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CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

LET YOUR IMAGINATION GO WILD!

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2021



Friends of Pueblo City-County Library District present

15th Annual Creative Writing Contest

The Friends of Pueblo City-County Library District are pleased to announce the winners of the 15th Annual Creative Writing Contest. Students in grades 3-12 were invited to write a story about this topic: Describe an adventure in your alternate dimension or parallel universe. Entries were judged by Friends of the Library board member Melanie Phelps. Winners received a certificate of achievement, a booklet with the winning stories and a gift certificate to Books Again, the Friends of the Library's used book store.

The Friends wish to thank the many teachers who supported the creative writing experience by having their students enter the contest.

Winners

Middle School

1st place

Skyla Kopasz

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

2nd place

Peyton Rose Vialpando

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

3rd place

Ainsley Catherine Englund

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

Honorable Mention

Cashley Chambers

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

Honorable Mention

Narhya Conley

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

Honorable Mention

Hannah Davison

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

Honorable Mention

Kamdyn Whitaker

Vineland Middle School – Mrs. Chavez

The Stargazing Galaxy

Skylla Kopasz

In a world with little resources, many had to fight for the required resources. If you were lucky enough to have the supplies needed, you became immortal to the quaking dread ahead. It is year 4083 and the galaxy has just met its downfall point. Many years have passed since the government was overthrown, with many lives destroyed, and many planets suffering. The government allowed the people to get what they needed, without a cooperating system, the citizens were left behind, battling for simple resources needed to survive. One person, yet so small could save them all.

There was one person with availability within that could save the planets and provide resources that could last centuries. This savior was a boy, named after his father Ben, he originated from planet GEM, one of the most resourceful planets amongst the galaxy. Although his planet was full of resources, mankind had yet to succeed in finding them. This left Ben and his economy starved, on the edge of extinction. As a child Ben was always a great son, friend, and help, he shared a strong passion for stargazing. Many days after school he would ride his bike to his father's spot, he would sit there until dusk, to begin watching, studying all of the beautiful stars. The GEM planet had many stars, beaming throughout the horizon. Ben loved watching these bright stars because they came with a sense of hope, something the GEM planet amongst many other planets needed. Ben was lying near the pond, looking over the horizon, and suddenly he saw something glowing in the trees behind the pond.

"It looks like... a...STAR! Ben stated.

The glow from the trees was not quite a star but an object from someplace throughout the galaxy. Ben began approaching the star, cautious of the possible dangers, before Ben could reach the object, a door began screeching open, a living creature appearing from beyond. When the door fully emerged, "Hello, can you hear me? Where are you from?" Ben yelled.

Ben stepped closer to the space craft, the creature did the same, becoming closer to each other. Ben could now clearly see the face of the small creature, similar to him,

"I don't think this is an alien," said Ben.

And Ben was right, this was not an alien but indeed a similar species to himself. The biggest difference they have was the planet they originate from, Ben came from planet GEM and now, finding the information on the creature became essential. Before Ben could speak, the creature interrupted his thought process, talking in a different but recognizable language the creature said, "Hello my name is Sadie, I come from planet MEG." Suddenly it hit Ben,

this language was familiar to him from his childhood, his dad had taught it to him when he was little. Sadie began to explain to Ben why she came to planet GEM and what her mission was. Sadie came from planet MEG, an advanced parallel universe of GEM, on a mission to help Ben save the planets in his galaxy. Ben began questioning Sadie, asking about the spacecraft she came through.

"Is that a star?" questioned Ben

"This is an invention my planet's society began designing long ago, it took months to gather the supplies needed to build it.

"It's a device used to travel beyond dimensions and between worlds" Sadie continued. "Like a portal, COOL!" Ben added.

The portal was an invention that was not recently thought of by the people of MEG, this design process took many months to complete. The MEG planet, unlike the GEM planet, had resources they had discovered long ago.

"I must begin my mission now, let's go!" Sadie exclaimed. Sadie walked away, beyond the pond, Ben hesitant to follow.

"Are you coming? I only have a certain amount of time." Sadie said "Coming!" exclaimed Ben.

