

**BROWN PAPER BAG SHORT
STORIES**
INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING
October 2017 Vol. 30, No. 1

*Students were given a “character,”
“setting,” and “conflict/problem.” They
wrote a short story based on these with their
8th grade tutors.*

By Yaritza A., 4th gr.

Once there was a dog named Fluffy. He had a smart friend named Jellybean. One day he had to take the hardest, biggest test ever. Fluffy sat down, and his friend Jellybean sat next to him. Fluffy did not know what to do because his teacher was in the bathroom, so Fluffy took his mini telescope and looked at Jellybean’s test. After the test Fluffy and Jellybean got an A+. Fluffy and Jellybean went to a Chinese restaurant to celebrate. Fluffy ate all the pizza in the restaurant, and Jellybean wanted pizza, but he got mad. Jellybean got bored, so he saw his test and saw Fluffy’s test. Jellybean saw that it was the same. So Jellybean started throwing Jelly beans. And Fluffy said, “Calm down.” Then Fluffy started throwing fluffy key-chains. They started having a fight. But then, their parents came and started throwing Twizzlers everywhere. Fluffy and Jellybean did not like Twizzlers, and said, “OK, WE WILL STOOOOP!” So Fluffy and Jellybean got grounded and said, “Sorry.”

By Raul, 2nd gr. A bear was walking to the battlefield. The bear was mistaken for a soldier and they made him fight the war. When the war started, the bear stopped the fighting by saying, “Stop!” After that, the soldiers found out

that he wasn’t a soldier. Everyone learned that it is never too late to save the day.

1

By Itzel V., 5th gr., Cate, and Anneke Rico was at his tree house eating meat. Suddenly a UFO appeared out of nowhere. The aliens were all over the place! They broke into the tree house and tried to steal his meat, but Rico fought back. While they were fighting, the tree house was destroyed! Rico was so mad he went to the alien’s UFO and destroyed it. And Rico won and got his meat back. He made the aliens repair his tree house, which they did not like. Rico lived happily ever after.

By David C., 2nd gr.

Once there was a monster in the forest, and he found a bear. Bear told a secret to the monster. The secret was he met Jake Paul, and the bear didn’t want anyone to know. Monster told the secret to the fox, and Bear got really mad.

By Nely A., 3rd gr.

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Nick, and he was a Ninja. He was fighting his enemy. Then he went to an island, and he got lost. Then Nick saw a Ninja girl. Her name was Caroline. She saw Nick, and she saved Nick. Then he said to Caroline, “Who are you?” Caroline said, “I am Caroline.” They then went to their house. They were happy ever after.

By Lydmar, kindergarten, and her tutor

Once there was a Ninja. The Ninja went to the playground. The Ninja was playing at the playground with his favorite toy. Then the Ninja went to play with his friends. He left his toy on the

playground. Then the Ninja went home, but he forgot his favorite toy! The Ninja looked, and looked, and looked, but he could not find his toy. The Ninja asked his friends to help.

By Henry A., kindergarten, and his tutor

Once upon a time, Henry and Ally went on a train. Henry's backpack got stolen. He thought that Ally stole his backpack. The train was going to New York City. Ally and Henry were rivals. But it turned out that Henry dropped his backpack. Henry found his backpack and water bottle under his seat. They were all happy. Henry and Ally became friends and lived happily ever after.

By Viridiana A., 3rd gr., and Ellie
Hello! I am Ginger. I am a dog and like to play sports. I am an outer space dog, and I live with my friends. We always play soccer. It's the best game in the world! Our team always wins. The score of our soccer game was 9 to 1. But one day the other team caught up. We had to win or else we wouldn't be the best in the world. I had to make the game-winning shot. Oh, no! I missed the shot. Our team was sad. All of my dog friends dragged themselves to get ice cream.

By Eliza, kindergarten, and her tutor
Once upon a time, Louise and Joan were sitting on the bus going to school. They jokingly stole their friend Maria's backpack. Maria cried. The teacher got mad, so they got a detention. They gave the backpack back to Maria.

