to fend off the badgers and foxes.

After everyone was well enough to travel they went to follow the golden, sand trail. The golden, sand trail led them through lots of twists, turns and caves. Eventually, it took them to the Colony of the Darkening Shadows. The colony of the Darkening Shadows was already waiting for them. Then, they went back to the desert to take the colony of Sparkling Rocks and the colony of the Running Wind to the colony of Darkening Shadows. When they got back, Luna, Blaze and Snowy became defenders. Leafy became a herb cat. They had been following the golden sand trail for a loooooooong time. It took them on a different path they don't normally go. Leafy was about to grow some travel herbs. Then, she noticed the golden sand trail had disappeared! She and her travel mates tried to

lead the way to the tribe of Darkening Shadows. Eventually they got there. Leafy saw the mysterious cat again and he said, "The sky has cleared. But, danger still lurks." Then, he faded away.

A few months later and after everyone was settled in Blaze went up to Luna and said, "Luna I have always loved you. Will you be my mate?" Luna answered, "I have always loved you too; of course!" Blaze nuzzled Luna. They were mates. Their love was forever lasting. It had been a few moons. Luna had just given birth to Lily and Frog. Frog was pure black with blue eyes. Lily was fiery orange with yellow eyes. The colony had trouble watching them because their favorite game was hide-and-seek. The colony was like a family. The colony name changed from the colony of the Darkening Shadows to the colony of the Forever Lasting Kin.

It was early morning. Morning doves were chirping. Lily and Frog were hunting. Brambles rustled as a rabbit came out of hiding. Lily and Frog started to chase it. They were gaining on it. Suddenly, a pure black cat with a green eye and a purple eye came out of nowhere. The cat introduced itself, "My name is Darkcloud." Then, the cat lashed at Lily and Frog. They fought back for a little bit but they were losing badly. Then, Lily yelled, "To the lake!" They couldn't swim but it was their only option. Frog was sinking by the second. Lily struggled but swam over to her brother. She quickly grabbed his scruff before it was too late, and dragged him to the other bay. Darkcloud was right behind them. Lily and Frog quickly climbed up a tree. They were shivering. They jumped from tree to tree until they found one with a hollow. They jumped into the hollow and pushed themselves along the edges. They heard Darkcloud coming toward them. They stayed in the hollow for the rest of the day. When they went back to camp, they noticed something was wrong.

The camp was quiet. A little too quiet. Lily and Frog placed their catch in the fresh-kill pile and went to the apprentices' den. No one was there. They checked the other dens. No one was there. They went to check the nursery and saw Wren unconscious. She was barely breathing. Each breath a struggle. Blood was everywhere. They went to the herb cat den and gave her the basic herbs every fighter had to learn about. After it seemed like hours she finally woke up and choked out, "R-run." She barely got on her feet. They were very wobbly, you

could tell she was very weak. Lily and Frog took Wren to the hollow they hid in. In the hollow they saw Luna and Blaze crouching. They exchanged stories. Apparently, Darkcloud raided the camp with some other cats. Everyone escaped except Wren who was heavy with Snake's kits. But, she was safe now. They decided they would search for the others tomorrow afternoon.

They had been searching for the whole day. They found Snake and Birch. Snake was relieved when he saw that Wren was ok. But, she wasn't. She was having her kits. Snake rushed to her side. She struggled a lot. Luna tried to help her. She had one kit. The kit was white with black spots with a mini star on her forehead. She looked a lot like her mother. Wren weakly said, "Hope my darling, come here." Then, she stopped breathing. It was too late. She couldn't be saved. Hope tried to suckle her mother's milk but she couldn't. She was tiny but she put up a fight. Luna rushed to her side because she was great friends with Hope's mother and she was the only cat who had nursed kits before. Birch and Snake watched Hope. Lily And Frog were going to look for their campmates. They checked every nook and cranny. On the way back they spotted a movement of fur. The cat jumped out and said, "You can trust me. My name is Phoenix." Lily and Frog didn't trust Phoenix. They escorted her back to their temporary camp. Phoenix said, "I'm Darkcloud's daughter. I've never liked his plans. But, I've pretended to be on his side." Snake explained to Phoenix what her father did to the colony.