Ben hurried behind Sadie, quickly catching up to her. The portal for Sadie to return would soon close, she nearly had the day to help Ben solve the eternal hardship of providing the needed resources for his planet.

"Your Father, Ben, left messages for our planet to help you save the galaxy, he stated that you would know what to do." said Sadie.

"My dad sent you to help me save the galaxy?! He never told me any information on this mission."

"Might I ask; how do you know my dad?" Ben continued.

"He was an old contributor to our planet, and would provide us with resources when we were low. Before he disappeared, he gave us a mission to build the machine to come here and help you restore peace of the worlds," Sadie explained.

When they reached the destination provided by Ben's father, both began looking for any clue or item to fit the description left behind...

"Many places to start, many places to end, but alas. To begin the search look far and near for the gazing glass. The closer you are the further you'll look before you tamper place in the steep nook. Place no later place no sooner but don't scurry, set the time for 20:30. When you set the clock to this time the stars will align making the sign." After reading the riddle, Sadie and Ben began deciphering the clue left by

Ben's father, thinking of any contributing suggestions. Ben quickly had an idea come to mind

"The Telescope!" Ben shouted

"That's where we will find the gazing glass!"

They ran as quickly as they could back to where they started, seeing the telescope immediately. Bolting to their destination, they arrived and immediately took the lens out of the slot and held it tightly. As they read the clue again, Sadie jumped to an idea,

"On my planet we use different time standards than you do here, 20:30 on my planet states the time 8:30," Sadie commented

"And the nook, what might the nook be? And where?" Ben said.

Looking around at their surroundings in search of a hold for the scope, Ben spotted a stone with a small slot in it, directly underneath the moon.

"Over there!" Ben shouted.

They ran over to the stone and placed the glass in the slot, now they must wait for the clock to strike 8:30. A few hours later, the clock hit 8:25, the time was almost up.

The clock has just hit 8:30, a moment of silence rose just before a beam struck from above, through the glass, on the lake, leaving a shimmering blast shooting to the stars. When the blast hit the stars, beams struck others, creating a large constellation throughout the sky.

"Whoaa!" both yelled.

Before they finished their surprise, a large ship emerged from the darkness, lighting up the sky. The spacecraft hit the ground, opening the doors. Sadie immediately jumped in glee at the sight of the resources, Ben stood in shock, in the ship stood his father. After running to his father, they regrouped planning to finish the task handed to them. Ben and Sadie boarded the craft, bringing supplies to the worlds amongst the galaxy.

Stairs to the Future

Peyton Rose Vialpando

“Alex, Alex!” I jumped up in my chair, waking up from a nap. “This is your second time falling asleep in my class this week,” Ms. Johnson said sternly.

“I’m sorry, it won’t happen again.” I was exhausted from moving into the new house and this has not been a good first impression of myself at this new school.

“I want you to read pages 223 to 250 tonight for homework” I nodded my head and the class packed up their stuff to go home. There was a small creek separating my house from the thousands of trees creating a sinister dark forest. I couldn’t wait to finally see what I could find in there.

When I arrived home from school I got straight to my homework so I can go exploring in the woods. I have always loved looking for an adventure.

“And done,” I said to myself slamming my book shut. I slipped on a pair of shoes and ran out my front door to the creek. The sound of the running water and the smell of fresh rain surrounded me as I grew closer to the woods.

“Help,” I stopped in my tracks. “Anyone there?” I heard a small voice coming from deep inside the woods. It sounded like a young girl. I knew that she was in danger so I sprung into action. I started running as fast as I could towards the sound of her shaking voice. I ran and I ran, past branches, bushes and flowers. The voice gradually grew louder until it suddenly stopped. Out of breath, I took a break, looking around until I saw something strange. It was something so familiar but it looked so sinister. I saw a set of tall stairs, leading to absolutely nowhere.

I was so intrigued, I forgot all about the small voice in danger. For some reason, I had a bad feeling about this, but it didn’t stop me from taking my first step onto the stairs. There was a railing that winded along with the stairs that I kept my hand on. When I reached the top, I saw a small door that I swore wasn’t there before. I slowly twisted the handle to open the door. The last thing I saw was a bright white light before I felt someone pulled me in.