By Marilu G., 3rd gr.
One day there was a cowboy at Lake Michigan. He was fishing. Then he fell in

the water, and he was there all night. He was lost, and then a boy came to fish. Then he found the cowboy, and they started fishing. They caught a fish. They went back home, and they ate the fish.

2

By Cindy A., 6th gr., and Rachel
One day, some fairies were bored and decided to go to play soccer in the playground field. While they are playing, the fairy's leader gets hurt and scrapes her knee. Since the leader was hurt, the other team had an opportunity to make a shot and beat the fairies, but then the fairies were trying to still win the game. Suddenly, the hurt fairy comes and helps the fairies' team, and then they make the winning shot. After one week, the hurt fairy recovered, and the fairies were proud that they made that winning shot.

By Nathan, 8th gr., and John
Matt and Jeff are kings of the jungle. There is a war going on deciding who gets to rule the whole jungle. In the year of 1914 Jeff was ruler of the jungle, but a bitter man named Matt came into the jungle country to take over. Since then it was been all-out war. Jeff had a secret plan to have one of his soldiers pose as one of Matt's men to steal Matt's secrets. As Jeff's spy goes up to Matt, Matt tells him the secret that he was planning an attack at midnight. With that, Matt's secret plan was discovered, and Jeff was able to protect his men from the surprise attack and win the war. The jungle was now under Jeff's peaceful rule. Matt was fed to lions. The jungle was then torn down by a paper company, and Jeff works at Starbucks.

By Zakiyya, 1st gr., and Ariana

Once upon a time, there was a princess named Sofie. She lived on the beach and she went to school. One day, she went to school and got in trouble by Ms. Larose. She was using her cellphone in class and texting her friends about plans.

By Jessica K., 1st gr.

Once upon a time, there was a superhero. One day she was playing basketball. Then her friend came into the court. The friend hit a basketball in the superhero's face. The superhero felt made. After that, the friend said, "sorry," to the superhero. Then they were friends and played basketball together.

By Jason R., 2nd gr., Apekshya, and Peyton

Janice and Sharon waited and thought about joining the army for a long time. They joined the army. Once they joined the army, they were sent to the battlefield. Janice told them the wrong way to go, so they got lost. Then they lost each other, too. They were all alone. But after a while they walked into each other again. They realized they were friends and made up. They were nice and kind and won the battle.

By Fidel V., 6th gr.

One day Mr. Ninja decided to try to get a job making birthday parties. He got a test to see if he was worthy to be hired by the Sensai. Because he was eager to get the job, he cheated on the test. When the Sensai found out, he didn't get the job. He then went home and cried buckets of tears. He then knew that he did the wrong thing. He went back and asked for another chance to do the test, and he got the job. Then he lived happily ever after.

By Ashley S., kindergarten

Bunny is hopping the in the garden. He is looking for food. Bunny was very hungry. Bunny ran into his friend. His friend was named Rosie. Rosie is a pretty white bunny. Rosie and bunny found food.

3

By Lexy V., 9th gr.

Once upon a time there was a dog named Bailey. He was walking around downtown and he saw his favorite restaurant. Once he got there, he ordered, and someone mistook him for a cat. "I'm not a cat," the dog said, and he saw his friends and went to sit with them. His friends asked him why they were calling him a cat. "I don't know. I think it's because of my new haircut. And because I am coming from a parade and I was a cat."

By Malik O., 1st gr. Jane and Jack go to the beach. Janet is sad. Jack helps Janet. Janet and Jack are best friends.

By Bianca V., kindergarten

The bear walked up to the school, and he walked to a class. He said, "Hello," to the teacher.

The teacher asked, "Are you a real bear?"

"Yes, I'm a real bear."

Then the bear ran out of the school and went home again, and they said, "Hello," to each other.

By Carlos C., 1st gr.