It had been a few weeks. They had grown to trust Phoenix. They also had found Sun, Rain, Swamp, and Ice. None of them trusted Phoenix yet. Rain and Sun always kept Swamp and Ice away from Phoenix. (Swamp and Ice are Rain and Sun's kits.) It was mid-day. Phoenix was going to spy on her father. They had also reinforced the entrance to the temporary camp. She headed into camp. Once she was in there it was empty. Except for a few cats. Darkcloud and two others. Phoenix said, "Father, how have you been? Have any new plans? I'd really like to join them if you have any." Darkcloud replied, "Good, thanks for asking and no." The two other cats were named Bone and Bramble. Bramble is Phoenix's mother. Ever since Bramble learned Darkcloud was evil she and Phoenix have been plotting against him. Phoenix stayed in the camp for a few days. She chatted with the others while making sure not to say the wrong thing.

While Phoenix was in the camp Hope opened her eyes. She started mewling, wailing and asking, "Where's Ma Ma?" Snake replied, "She's with the colony of Dancing Stars." Hope asked, "What's that?" Snake reluctantly explained. Hope mewled and wailed knowing her mother was gone and wouldn't come back. It had been a few days. Phoenix just returned. She told the others, "Darkcloud is still and the camp. He is planning to search the forest for everyone in the colony tomorrow at sun high." They decided to search for their colony mates for the day. They found Leafy and Snowy talking together. They decided they would invade the camp at dusk. The kittens, along with Rain would stay in the camp. They were ready. It was almost dusk.

The wind howled. Branches crackled. No cats stirred, except a few. The cats were as silent as the night. There were not to be heard. They lashed at Darkcloud and Bone on signal. Bramble already knew the plan so she helped too. They fought and fought until they chased Bone and Darkcloud away. They were gone for good, hopefully. A few months later everything was back to normal. Everyone was found. Frozen and Dusty said in unison, "We call a tribe meeting." Everyone gathered. Frozen announced, "I have a few announcements to make. Bramble, Phoenix, would you like to join the tribe?" Bramble and Phoenix nodded. Dusty said, "I also have a few announcements to make. Hope come here. You are ready to become a fighter. Your mentor will be Snake. Lily, Frog, come here." Lily and Frog padded towards Dusty and Frozen. Frozen announced, "Do you promise to uphold the colony code?" Lilypaw and Frogpaw said in unison, "I do." Dustyrunner said, "You are now defenders of the colony." The tribe chanted, "Frog, Lily. Frog Lily-" A random cat yelled, "Attack!"

Darkcloud brought reinforcements. Everyone ran into battle. Bramble and Phoenix took Darkcloud head on. Snake and Mist ran to protect the elders. The kits and their mothers retreated to the elders den with Snake and Mist. Bramble and Phoenix pinned Darkcloud. When suddenly, a Bald Eagle swooped in and took Darkcloud into the sky. They hoped that was the last of him. There were still about twenty-two more cats to fight. They chased them away one by one. Then, Luna noticed her mother, Frozen lying on the ground. She was breathing hard. She said with her last breaths, "It's my time to leave. Luna, it is your time to lead." Luna replied, "Mother, no!!!" It was too late, nothing could be done. She was dead. Snowy and Leafy rushed over. Then, they knew they had to go back to

battle. Nothing could be done. Soon the cats were gone. Except one. Then, it said, "Spare me. Let me join you." They kept him in camp for the next few days while testing his loyalty. They soon found out the cat's name was Willow.

It had been a few months. Willow was a member of the tribe. The patrols were doubled in case Darkcloud came back. It was midnight. Every cat was asleep, except Leafy. She had just seen an omen. A claw still scorched the colony. Something wasn't right. A white cat jumped from a tree and said, "It's okay little one. I'm here. I'm your sister. Frozen had me. I wasn't breathing. She thought I was dead. She sadly picked me up and put me somewhere hidden. She didn't want you and your sisters to know. My name is Winterbreeze. I spent ages looking for you. But, I never found you. But I'm here now. That's all that matters." Leafy replied, "That's all that matters. I'll get my sisters."

It had been a few days. Everyone welcomed Winterbreeze. A storm was starting. The wind howled as rain splattered the dens. Lightning hit the apprentices den. A fire was starting. Luna smelled smoke. Luna ran out of her den and yelled, "Fire! Fire! Evacuate!" Everyone started to evacuate. Lily ran into the nursery. She grabbed Stem and Pond and fled the camp. She waited for Frog. Frog ran through a bush towards her. Lily yelled, "Watch the kits," as she was running away. Lily checked the nursery again. Everyone had evacuated from the nursery except poor little Wind who was in the far corner. Lily grabbed him and fled the camp again. They were the last cats in the camp. The fire raged. They couldn't see anything. It was so hot it felt like their fur was burning. They saw light. They ran toward it. Lily tripped. Wind flew from her mouth. Lily struggled to get up. She grabbed Wind as fast as she could. Lily ran as fast as the wind towards the exit. They barely escaped the fire.