I picked myself up from the floor and looked around. To my surprise I wasn’t in Wyoming any more. In fact, I had no idea where I was. There was trash everywhere, the buildings looked broken down, and there was not one car in sight. The sky was a dark gray color and a strong smell hung in the air. “Can you help me?” I jumped and turned around. It was the young girl that I had heard before. She looked like any other girl my age, but her eyes were all white.

“Where am I? What’s the problem? What’s wrong with your eyes?”

“My name is Wand you are in year 3013. When I was younger the king installed an advanced set of eyes into every one of us. These make sure that you don’t see anything but what the king wants you to see. Recently the king took away my parents from my sight and I need your help to get my real eyes back.” I was so confused, and didn’t know if I should go back home or help this young girl out.

“Well how can we get your eyes back?” She looked at me excitedly

“Do you see that shiny tower over there?” I definitely saw a tower, but it wasn’t shiny whatsoever. “My eyes should be in there.” There was an old, broken down tower that looked well over 100 years old. I nodded with a smile and we started towards the tower. I wondered if W saw everything in this world as shiny and beautiful as she sees the tower. I looked over at her and she seemed quite nervous and shaky.

“It will be okay. I won’t let anything bad happen to you,” I said smiling at her trying to look as confident and calm as possible. She smiled back, but I could still see the fear in her eyes.

After about ten minutes of just walking we finally reached the base of the old broken down tower. “Before my family left, they told me that there was a secret entrance in the back that we could easily sneak into.” I nodded and followed W into the castle. “Look how beautiful it is! Oh what I would do to live in something like this,” she said amazed. I looked around and frowned. It looked old and torn down with spiderwebs in every corner. We continued up some stairs until we found a door that had the label “Bedroom.” We looked at each other nervously. “Three, two, one.” W whispered and we slammed open the door.

Inside was an old man, who must have been the King, laying down on a bed. “Oh my,” W whispered in shock as she took a few steps back.

“What is it?” I said, trying not to wake him up. As I took a few steps closer, I could clearly see that he had no eyes!

Right next to him was a table with about 900 pairs of eyes in small glass containers. When I saw this, I let out a scream. I quickly covered my mouth and looked over at the king’s bed. He sat straight up, and started to feel around on the table next to him.

“Quickly find which eyes are your and let’s get out of this place!” I exclaimed to W who was already picking up glass containers looking on the labels to see if one was hers.

“I found them!” W cried out to me holding a glass container. “Let’s get out of here.” We opened the door and started running down the stairs, W running a little faster.

Suddenly I was grabbed from behind. There stood the King still with no eyes.

“You stole my eyes?” I tried to squirm free but his grip was too tight. “You know that you’re not going to get away with this and you’re going to have to pay for what you did.” The old man helped up his wrinkly hands to my face feeling around for my eyes.

“Hurry, leave before he gets you too!” I yelled to W. She looked at me with worry and guilt in her eyes but finally ran

out. The King held my chin up with one of his hands and gave me a nasty look.

“Don’t worry this won’t hurt a bit. You will be ready for your new and improved eyes any day now.” I braced myself for the horrible pain yet to come. “Three Two one.”

“Alex, Alex!” I jumped up in my chair, waking up from a nap. “This was your second time falling asleep in my class this week.” I stood silent because something felt off. I took out a small hand mirror from my bag and looked at my reflection, staring through my brand new pair of white eyes.

The Human Race Vanishes

Ainsley Catherine Englund

One Spring day I just got home. My mom had just left for school, my stepdad was still at work and my sisters were on the PlayStation. So, I went to my room to listen to music and saw a black hole in my room. I tried to run but ended up getting pulled in and getting knocked out.

I woke up in a field of wildflowers but there was something different about it. The flower seemed to be laughing at me. The wildflowers also had faces. I sat up fast and ran away once I got into a nearby forest. I sat behind a tree to catch my breath, then I spotted something in the distance I couldn't see it that well because I saw my glasses I left on the table in my house.

I look back to see what it was but it was gone. Then a flash of bright light. It was standing over me holding out its hand saying in a deep voice "Get up you don't have much time." I grabbed its hand and we started to run.