Rizzo gets on the bus. He plays on his PS4. Rizzo gets off the bus. He lost his PS4. Michael gets on the bus. Michael

finds the PS4. Michael sees Rizzo and gives him the PS4.

By Rachel F., 4 yrs., and her tutor
Once Cora, the ghost, found Pumpkin, the Lion. Then they were happy. Then they went to a party at the beach of Lake Michigan. They ate strawberries and bananas. They danced to music. They swam in the water and built sandcastles. Then they went home and went to sleep.

By Ria K., 5th gr.
Once upon a time a princess of the rainforest was invited to a birthday party in a Chucky Cheese at a faraway castle. She was having a great time with all of her friends. There was pizza, a petting zoo, and an arcade. But when she went to feed the goat in the petting zoo, he burped and lit her up on fire! To her misfortune, her beautiful ball gown burned up, so she dove into the water fountain. All her friends laughed at her soaked up, burned up outfit. To make matters worse, a photographer snapped it for the newspaper, and soon enough, everyone knew. She was furious! But out of nowhere, a poor zookeeper offers his help, and she takes it. Thankful for his kindness, they ended up getting married, becoming the happiest couple in the world.

Theme: Kindness goes a long way.

By Larry S., 5th gr.
One day there were these two best friends. They always helped each other. But the Flash always got hurt because "Harry" or "Harrison" stayed in Star Labs where they hear the Flash when he gets hurt or check his vitals. But then they found an evil speedster. They fought almost everywhere. The first place they

fought was in a football stadium, with the evil speedster "Rekt." The Flash got beaten so bad. The second fight was a tie because the evil speedster ran away when the Flash hit him hard. They fought in an alley. The third fight was by Star Labs when they found out the evil speedster was "Harry," but they also found out his real name was Eobard Thayne. Then they let him go, to go the future where he almost defeated the Flash. But then they lived happy.

4

By Ryan A., 3 yrs., and Emilia and Lindsey
The lion arrives at school to go to the party. He can't remember where the party is at school. Lion gets lost trying to find the room. He is worried and almost gives up, but he keeps trying. Eventually he hears a noise in the distance. He walks towards the noise. When Lion gets there, he sees the party. He joins all his friends and is very happy that he never gave up. Lion had the most fun time of his life, all thanks to never giving up.

By Michelle F., 3rd gr.
The bear and his friends were on the playground. Bear was telling his friends a secret. The secret was that Bear had a crush on his friend. Bear's other friend told the whole school the secret. After that, Bear told the whole school that it was just a joke, and everyone laughed at Bear's friend. Bear's friend learned that day to not tell anyone's secret because they could get laughed at by the school.

By Jacob H., 2nd gr.
One day there was one Jack the Superstar, the Brown Bear. He was

playing at the playground and another bear came along and told him a secret. No one knows what that secret was. The next day a different bear came along and Jack thought she was cute. His cheeks turned from black to pink, His pupils were hearts. She was cuter than ever. No girl he had ever seen was that cute. He wanted to tell her the secret, and he did. The bear that came before was so mad. She wanted to kill him. Did she? No! Jack said he was sorry 15 times.

By Alejandro S., 7th gr. A dog and his owner were playing fetch. The owner threw the ball in a rocket ship and hit the "on" button. The dog chases the man into the rocket ship. The rocket ship's doors start to close. Then the dog starts trying to get out but can't because the doors are locked.

The dog then hears a loud voice counting down, "10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1," and at the end, "Blast off." The dog is in outer space. The dog sees the planets and stars. The ship lands on Mars and right away the dog is scared and wants to go back home.

The dog tries to get out and the doors unlock, and the dog sees four aliens playing basketball. The dog sees one of the aliens jump from 11 feet away and dunk. The dog wants to try that too, so he starts barking at the aliens so they could let him play, too. The aliens ask the dog, "Do you want to play?" So then the dog stops barking and nods.