It had been two days. The fire had been put out by the storm. Everyone was fine. Except Lily, she had a little trouble breathing sometimes. She had swallowed some smoke from the fire. They had just started to rebuild the camp. It was coming along. They were almost done with the nursery and had just started the elder's den. "Help," yelled Snake. Darkcloud was back with even more reinforcements. A battle was starting. The elders, kits, and mothers all went into the nursery. Four defenders were protecting them. The battle raged. No cat could tell who was winning or losing. Then, a badger came out of nowhere. All the cats

teamed up on it. It was gone in a matter of seconds. The battle continued. After it seemed like forever, Darkcloud's cats started to flee. It was just Darkcloud. Hope tackled him with Wind at her side. Soon Darkcloud was pinned. Hope lashed at him. Then, Darkcloud said, "Kill me. I want a quick death." So, Wind did. Then, Luna yelled, "I declare a tribe meeting. Wind, come here," Wind proceeded. Luna continued, "You are officially a fighter. Your mentor will be Winterbreeze." Luna turned to Hope, "Hope, do you promise to uphold the colony code?" Hope replied, "I do." Luna proceeded, "Hope you are now a defender." Leafy saw the mysterious cat again. He said, "The lurking danger is no longer here. Every bit of the prophecy is clear"

### **The End**

**All the cats lived happily for the rest of their lives. The Kittens of Hope has just come to an end.**

## **Acknowledgements**

This book is dedicated to our families and pets. This book is inspired by Erin Hunter's Warriors series. I'd like to give thanks to Caroline Foster for helping with editing the story.

# Camping

By Andrew Oakes

"Ah, Fridays," I thought to myself. Time to get home and enjoy the weekend. No work, orders or stress. I can just kick up my feet and relax while watching TV. I was just about to leave the office when my boss came in. "Mindy," he said. "Yes?" I replied. "I need these 10 reports done tonight," as he handed me a pile of work.

"Have a nice weekend," he said as he strolled out. I stared gawking at the pile of work in my hands. "Yeah, have a nice weekend," I thought to myself. I started to do "ten reports." The process was exhausting, but I finally finished. I was bored and tired when I got home, so I called a friend of mine named Lisa. I asked her what she was doing, and she said that she was resting after a long day of work.

I muttered, "Long day? You didn't have to do ten extra reports at the last minute." I asked her what was so tiring, and she said that she had to do eleven extra reports. I started to sputter, and she said that she really needed a vacation. I said, "Me too. But I only had to do ten reports." We both laughed, and decided to take a long vacation. "How 'bout hiking?" I asked. "No, I want to go camping." "Alright then." I replied. The next day, I called Lisa at noon. She did not answer, so I left her a message saying "Meet me at the coffee shop at 1 o'clock." An hour later, I was waiting for her, and she finally showed up. We talked about work, and our camping trip. For the camping trip, I asked her to bring some friends. "How many?" Lisa asked. "How about five." I answered, "OK." She said. "How about this plan," I said. "I look for a place to camp and a cabin, while you look for the five people." "That sounds good to me." Lisa said. I went home, and started to search up campgrounds.

I finally found one called "Heckleberry Woods." It's pictures were amazing! "Wow," I muttered. The cabin looked modern and high class, yet it still looked outdoorsy. Ten minutes later, I heard the doorbell ring, and Lisa was there, along with Lilly, James, Jill, Fred, and Susan. "LISA!" I screamed. "WHY DID YOU BRING FRED?! HE IS A COMPLETE PRANKSTER" I shouted. "I made him promise that he wouldn't do anything wrong, or else I would feed him to the animals." Lisa replied. "What campground are we going to?" "A place called 'Heckleberry woods'." I said. We all went home to pack our stuff, and the next day we met at Lisa's home. We planned to leave at noon tomorrow. When tomorrow finally came, and so did noon, we met at Fred's home. I was not surprised to get water dumped on my head as soon as I walked in. I chased Fred, and dragged him over to the sink. I hurled him up, and put his head in the sink. I turned on the cold water, and I walked away, knowing Fred was alright because he was still laughing furiously. We met at the table, and Lisa screamed "OW! FRED! ONE OF THESE DAYS..." It turns out that Lisa had sat on a pin that Fred had purposely stuck in the seat.