We were at a waterfall hidden by the shadows of the trees out of sight to anyone, I looked up at its face it was a light purple almost a lavender purple, it was a boy with pointy ears his clothes were torn from running through the trees. He looked down and whispered in his deep voice: "How did you get here?" I just sat there and finally said "I don't know, there was a black hole in my room and I got pulled into it." He looked back up and said "Let's go before he finds a human here." I interrupted him and asked "Who are you and who is he?" He looked down and I noticed his eyes were gold. He repeated, "We have to go before he finds out a human is here."

We ran until we got to the middle of the forest. He said, "I am an elf, my name is Oliver. This universe does not have a name, here there is no such thing as humans." I very calmly said, "How do I get back? If there is no such thing as humans here then how do you know humans? My name is June."

"I mutter to myself, "not my real name." He says, "Yes there is a way to get you home but we have to hurry to the volcano over there," As he points to the West he continues, "There is a friend of mine who can get you back. "Well, what are we waiting for to let us go!" I started to jump up and down, still in my school uniform. As I head to the volcano in the distance, Oliver chases after me to keep up. As I start to skip ahead, he starts to mumble things. So I asked again "Who was He?" He ignored me.

At the edge of the forest, he says "How do you think you can cross that ravine?" as he grabs my shirt and pulls me back before I walk right into the ravine. I walk back to the ravine and look across it was about 1,000 miles across.

I hear a scream from up in the sky. I look up to see bird-like things flying across the sky. I point to them and say "Can we use those to get across?" He looks up and his eyes widen. He looks at me and says, "You would never be able to tame one of those because they are Griffins." I walk over to stand in front of him, he is taller than me by one or two inches and I say, "Why would I listen to you? After all I can get up to the volcano faster without you." He looks down at me and laughs "Well if you want to get two of those Griffins." I start to walk away and say "OK I will come back with both of them, and also you sound like an NPC from a video game." I walk away and start to yell at the demons. They start to come at me. They dive down, I jump out of the way as two Griffins get knocked out. They have shiny scales and look different in color as they wake up. I walk to their heads and they get up. They are about seven feet tall, I ask softly "Can you help me and my friend get across the ravine so I can get home, please?" They look at each other and say "OK sure but can we come with you? After all I've never seen your kind before." I look toward Oliver then look back and say, "What do you mean, never seen humans before?" They look at each other and say, "Well, humans are just a myth here. We read about how bad humans are, killing their Earth and stuff like that." I look away and say, "Come on, I want to get home. Also, who is He?" They look to the North where a huge black castle is and one says "He is the ruler of the land, he is a manticore. We can't say his name but, we can say our names the one on the right and with yellow scales is Caleb and my name is Christopher. We should go."

When we got back to Oliver I induced Caleb and Christopher to Oliver. I ask the twin Griffin's "Can you fly us up to the volcano please?" Caleb says, "Yeah, but we need to go now because there are about five Chimera coming toward us so get on. We need to go now."

I jumped on Christopher's back with his red fur. When we took off the ground one of the Chimera tears the skin off of one of Christopher's hind legs. He continues to fly but halfway to the volcano, I start to fall off of his back. I fall off, but a Ghoul catches me and brings me toward the castle to the North. That was the last thing I saw before I woke up in my bed. I thought my life was normal but I must have been wrong because I visited a world where humans didn't exist.