The dog's team is in a tie game with the other team. The dog is surprised. On Earth he walks on four paws. On Mars

he walks on two paws. The dog could dribble with the two front paws.

The game is tied. There are only 5 seconds left. The dog has the ball and needs to make the game winning shot. The alien passes the ball to the dog. The dog jumps to shoot the ball. The alien jumps to block the shot but isn't tall enough to block it. The dog shoots the ball and makes the game winning shot.

By Jeffrey V., 4th gr., and his tutor Once upon a time, Dale was sitting down with Carl at school. They were talking about playing with Carl's new dog, playing at the park with the dog, playing catch. They went to the store and got food for the dog, and they got something else for themselves to drink. They then went to the house to eat macaroni.

By Phyllis R., 5th gr. Barack Obama went to a country and there he saw his old first grade teacher as a soldier. Barack's teacher, Mrs. Lillypad, was in shock!, but she got over the fact he was there, so she told him, "Enjoy!"

"OK, Barack, watch this." Boom! The enemy's tank exploded. Barack looked at Mrs. Lillypad with a strong face.

Then Mrs. Lillypad said, "Well, I gotta do what I gotta do. I am still your teacher and you're my student! Don't give me that face again, young man. I don't have to listen to you. You look like a walking biscuit from Popeye's. That's it. DETENTION!"

By Ledi A., 5th gr. Once upon a time my family and I were planning a quiceañera. We were planning because my birthday was in 3

weeks. We were planning about the dress and the shoes and the surprise dance that I am going to do there. So we also were planning about the cake. So the color of my dress is mint color or an aqua color, for my shoes were going to be the color white with really pretty diamonds. They would shine. So we know where it was going to be. There were only two days until my quiceañera. I was really happy. We also decorated the banquet hall. It was a diagram of Paris, with the tower on top of the table. So it was the day. Finally, we went to get my dress and my shoes and we had the party. Then we remembered the crown. So my dad had to run to a nearby store and buy a crown. It was really pretty. 5

By Jasmine, a tutor

When I was 15 years old, my parents threw me a quiceañera. They bought all of the sweets, the dress, and the shoes (they were some real pretty shoes). My parents bought me the most BEAUTIFUL DRESS. I felt like a princess!! All of my friends and family came to dance, eat, and have a merry time at the Crowne Banquet in Chicago, IL, my hometown. The party was a lot of fun.

We came to the time where my mom and dad were going to crown me with the prettiest crown ever. The only problem with that was that they forgot to buy the crown. Luckily the store my crown was at was only 20 minutes away. My parents drove to buy the crown and all was okay. It was the best quiceañera ever!!

Phoebe Gets in Trouble!!

By Priscilla H., 6th gr.

One day, Phoebe Unicorn was going to the beach for school. And school was about to start. She plays with her friends and no one goes near her group because they were the “cool” group.

Once school had started Phoebe and her friends split to go to their different classes. She had math with Mr. Bright. Mr. Bright was not there yet, so she thought she would play some tricks on a classmate. But on her 3rd trick Mr. Bright came in. He saw what she was doing and sent her to the office.

Later, when Phoebe was at home, her mom came in and asked how school was and Phoebe said what she did. Then her mom said, “There is a time and place for everything.” So the next day Phoebe played no tricks, did nothing bad, and stayed after school to help the lunch ladies.

By Donovan F., 1st gr., and his tutor

Another person cheated on the math test. The teacher gave me a cardboard “office” so no one would look at my test. Somebody moved the office and then they peeked on my test. A ghost teleported in. The ghost peeked on my test again. The ghost started throwing my office away, and I said, “What in the world?” Then I realized the ghost was just a normal shadow. It wasn’t even a shadow, either. Then I realized it was a normal human. I realized it was just one of my friends. Then I went to McDonald’s by myself.

By Rodrigo A., 3rd gr.