When Fred finally came back over, we discussed leaving. Fred went to make us a snack, and I heard him giggling hard in the kitchen. "Watch out guys" I said. "The food is probably made out of plastic." "No it is not." Said Susan. We often called her "Serious Susan," because she is so serious.

One time, she caught Jill saying it, and stared at her for the rest of the day. I guess that's how serious people get their payback. Anyway, when Fred came back, I saw that the apple was way too red. I hurled it at him, and he dropped the rest of the food, which landed with a hard bang. It was all still in one piece.

"Told you." I said to Susan. She scowled at me, signaling that I should be quiet. When we finally got back to the conversation about leaving, it lasted for a while. We finally settled about going to Lisa's house to get into her RV. "Finally!" I thought. We loaded our things into her trunk, and sped off. At last, we reached Heckleberry Woods. We all loaded our stuff from the RV, and then relaxed in the cabin. We decided this was boring, so we went to collect firewood to set up a camp. We got some matches from the cabin, and then started a fire. We told campfire stories to each other, until a park ranger named Jim told

us to head inside our cabin. We went to sleep, and were sleeping peacefully, until I heard scraping noises.

I was too sleepy to fully open my eyelids, so I just mumbled "Fred, be quiet." I heard snoring from his bed, so I forced my eyelids open, and peered at the slim window, and I saw something that I could never explain.

There was this figure at the window. It's head was tilted to the side, like it was asking me to play, or waiting for an answer. I could not see it's face because it was too dark.

Suddenly, it vanished. Then, I blinked, and it was right next to me, standing beside my bed. It looked like a combination of a doll, and something straight out of a nightmare.

It tilted it's head to the middle, then vanished. I couldn't fall back asleep for a few hours, and when I did, I woke up and 2:00 A.M. I noticed that the door was slightly ajar, and I heard scraping noises under my bed. "Uh oh!" I thought. "Leave my bed! Get away from us. Just leave us alone!" It never left, so I got zero sleep.

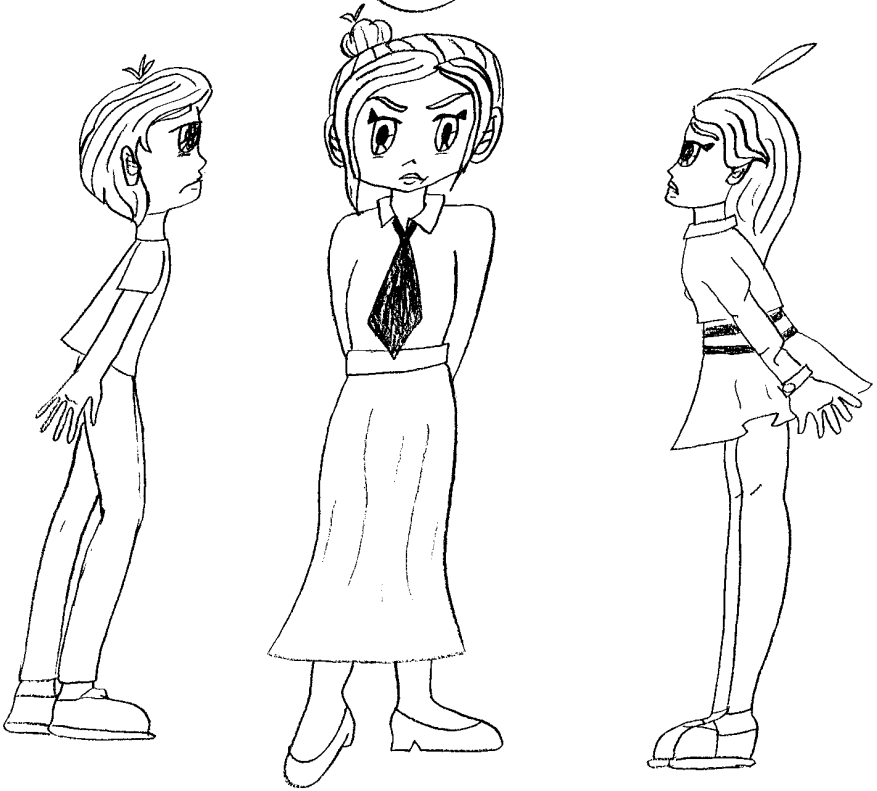
When the next day finally came, I looked like a zombie, while everybody else looked refreshed. "Mindy, what's wrong?" They asked me. "Nothing," I replied, afraid of telling them what I saw, and them not believing me. We went to get breakfast, and when it was my turn, I asked Jim about the history of this place. "Well, it was first established in 1965, and blah blah blah, talk talk talk, chat chaat chat, boring stuff, boring stuff, boring stuff," "Er, sorry Jim, but did anything scary happen here?" I asked. "Well, I reckon that a girl got lost in these woods about twenty years ago, lets see, and she is said to haunt campers who trespass the woods." "SHOOT!" I thought.