A New World

Cashley Chambers

One minute I'm floating through space, the next I'm being chased by a frightening monster with long nails and millions of eyes. It had to be six stories high but as I was running I tripped and fell, the creature was coming right at me with full speed. Let's start out in the beginning. September 28 was my last normal day on earth. It was the day that I was going to fly to space in a rocket that was called Venus. I had no family or pets, all I had was my friend Mark who would be helping me navigate the rocket ship from Earth. That early September morning Mark came by and gave me a birthday gift since he knew that I would be in space on my birthday. I unwrapped the gift hesitantly and also anxiously. As I unwrapped the gift I saw the first few words and it read "Surviving in the Wild." It was the book that I had been trying to get my hands on for awhile. I opened the book to its first page and it read "Have fun in space yours truly Sam Martin." Sam Martin was my favorite author, I was ecstatic! I hugged Mark and said "Thank you so so much!" That was the last time I saw Mark. When I boarded the rocket I heard Mark on the speaker and he said "432 do you read me?" I replied "Loud and clear." Mark counted down the rocket and BOOM nothing happened. I looked over at the station and everyone was in a panic mode. Then the rocket made weird noises and blasted off. As the rocket was heading toward the atmosphere I could hear scraping noises and saw that ginormous meteoroids were hitting the sides of the rocket ship and were also headed straight toward Earth. I watched in concern as the meteoroids hit Earth, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. As I looked back at the point of the rocket ship I saw that I was floating in space.

A couple weeks went by. I thought it was August 30th. It was the day that I was supposed to return to earth. I knew what to do to get back but I didn't know if it was safe. A few more days went by and I had run out of food so I took it as a sign that I needed to return to earth. I started the engines and was headed back to earth. When I landed I knew I was supposed to be in the state of Wyoming and there was supposed to be a station about 400 yards from where I landed. I got out of the rocket and saw that trees were burnt to a crisp and there wasn't any pasture on the ground. When I tried to walk I fell but soon got the hang of it after awhile. There weren't any animals, it looked like a forest that caught fire. I walked for about 300 yards and I saw the station or what was left of the station. There were three enormous poles sticking out of the ground that must have been the pillars holding the station

up off the ground. I couldn't believe what I was seeing, everything was gone. There weren't any animals or plants or sources of food. I decided to go back to the rocket and grab some things to help me build a shelter. When I got back the rocket was nowhere to be found. As I was standing there in amazement I heard a voice saying,

"RUN, RUN, RUN!"

Over and over and then a big crashing noise that shook the burnt ground and it was getting closer and closer to me. So I ran and ran until I had no idea where I was and the ground wasn't shaking anymore. To my surprise there were tons of trees and the ground was surprisingly green. I saw insects and animals running all around including cows, monkeys, chickens and more. Then the ground started shaking again and the voice came up again saying,

"RUN, RUN, RUN!"

But even louder this time. Instead of running I decided to hide this time. So I ran behind a tree and watched as a frightening monster with millions of eyes and long nails started to run toward the tree so I bolted away from the tree. I was now being chased by the monster at full speed and then I tripped over a tree's root. I thought that this was the end for me, I'm going to be eaten by this creature and no one will know that I ever made it back to Earth. And then the voice came back again saying, "Run, run, run, run, run, run!"

Except the voice was quieter and calmer this time. The monster had his nose right over the top of me. I looked him right in his millions eyes and saw that he had tentacles and then he started to open his mouth and BOOM!

I woke with a headache and the room was spinning. As my mind started to focus, I saw a figure that looked like Mark but as it moved closer to me I saw it was an ape and it handed me a coconut that was full of water. I soon realized that I was dehydrated and that was why I was hearing the voices and why I thought there was a monster chasing me. I saw the rocket and the station so I ran to the station and slammed through the door and there he was my best friend Mark and the rest of the crew standing there looking at me in amazement. I ran over to all of them and gave all of them a big hug. Mark stared at me in amazement and said, "I can't believe you made it back to Earth alive and with no navigation." I replied "I couldn't believe what was happening, I thought yall weren't here." Then out of nowhere the loud scratch and earthquake were back and BOOM!

My Ok Dragon Day

Narhya Conley

Hi, my name is Laticia, and this is how I spent too much time as a dragon. My mom is a scientist who makes unicorns, dragons, and mermaids, all those mythical creatures. The cool thing is, she makes them come to life! It's pretty neat until you have mermaids in your pool and elves in your dresser. She has a lab room in our house; it's very messy, she's not much of a cleaning person. Yeah, I know that sounds ridiculous, right, but she's my mom and I love her even with a crazy job.

Anyway, let's get back to the crazy story I'm about to tell. One day my friend Lilly came over, and she's my best friend, I've known her since I was five. Every time she comes over my mom tells me to stay out of her lab even though I practically live in it.