Once upon a time there was a lion. He had his favorite shoes. And then he took them off and he left them in the house. Then he came back and said, “Where are my shoes?” Then he said, “Where

did I leave my shoes?” So the lion forgot where he left them. And then he asked his friends, the sharks. So the sharks helped the lion find his shoes, and the sharks found his favorite shoes. The lion thought that someone stole them.

By Baron F., 4 yrs., dictated to tutor
Jay decides to go to Bear’s cabin in the mountains. Bear wants to go to town. They walk down to town, and all of a sudden, Bear’s pants fall down! Oh-no! Everybody except Jay is laughing! Poor Bear! Bear runs away and Jay follows him. When he catches Bear, Bear is crying. Jay tells Bear not to cry. He didn’t laugh at Bear. Bear stopped crying, and they lived happily ever after.

6

By Laniya R., 6th gr.
One summer day there was a dog and a fish playing near a pond. The dog’s name was Tony, and the fish’s name was Michael. The dog and fish were going to be late for school, so the fish jumps on the dog’s back and they went to school. When the dog and fish went to school, the tiger told them that school was cancelled because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All 3 animals went back to the tiger’s house to play with his PS4. The dog and fish were playing the game, but the tiger wanted to play outside. The dog and fish kept playing the game and didn’t listen. The tiger felt betrayed and sad because the dog and fish didn’t want to play outside with him and just used him for his PS4. Tony and Michael realized that they betrayed their own friend. The dog and fish went outside to check on their friend, the

tiger. They realized that the tiger was sad. Instead of playing the game, the dog and fish played with the tiger. Once the dog and fish cheered him up, the tiger didn’t feel betrayed or used anymore. Moral: always appreciate your friends for who they are in the inside, or else they will feel sad.

By Dayveana B., 5th gr., and her tutor
There was a fairy named Tinker Bell. She was caught in a storm. She was twirling in the tornado on Planet Musically, when the Musically tornado caught Tinker Bell. The tornado started dancing. It flew her to Planet DABB!!! The tornado forced all the people to Dab, and if they do it wrong, they will have to defeat the lion.

7

By Eduardo F., 6th gr., and his tutor
Once upon a time, a lion named Max heard of a magical trident at the bottom of the ocean. He traveled from Madagascar to the Indian Ocean. There he finds a huge blue sea horse. Max was very scared, “Awwwwwh!”
But then the sea horse said, “Well, hi! I am Seaseidon. Nice to meet you.”
Max said, “Hi. I am here to find the trident of Poseidon to get water for Madagascar.”
Seaseidon said, “That is not good, just stealing a trident from the god of water, but I will help you. But you must promise me not to tell Poseidon that I helped you.”
Max said, “Okay.”
The sea horse took Max to the trident, but Max snatched it and took off.

Seaseidon cursed Max. “Whenever you touch water, you will feel a burn.”

Despite Seaseidon’s curse, Max went back home. When Max got back home he used the trident and water appeared. He was scared that the curse was true, so he touches the water and feels a burn.

He returns the trident and says, “Sorry,” to Seaseidon, and Max learns not to steal, and that stealing is bad.

By Michelle F., 3rd gr.

One day a dog owner went to Oliver garden to eat with his friend and dog. When he got to the restaurant, he told his friends he was the dog. The dog heard that, and he started to bark because he knew it wasn’t true. The people there said that if the dog didn’t stop barking, he will have to go. So the owner said he wasn’t the dog, and the dog stopped barking. Then they ate.

By Jorge G., 6th gr.

Suddenly, a ghost woke up and was scared. His mom came and calmed down her son. She said she wanted to take him somewhere, so the ghost got ready. They arrived. Then he went to the water and he didn’t feel anything, so the mom took him back home. He started acting bad and his mom got mad, so she decided to take him to school. The first day the ghost didn’t know what to do. The teacher started handing out a test. The ghost didn’t know what to do, so he started copying from a person. He got caught and got screamed at. The teacher tried to grab him, but her hand went through him. She fainted. The students didn’t know what to do. The ghost gave a tip, throwing her water. So

they did it. It worked. The teacher got surprised and stopped getting mad. She said, “Thanks. See you tomorrow.” The ghost felt scared and went home.