Our tent was smack dab in the middle of the forest. When we finished breakfast, we went back to our cabin and saw a sign that was nailed in the middle of the door. When I saw what it said, I was horrified. It read **GET OUT**. "Who would want us to get out? We just got here yesterday." Said Lilly. "I know. It attacked me last night." I replied. "What was it?" Asked James. "Well, I asked Jim, and he said that it was a girl who got lost in the forest twenty years ago." I said. "Do you think we should get out?" Asked a scared Lisa. "Yes. If it wants us to leave, then we should." Said Fred.

We piled into the RV with our stuff, and left, never to return again. Of course, I would have gone back, because Fred had placed a rat in the car, and kept farting. But when we finally got home, I wanted to go back to work.



# Pages



By Julia Green 

# Pages

By Julia Gassen

## Prologue

All the books in the library went dead silent. It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The all too familiar sound of high heels clacking on the floor echoed throughout the hall as someone approached. The librarian, whose personality was something to be reckoned with, pushed open the door. The books started to shake and had to keep reminding each other to stay calm, as to not alert the librarian. They all looked to the book bin, where the charred pages of books and ashes of book covers resided, all piled in a heap of oblivion. The books hoped that someone would soon discover their secret and save the library. Until then, more and more books would disappear from the shelves... forever.

## Chapter 1

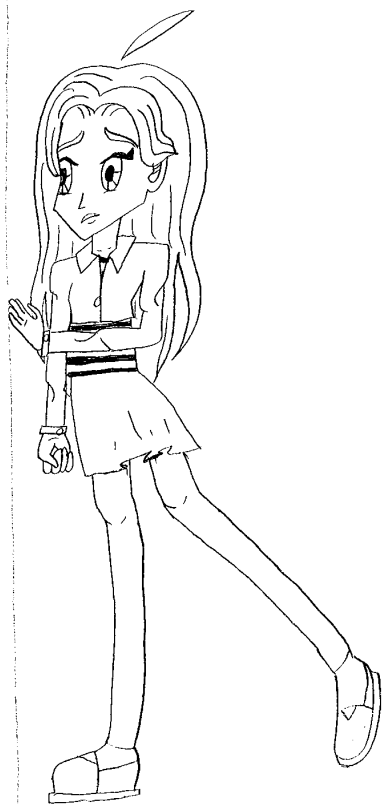
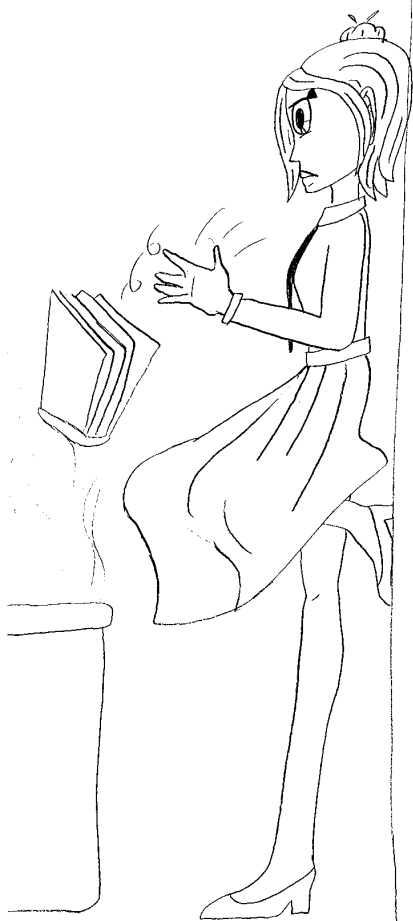
The house was quiet when Tyffani's radio alarm clock played that annoying song. The song that made everyone want to cover their ears and run out the door screaming. The song was "Sunshine." Tyffani, who at first had come to love the song, had eventually grown tired of its rather lazy beat and repetitive lyrics. Usually she would immediately throw her blanket on the floor and smack the top of the radio, leaving no trace of that



