

THE MYSTERIES OF HARRIS BURDICK-2

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING January 2014 Vol. 26 No. 2

Students looked at pictures by Chris Van Allsburg from the book The Mysteries of Harris Burdick. Here are the stories the students wrote after looking at the pictures.

THE HARP

“So it’s true, he thought, it’s really true.”



By Valeria, 5th grade, and her 8th grade tutor
Once upon a time, an angel by the name of Jenn, has disappeared. No one knew what happened. Seven brave girls decided to find the angel. The seven knew she was last seen playing her harp by the river. They started to look for her at the river. They found her harp and suspicious footprints of a man and a dog. They followed their footsteps all the way to a strange house. There was smoke coming from the chimney. Barbara suggests we go to the house. We all agree and barged into the house. Instead of knocking, we knocked down the door and looked around for the angel or the man and his dog. They found a glowing golden feather from the angel. There were four doors in the house. We broke up and explored. Then my group, Haley and I,

shouted out: “The dog is sleeping in here!” We can then guess that the owner will return. We all hide under the bed. A few minutes later we hear the door open. When Jake came in, we all jumped at him. Once we had him tied up, we questioned where he had Jenn, the angel.

By Josephine, 5th grade, and her 8th grade tutor

Once there was a guy named Harry, and he had a dog named Rock. Harry wanted to go to the store and took his dog with him. This other guy named Liam told Harry, “Did you know that no one goes to the forest because you hear music playing? For almost 25 years, no one went to the forest.” Rock was barking and barking. Harry was shocked about the story that Liam told them. Liam was laughing and said, “If you guys go there, you’re going to hear some music playing.”

Then Harry and Rock went to the forest to see who was laying the music. Harry was hiding behind the tree standing next to Rock. They couldn’t see because there was a lot of rocks and trees. Harry saw a river and Rock was about to fall down in the water. Harry stopped Rock from walking into the water. Then they heard the music playing. Harry told Rock to stay there. Harry was jumping on the rocks to see what it was. Rock was barking a lot, and he was going behind the trees. Finally Harry went to the rock that was laying the music.

Harry shouted, "Hey, Rock! It's a harp that was playing the music the whole day." Harry said, "It might be a magic harp because it was playing itself," he said. Harry took the harp home and he entered a music band so he could play harp. It was time for his band to play, but when he got the harp, it was playing itself, and he was pretending that he was playing the harp, but he was not playing it. When they were done all the people were clapping and they were happy. Harry went home and put his magic harp away. Then Harry and Rock went to sleep.

By Elizabeth, 9th grade, and her 8th grade tutor

Pablo went in the forest. He heard that there was a magical harp in there. He wanted to see it. Pablo decided to bring his dog, Goofy. They were both excited. They walked a long time, until they heard a sound. They ran to the sound. A harp was glowing and playing by itself. Pablo and Goofy saw rocks. The rocks were on the river. Pablo and Goofy crossed the river on the rocks. They were tired, but excited. They looked up. The harp disappeared. Even if the harp was gone, Pablo and Goofy had seen the harp. They told nobody.

By Jamila, 5th grade, and her 8th grade tutor

I was walking along the woods and I heard sounds coming from a tree. I was thinking about how it would have been living in the wild, so I wanted to take some pictures. Then I was walking and walking, and I saw this amazing view of trees, rocks, the sky, and this little instrument called the harp. I thought it looked like a unique thing to play. I walked over all the little rocks, and picked it up and started playing it. I thought it sounded very wonderful, so I decided to do a project on it. I called it "The Harp" because it was the only thing that stood out in the whole picture.

By Unique, 10th grade

Once upon a time on a beautiful June summer day, John and his dog Matt were taking a walk in the woods, and they soon came upon a wonderful lake with a little stream of a waterfall. The sun was nice and not beaming on something that looked like a mind "blowing" thing. John and his dog Matt began to walk toward that wonderful thing and saw that it was a *harp*. Matt, the dog, ran barking across the lake. John took the harp and sat upon the lake. He took off his shoes and let his feet dangle in the water. As John was sitting there he started to slowly strum the strings of the harp, and a beautiful melody flowed out that he fell in love with. John sat and played the day away with the harp, so he decided to take it home with him. The next day John took the harp into town so that everyone could see that amazing thing he had found. A man named Chris who happened to be in a band asked John where he found such a wonderful thing, so John and Chris talked about things, just to get to know each other better. Chris asked John if he would like to go take lessons on how to play the harp. John took lessons and is now a great harp player and teaches young children how to play.

By Sara, 1st grade Red was in a dark and scary forest, and he fell asleep. When he woke up, he saw the harp. He swims to the harp. The nice squirrel on the harp says, "Hi." Red is happy to see his friend Mulan the squirrel. So Red gets the harp and invites his friend to dinner.

By Precious, 3rd grade, and her 8th grade tutor
It was a jungle where kids were playing at the river. They were all throwing rocks into the water. However, one person was playing the harp. The children began to hear some interesting sounds. Each kid went to look for where the sounds came from. Little did they know it was one of them playing the harp. Suddenly, one by one each kid began to disappear. As the sun went down, the harp player started to play a unique song. The water flowed down the river as quiet as a ghost. Things began to happen making everything quiet and lonely. Night was upon them, and everything started to change. When midnight struck, no one was left except for the harp.

By Esthefany, 4th grade
James was looking for his harp. He was a nice young man with black hair and brown eyes. Then he lost his harp in the forest because he was in a hurry. He had a lot of important things he had to do. James had to buy food and write stories and write a song and then visit his mom. He realized that he left his harp in the forest. He needed his harp to write his song for his mom. Then he came back to get his harp. He found it and hugged it, and he was so happy that he found his harp.