By Gregorio F., 6th gr.

Once there was a small cabin in the woods. A boy named James lived there alone. He didn’t really like to help people. He didn’t want people to be around him, because he was scared they would kill him. And one day the nightmare he had came to life and he died, by a man from the future ... James.

By Sabhya, 1st gr.

Once upon a time in Metropolis Jungle, Batman and Superman were playing X-Box. Wonderman broke the X-box, and killed Batman because he wanted to have the X-Box. Then Superman put Wonderman in jail with foxes, tigers, lions, zombies, ghosts, vampires, and Godzilla.

8

By Tyra R., 3rd gr.

Once upon a time Jalia was a Princess. Her birthday was today, so she had a lot of plans today. She was going to invite her friend over. Then her dad came. She was so mad. She said, “Dad, you are not invited!”

By Viridiana A., 3rd gr., and her tutor

One day, at Buttercup playground, Princess Belle was playing at the playground. She was having lots of fun until she got in the spray fountain. She got purple skin and pink spikes. She was in shock when her skin was another color. Her skin color was now orange with blue spikes. Then the rest of her

friends played in the water, and they got the same skin color as Belle. Belle and her friends made a warning sign and put tape over the water. The warning said, "Never go in the water again."

By Michelle F., 3rd gr.

One day George Washington and the bear were going to the forest. George put the money in the ground. Then the bear stole the money. But George Washington got the money by chasing him.

By Edgar M., 4th gr.

Frankenstein is ordering food. His pizza had pepperoni and fingers. "That's nasty," I said. But I took his order anyway. "I will have the sausage pizza," snarled the mad scientist. I went to get the pizza from the kitchen. So I got the pizza from the kitchen and gave him the pizza, and Frankenstein said, "Thank you." After I gave him the pizza, Frankenstein was at the table and was eating pizza. He said, "That pizza was good," and I said, "Good." So then I went to the kitchen because I wanted to get pizza because I was hungry.

By Layla S., 3rd gr.

Princess Isabel and Princess Amy were in a cabin in the mountains. While they were outside, Princess Amy fell down a hole. Amy asked Isabel to help her, but Isabel didn't want to because she was walking her dog. Amy felt disappointed and lonely. Once Isabel was done walking the dog she finally noticed Amy was in the hole. Isabel helped Amy out of the hole and said she was sorry to Amy. Amy was grateful that Isabel was sorry. Isabel learned to always help people when they are hurt.

By Berenice R., 3rd gr.

Once upon a time there were two girls named Nikki and Mackenzie. When they were playing, they started to fight. Both of them were fighting about a boy named Jack. Mrs. Lopez noticed they were fighting each other. After recess and lunch, Mrs. Lopez talked to Nikki and Mackenzie. Nikki liked Jack first, so Mrs. Lopez decided Nikki should be with him. Then, Mackenzie got mad and Nikki was happy. But Jack wanted to be with Mackenzie. Jack decided to tell Nikki he didn't like her. He wanted to be with Mackenzie. Jack went where Mackenzie was, and asked her if she wanted to be with him. Mackenzie told him yes, then Nikki got mad. Then Jack saw Mackenzie's real character and Jack decided to be with Nikki. But Nikki dumped Jack for another boy. Then Nikki's boyfriend dumped Jack in the trash. Then Mackenzie found Jack in the trash. Then Mackenzie said, "Were you going to break up with me?" Jack said, "No," and Mackenzie said, "Let's get you in the shower."

By Betania D., 6th gr.

Aliens!

Oprah went to a deserted island called Kalos. When Oprah got there, she met her friend, Olivia. Then Olivia said, "Hey! We should host a party!" Later, Oprah looked to the sky and said, "Hey, Olivia. What's that in the sky?" Olivia replied, "I don't know."