horrific song in her bedroom. But this morning Tyffani was feeling more sleepy than usual and didn't bother to move. Instead, she merely covered her ears and cringed at the awful sounds coming from the radio. Unfortunately, Tyffani wasn't the only person in the house who had to listen to snippets of the song every day. Within the first ten seconds of the song playing, Tyffani heard banging coming from outside her bedroom door. She hesitated, then, using all the strength she was capable of using at the moment, slowly walked over to her door and reluctantly opened it. Her older brother, Albert, sprinted into the room, extended his hand, and immediately turned off that horrible, awful music. Although she hated it when her brother came into her room, Tyffani was rather grateful Albert had turned off her radio. She thanked him and then wondered why she herself didn't turn off the radio when she finally got out of bed. That wasn't important though. What was important was that she had a geometry test at 2:00 P.M. and still needed to study!

## Chapter 2

After geometry class that afternoon, Tyffani was left with a horrible feeling that she had failed the test she had just taken and very well would not be having a good conversation with the teacher later. Tyffani decided to skip her last class and go to the library to recharge her batteries. Upon stepping through the threshold of the library doors, Tyffani noticed that the

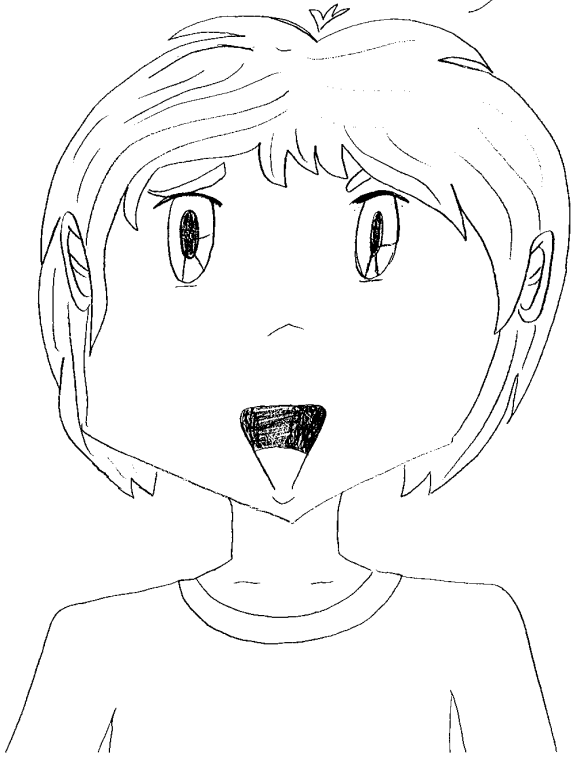


whole place seemed to have such an unsettling vibe. Nobody was there, not even the librarian, and many books were missing from the shelves. After looking around a bit, Tyffani noticed an odd smell. It smelled like something was burning, and it stung her nose. Following the scent, Tyffani stumbled across a door at the back of the library: the closet, she presumed. Smoke was seeping out from under the door, and Tyffani considered setting off the fire alarm, but decided to check and see if there was really a fire. Tyffani touched the door and it was room temperature, so she opened it. Stepping inside, Tyffani saw the most horrible sight she had seen all day: the librarian was burning the old library books. The ones everyone read in earlier years.

### Chapter 3

It had been nearly a week since Tyffani had discovered the horrible secret the librarian had been hiding. Sure, she was a bit of a strange and mean teacher, but never had anyone suspected that she was burning books behind closed doors... literally! Tyffani hadn't told any of her friends or teachers. She figured no one would believe her. Who would believe their librarian was actually burning library books? It was such an odd twist on the expected. Every day Tyffani would wander around the library during lunchtime and consider saying something to the librarian, but her words remained inside her like an insect in a Venus flytrap. She was socially awkward and didn't feel like

I think I may  
be able to help!