Lilly and I were eating when she asked if I wanted to play a board game, I agreed. I remember the game was in my mom's lab, we played checkers a week ago. I had just planned to go in and out without her knowing but it didn't turn out that way.

When I went into the lab there was cluttered paper everywhere, all kinds of bottles and potions of colored liquids. It was kinda dark, like if it was five in the morning where the sun was out but it wasn't fully out, you know. I had just grabbed the game and it was on the top of her shelf in the back. As I was running out of the room I tripped and the potions fell on me. There was a super bright green one that fell on me and I knew that one was for a DRAGON!

All of a sudden I got bigger and bigger then a wing popped out of my back! The next thing I knew sharp claws emerged from my hands, scales shimmered in the sun. Hearing all the commotion my friend Lilly ran into the room just then she screamed and started to jump up and down like a little dog trying to get a treat. Then she stopped screaming and started poking at me "Your mom's gonna freak!" said Lilly. Just then I was going to swallow my spit but I didn't have spit only fire so I swallowed my fire! It was a pleasant feeling, to be honest. We cleaned up the lab, I didn't clean because I was too big, one of the privileges of being a dragon.

After that, we went outside. You're probably wondering how I got outside. I may have broken a window or two. Just as we got outside I heard mom's car drive into the driveway. I was terrified at what she would say so as a person who doesn't think I hid behind a tree, yeah I know it's not the smartest move right? She walked to the back yard and she saw Lilly sitting in the grass. She quickly asked, "Where's Laticia"?

Lilly pointed to the tree, I know some best friend, right? Mom turned around and I knew I was busted. I peeked my head around and she quickly yelled, "Laticia, what do you think

you're doing?!" I walked up to her with my head down. My mom had a disappointed face then all of a sudden she burst out laughing. I was confused when she said, "You know you're still going to school right".

I grunted "Why-y."

It was the next morning I got up from the garage, yeah my mom made me sleep in the garage. I brushed my teeth with a big scrub brush then washed my face. I had tried to ride in the car but my mom told me "You're a dragon you know how to fly yourself to school." I didn't think of that so it took a lot of tries but I finally got the hang of it. I had been late to school which was not the best because you don't wanna show up to school late and a dragon. So I got to school and all the kids started to scream and run. The only one who didn't scream was Peter. He thought it was cool that I was a dragon. Also, he likes reptiles a lot!

When I walked into school everyone stared at me I didn't know if I should feel popular or uncomfortable all day. Mrs. Chavez greeted me as usual with a smirk on her face. I knew she was gonna have a good laugh with the teachers later. One of the problems was that I couldn't sit in a chair so I had to sit on the floor all day. I got in trouble a lot because I couldn't write with a pencil so I couldn't write anything. I got big fat F's on everything. When I went to lunch, I couldn't eat anything because nothing fazed me when I ate it.

After lunch we went outside. Boy can I tell you how many kids asked me for a ride on my back? The day was long and really hard to process. I was ready to go home and I hoped my mom had made me a potion to turn back to normal because I really couldn't do this any longer. I tried to ride the bus home but turns out I had to sit on top of the bus. When I got home my mom had a huge grin on her face and said "Rough day, huh"? Then she pulled out a dark green bottle it almost looked like a pine tree.

She put her hand out signaling me to grab it "What ya waiting for?" she asked with a teasing voice. I raced over there and hugged her saying I love you over and over then I grabbed the bottle and drank every last bit of it. My skin turned back to normal, my hands didn't have claws anymore, my wings popped back into my back and I was finally normal. I felt so happy for the rest of the day.

Two months have passed and everything is well, um, hectic is the word I'm gonna use. I can say I don't miss being a dragon sometimes. I miss my memories as a dragon so if I had the chance I'd do it all over again with no regrets.