In the middle of the party, aliens attacked! The aliens made all the guests run away! The aliens were short, but there were hundreds of them, and they

all looked like green blobs! All of the guests said, "Oh no! What will we do?!"

So after a couple of minutes, Oprah and Olivia went running through the doors with all of their remaining food. Afterwards, Oprah said, "I'm not trying to fight!" Olivia commented, "This food is a peace offering. We want to make peace!" The aliens accepted the peace offering, and everyone had a party together! Sometimes your worst enemies can become your best friends!

By Marco O., 6th gr.

One day there were two guys named Edgar and Manuel who fought a lot. One day they went to a forest to fight, but in the middle of a fight a big storm hit, and Edgar and Manuel saw a tree house and ran in to take cover. The tree house was abandoned, but the lights still worked. While they were in the tree house Miguel and Edgar started talking, and they were getting a hang of it, and then they become friends, and by that time they knew the storm had past. Then they walked home.

9

By Reisha J., 4th gr.

The White Dress Problem

One day there was a fairy snow queen. It was her birthday, and her friends Amiya, Jenny, and Jennya were invited to her castle. It was a sleepover party. The snow queen wore a crown and a pretty white dress. They were all standing in line for food and punch when Amiya accidentally spilled punch on the snow queen's white dress. "My dress!" the snow queen exclaimed. Then the queen ran upstairs to her room and shut the door and cried, thinking Amiya did it on purpose. Then out

of nowhere, the queen stomped down the stairs and yelled at Amiya, "WHY DID YOU DO THAT? YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE!!! NOW LEAVE!!!" Amiya leaves sadly, thinking in her head "I didn't do it on purpose. Should I still give her the present? Yeah, I will." Meanwhile Jenny and Jennya are telling the queen to calm down, and Amiya didn't do it on purpose. Then they heard the doorbell ring. It took a minute for them to answer, so Amiya left, and no one but a present was at the door step. The queen took the present and opened it. "A NEW DRESS," she said happily, looking at the tag, seeing how gave it to her. "Amiya! I'm going to call her and apologize to her right now, and tell her to come back over to my castle." Ding, dong, the door went. "It must be Amiya," the queen happily said with a big smile on her face. "Amiya," hurrying to give her a hug. "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!" "No problem," said Amiya walking in. Then they all played and slept over.

By Carlos F., 5th gr. Michael and the Storm

(Michael Jordan, Messi, Romeo Santo)
One day Michael was training, playing basketball. Then after a while Messi came and challenged Michael. Then they were playing, and then Romeo came also and challenged them. They were playing hard and Michael was winning, but Romeo got up to him. Then something horrible happened. A strong storm came and water was everywhere. It was so hard that it took cars away. After a while lightning struck. After the storm, they decided to hang out and then because best friends.

By Frances L. C., 7th gr.

One day long ago, dragons roamed the earth, skies, and they once had ruled the ocean below. This story is about a dragon named Blue. He has beautiful blue scales, white markings, but he cannot fly. He was different from the other dragons. The others

could fly and breathe fire. This dragon instead could breathe underwater and use his wings to glide with the ocean currents. His name is Blue.

“Hey, Blue, are you going to the party?” one dragon said.

“Yeah,” Blue said.

“You coming to fly with us?” Blue’s friend Axel said. Blue looked at Axel dead in the eye. Axel stood there silently.

“Sorry,” Blue finally said. Then he continued to walk with Axel.

“I can carry you there,” he suggested.

“Thanks.” Axel held on tightly to Blue and started flying towards the cliff by the water. Dragons were jumping off the cliff and gliding. Other dragons wanted Blue to jump off, too. Blue walked over to the edge of the cliff. He looked and ran . . . But then he stopped.

“I’m sorry I can’t do it. I can’t fly,” he said.

“Hey. It’s okay. We’re all different,” one dragon said. Others agreed with him and nodded.

“It doesn’t matter if you have something unique.” Blue smiled. He ran and jumped off the cliff and landed in the water. He realized he was different, but in a good way.