getting sent to the principal's office at that time. Eventually, Tyffani decided to ask Albert for help. Albert was the perfect person for the job; he was outgoing and had a lot of friends. On the bus ride home, Tyffani sat next to Albert and told him everything. Albert sighed and said, "I know what you're talking about! That teacher has been so mysterious and strange. My friends and I actually meet up on Friday afternoons to talk about how we can save the books. Unfortunately, with that new security system in place, it's going to be a little more complicated." New security system? Tyffani had no idea the school had put security cameras everywhere. This was getting more and more frustrating. "Maybe we could ask the staff if we can disable the system for one day-" "No, Tyff. You really think we could convince them to do that? They would think we were just going to vandalize school property or do something horrible like that." Albert explained. "This is serious." "Yeah," Tyffani agreed. "What was I even thinking?" "It's okay, but we need to get started on our homework." Albert said. "It's getting late." "I totally agree!" exclaimed Tyffani.

#### Chapter 4

The next day at school, Tyffani sat with her friends at their usual table. Albert sat with a few of his friends in the corner of the cafeteria. They had planned to meet at the library at 12:30, at the end of their lunch period. So they did just that. "How do we confront her? She's very strict," Albert wondered. "I don't

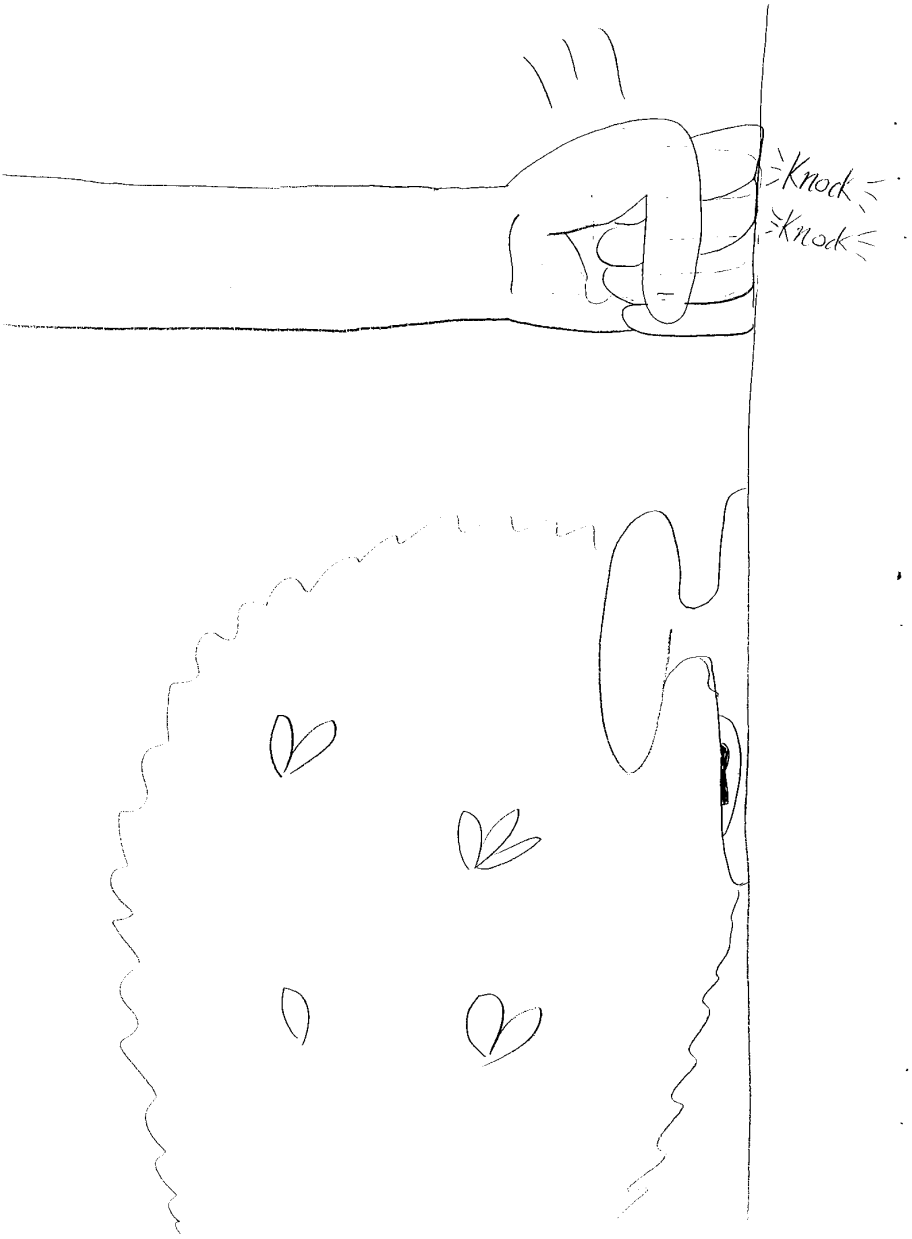


I have an idea!