Breaking the Barrier

Hannah Davison

We were nearing the Universal Barrier when a tragic mistake happened. Our team of scientists had been researching and preparing for this mission for multiple years, but this mistake, accident, tech issue whatever you think it was, is not the truth. I will begin from the night before the mission. That evening we ate a heavy dinner of roasted chicken, potatoes, and some vegetables, and went to bed at a reasonable time. I didn't get a wink of sleep. I was thinking about the mission tomorrow, not only one of the most important missions in our region, but also my first. After many hours of laying there thinking, the sun started to creep out and shine. I quickly got dressed and went to the lower level to eat breakfast. We ate light to insure that we wouldn't get sick during the mission. Little did we know in roughly 12 hours we would be lucky to be alive. We entered the 222 Universal Space Shuttle and reviewed the protocol when the captain arrived. In that moment the whole team snapped back into reality and realized the mission that we were all about to pursue. The next thing I knew the captain was yelling, "Preparing for take off!"

"5,4,3,2,1!"

We traveled at light speed and the next thing we knew we were roughly 25 miles from the Universal Barrier. It was almost like nothing was there but there was a slight tint of shimmery green where the barrier was.

"WOW!" I said not realizing I was speaking. We were nearing the barrier when we spotted something, some being, some blob on the other side. It was very hard to make out what exactly it was but there had never been any records of anyone or thing crossing the barrier. So, this spotting was all very alarming to the crew on board. I started to panic inside when the whole situation got worse. Something had hit us. We didn't know where it was coming from, but it sure hit us, hit us hard. But that was not all the ship was covered in a green goop. It was nasty and foul smelling green goop. Well of course I had seen worse but, "Yuck!" I blurted out. Lewis the pilot of this mission tried to steer the ship around and fly away but the captain yelled, "Just wait! We need to gather ourselves and think of a plan B."

"But captain, we need to get out of here, who knows what bad things will happen next," Lewis tried to argue.

"Don't argue with me! I know what we need, we need to gather ourselves here and continue our mis..." Before the captain could finish his sentence, someone or something burst a hole through the back of the ship. A lot had happened in that moment. I heard yelling, buzzing, and a ringing sound. The ship had burst into flames. There was a lot of

panic and fear in the air. Tears started to form in my eyes and everything after that went south from there. The last thing I remembered was floating in space. I was very confused because I was floating in the middle of nowhere and there was no sign of the ship or the crew but I saw the green tinted barrier. I was very confused because I was breathing the air with no helmet and I was floating. I heard a ringing sound and voices. They were light airy voices lingering in the air. After gathering myself I decided to try and swim near the barrier but not too close. I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw land on the other side of the barrier. This was good news but then I thought about my family back home, my crew and the ship. What could have happened to them? Since I could clearly breathe, which was weird, I made the choice to have a look around before I tried to pressure the barrier. While I explored, I couldn't shake the feeling that something bad happened to the captain and the crew. I knew that I couldn't mourn, because the whole region was counting on me to complete this mission. So I made the dumb decision to try to break through the barrier. As soon as I got about 12 yards away something pushed me back, this made me even more mad and frustrated so I jolted towards the barrier again. Something hit me even harder which sent me flying and nearly knocked me out. At that moment I had doubt that I would survive and want to give up.

To my surprise I saw a ship flying towards me in the distance, but the ship was not on this side of the barrier it was on the other side. This really confused me because there had been no previous sightings or recordings of any other creatures or beings there. I yelled and made a lot of motion and movement to try to see if they would notice me. Thankfully they continued heading my way but then I realized, "What if they want to take me hostage or try to kill me?" All I could do was hope that they would help me, not hurt me. When they got near me I could see that they were green blobs with big eyes. This explained the green goop that covered the ship before the accident. I had no clue how but they were able to pass right through the barrier. When they came right next to me I became fearful because I didn't know what the blobs were going to do.

When the back of their ship opened I backed away a little bit. To my surprise this small cute blob came out on the back of the ship. When I saw it I fearfully said, "H... hello?" They spoke my language and invited me onto their ship. Having no better option I decided to head into the ship. It had a green interior and smelled kind of foul, but I still entered. They asked me where I wanted to go, so I made the

decision to head back home because I had already lost my crew and I was very exhausted. I also missed my family. When we made it back to my region my family met me and the blobs on the landing pad. Before we had even landed I

opened the ship, jumped out and ran to my family to hug them.

We all cried tears of sadness and joy because of the loss of the crew but also because I made it home safe and sound.