know, Albert. You're bound to have more experience than me in cases like this!" "Unfortunately, I don't," Albert sighed. They sat there for a few minutes, just wondering what to do. "Wait, Tyffani! I remember her saying to us never to play 'Sunshine!' It's her least favorite song. Actually, she despises-" "ALBERT! I will never listen to that awful song ever again!" Tyffani whisper screamed. "It's your ears or the books, Tyff. You choose." "The books," Tyffani sighed. "Exactly! We need to play it and then run to the office! They did install that security system for a reason, you know," said Albert. "Awesome idea, Albert!" "Then let's do this, Tyff!"

## Chapter 5

Albert sprinted down the street to his friend's house. His friend had a boom box. Many, rather. "Goals!" Albert said to himself. "Who else would have a friend with a boom box when you really need one!" Albert knocked on the door of the house. His friend answered, holding his new boom box. "Can I help you?" "Yes. Something serious is going on. I need to borrow a boom box. Would you mind lending me one?" "Ummm..." "What?" "I donated them all to Goodwill..." Without saying a word, Albert darted away from his friend and back to the driveway of his other friend's house and knocked on the door. "Hey, Albert!" his friend greeted him. "I need your car!" Albert said, panting. "Ummm... it's in the garage?" "Thanks!" Albert opened the garage and climbed into the car. He sped away, his



friend yelling, "I just washed that! You better not scratch it!" Albert was in a panic. Closing time was very soon, but he luckily made it to Goodwill before it closed. He searched through the store like a shark looking for fish. He genuinely thought the townspeople's lives were in his hands. Eventually, he found his friend's boom box. He ran through the store to the salesman. He slammed a twenty dollar bill on the desk and ran for his life. "Now I can say I'm lucky."

## Chapter 6

The next day, Tyffani and Albert snuck the boom box into the library. Sure enough, they smelled smoke. "Over here!" Tyffani led Albert to the "closet." They quietly opened the door to find the librarian burning books again. "Let's hope we don't get in trouble, Tyff." "It doesn't matter! Three, two one, play!" Tyffani whispered to Albert. Albert played "Sunshine." They hid behind the door and watched as the librarian grimaced and ran out of the library. "Yes! We did it!" Albert celebrated their success. They quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. "Now, all we have to do is tell the office to look at the security footage!" Tyffani squealed. "Question. Why don't they just look through that all the time?" "They probably have better things to do." "Better? Yeah, right." They burst open the office door and marched to the secretary. "Ma'am, we're afraid you may have to have a talk with a certain teacher." Albert explained. "Who?" "Just check the library security camera," Tyffani

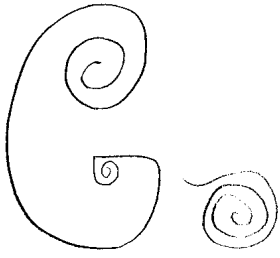


advised. The secretary nodded and watched the footage, a horrified look on her face. "You're right! I will speak to her immediately. Thank you so much for helping keep our school safe!" "We were scared we would get in trouble, but we did it anyway, Tyff. That's what heroes do." Albert said. Heroes. They were heroes. From that day on, "Sunshine" was the family favorite for years to come. As for the books, they felt much better knowing they could be read as they should be.

## The End







Outside

By Alla Kvether

*Go outside*  
*By Ava kuether*

*As my coat clashes against the autumn wind  
I can't seem to hold back a tiny grin  
For the tiny little breeze  
Is making the leaves fall off the trees  
And is sending cold air toward my skin  
And as I look up to the sky  
I hear the wind mills chime  
Which sets of the birds making them cry  
And all that I ask is that you stop and listen  
As the birds sing  
And as the sun glistens  
And You will go home and think in your head  
What beautiful leaf colors like orange and red  
So after this poem I hope you remember what I said  
And you will won't use electricity but go outside instead*