Ocean Island

Kamdyn Whitaker

One hot sunny summer day my mom, my brother Jack and I were taking a walk on the beach. The sun was setting and the sand was warm and soft in between my toes. I looked at my mom and said, "You know I think that mermaids are real." My mom looked at me with a weird look, laughed and said "Well what do you think the mermaid's name would be?" Jack laughed and said, "Ellie, mermaids aren't real. If they were real I would have seen one already!" I looked at my mom with tears in my eyes and my lips quivered. I ran down the beach holding my fists tight. "Jack!" mom yells. I ran past a bright glowing green rock. As confused as I was I stopped and moved back towards the rock. The hole was big enough for me to fit in. The closer I got to the rock the brighter the light got. It got so bright I couldn't see anymore so I decided to try and get into the rock. I got into the rock and everything was spinning in circles. I felt like I was in a tornado. The next thing I knew everything went pitch black. Next thing I knew I woke up in the middle of a jungle, it was beautiful. The leaves were purple and blue and the tree was pink. The mountain was made of stone and crystal. I knew from that moment that I was not home. I saw a blue path of sand on the ground so I decided to follow it. The path led me to a huge pond. The water was so clear you could see the blue and green stones at the bottom. There were fish in the pond that were red and yellow and many more creatures in the water. I turned around and kept walking when something jumped out of the water and grabbed my ankle pulling me in the water. I kick as hard as I can to escape from the tight grip on me. I finally broke free and swam as fast as I could to the surface. I got out of the water and ran. Suddenly, I ran into a tall woman that had light blue skin with beautiful green eyes. I asked the lady, "Where am I?" She responded, "Well you're on Ocean Island." I then ask, "And who are you?" she responded, "Well I'm Nora the mermaid." I ask, "How are you walking and you don't have a fin?" She said, "I have special powers that help me live in and out of the ocean!" "Wow!" I said. I ask her, "Can you help me find my way home? I don't know what happened. I was on the beach

and now I'm in some type of magical jungle." She gave me a signal to come and follow her. We walked down a dark path in the jungle that lead to the ocean, the water was so blue and clear. All of a sudden she grabbed me by the hand and pulled me into the water with her. I can breathe underwater, I was so shocked! We swam down to a dark cave where there are other mermaids. They all stared at me for a good minute and then started to go back to what they were doing. Nora grabbed a red crystal and we swam back to the surface and guided me to a mysterious place in the jungle. On the way we heard something move in a bush. Nora pushed me to the side and grabbed two weapons from her sides. I stood back and grabbed a sharp stick that was on the ground and held it. All of a sudden a giant lizard jumped out of the bush. Nora and I both screamed and jumped back. The lizard ended up running away from us so we continued to walk. We stopped at a large cliff with water under it, Nora then tells me, "Jump off!" I got in a running stance but I looked down and it was a long jump. It had to be at least one thousand feet down. I finally jumped off the cliff landed on something. I was on a dragon! It was one of the wildest things I had ever seen in my entire life. I screamed in laughter while it flew through the sky. The fresh air smelled like a vase of roses. We eventually landed in a new area. I asked Nora, "Where are we now?" She replied, "We are in Vine graveyard." My heart sank when I heard that name, it sounded so scary. I thought they had named it this because a lot of things had died there. I guess we will never know. Nora led me down another path but this time it was dark red and full of rocks. As we continued down the path I told Nora, "I'm so hungry and thirsty right now." She walked over to a bush and picked some berries off of it then she walked back over to me and handed me the berries. Then she walked to a tree and punched a hole through the tree to get me fresh water. I drank all of the water and ate all my berries. The berries taste like blueberries. I drank all of the water not even ten seconds after she gave it to me. Once I finished my snack break we were back on the path. After following the path for a long time, about an hour, we found

ourselves in a cave. Nora led me to a stone stand and put the red crystal on the stand and she said, "If you touch the crystal you will find yourself back at home." I thanked her for helping me get home and I was ready to leave. I set my hand above the crystal, took a deep breath and touched the

stone with the crystal. Everything started spinning again and then it went black. I woke up and found myself back at home on the beach. By this time my mom and brother had found me and took me home. Finally, I was back home.