By Essence, 4th grade
One day in a swamp there was a boy and a harp. He was the last boy alive, and the swamp was very lonely, dark, and scary. It was too hot to even move, so he stayed in one dark, scary spot. And it was dark and gloomy. It had tall trees and short rocks. The harp was haunted and killed the boy and dog.

By Kevin A., 8th grade
Bob was camping with his dog Slob. Suddenly he heard a sound coming from a nearby river. He told the dog to go see what it was. The dog kept barking. Then Bob went towards the dog to see what it was. Then he saw the harp. Bob has always heard legends about a magical harp playing in the forest, so then he said, "So it's true." He thought, "It's really true. The harp is real."

By Lexy, 5th grade and her 8th grade tutor
A man was playing the magical, beautiful harp in the forest. The beautiful music echoed as the man played the harp. He looked up and saw a shadow in the distance. Quickly he got up and ran away from the harp. Another man entered the scene, and he just caught someone running away. Music was coming from the harp far away. The little man saw birds flying in the magical forest. The little man ran away to tell his family. Then when everyone came, the harp was gone.

UNDER THE RUG

“Two weeks passed and it happened again.”



By Jovanny, 5th grade, and his 8th grade tutor David Smith was hard at work. He was just finishing his new story called *The Mystery of Fire*, when he heard his table moving back and forth. He got up to take a look, when he saw a weird bump under the rug. The bump was the size of a tennis ball, but it was growing quickly. This happened two weeks ago, but the tennis ball bump never grew before. The bump was now the size of a bowling ball. David picked up a chair. He swung down the chair with all his force. The chair broke. When he looked down, he saw nothing. The bump had completely disappeared.

By Osvaldo, 2nd grade

It was there since I was a kid. I didn't like it. It made funny noises. I hit the thing and it got mad. The ground shook, and I killed it. It exploded.

THE MYSTERY SOLVED, by Frankie, 3rd grade

Mr. Burdick lived alone in his little apartment. One very stormy day he heard a strange noise in the living room, so he took a chair and went to the living room. He saw something moving under the rug. It had moved slowly and knocked over the table, and Mr. Burdick became very frightened. He did not know what was under the rug, so he moved slowly to the thing and struck it very hard. No sound was heard. He tried again to hit the object, but nothing moved. So suddenly someone turned on the light and he discovered that it was nothing. It was his soccer ball.

By Fidel, 2nd grade, and his 8th grade tutor

John was sitting in his chair and watching TV. John saw a lump under the rug. He stood up and picked up the chair. John was mad that the lump had returned. He was about to hit the lump when he saw it run out from under the rug. He saw it was a mouse. John screamed at the mouse because he was scared. The mouse ran back outside the door. He never came back. John was very happy.

By Jeffrey, kindergarten, and his 8th grade tutor

One night, Mr. Harris came back from work. He was very tired. He went to sleep on the couch. Then he turned on the T.V. All of a sudden he saw something moving under the rug. He was so scared he called his mommy. But the thing was getting scarier. So he took his chair and hit the thing under the rug. The thing finally died.

By Sean, kindergarten, dictated to his 8th grade tutor

One day, a man saw a bump in the rug. The bump got bigger and bigger, like a watermelon. And suddenly he thought it was a big water balloon about to pop from under the rug, but then it was just a rock. The rock comes alive and starts breaking things. The rock starts to turn nicer and apologizes for breaking everything. He is now the man's pet rock. They live happily ever after.

By Enoch, 2nd grade, and his 8th grade tutor

Once upon a time, there was a funny man named James. He lived in a funny house. One night, he was watching TV, and he saw something under the rug. James was frightened. He thought it was a ghost that was coming to kill him! Then he jumped up from his chair, picked up the chair, and hit the ghost right in his face! Then the ghost tripped him. James fell down and started crying like a baby. Then his neighbors woke up, and they turned into ghosts! He started to fight the ghosts, but when he punched them, he heard a weird sound. The ghost that he punched turned back into a person. James started talking to him, and figured out that he was a very nice guy! Then, all of the other ghosts turned into different things. They were bananas and cheese and buttons and tables and teaspoons and chairs and Nintendo 3D's and Justin Bieber, and shoes, and teeth, and sinks, and boogers, and pencils. They all started chasing James! When James was running, he didn't see a stick on the ground, so he tripped and fell. Then the ghosts took him to the ghost world. There were 1,000 ghosts there! James started cooking for the ghosts, but when he was finished, he accidentally smashed the food in their faces! The ghosts forgave James, and he lived happily ever after in the ghost world.

By Josef, 2nd grade, and his 8th grade tutor

There was a dad who had three kids, and there is something under the rug. He thought it was an animal. Maybe a cat. It was a very mean tomcat, like from the show *Tom and Jerry*. Two weeks ago, the cat had come, and now it was back! Oh no! The dad tried to hurt the cat, but it has nine lives! Finally, the dad got a piece of fish and threw the fish outside. The cat left to get the fish, so the dad threw out many more fish! The cat stayed outside forever, and the kids are safe, but not the dad! The cat knocked over a lamp earlier, which burned the dad! Ow! Luckily, someone called the ambulance, and the dad was OK.

By Shannon, 1st grade He was sleeping in his chair. Suddenly a raccoon went under the rug. He picked up the chair and tried to hit the raccoon. The raccoon was scared and ran away.

By Robert J., 6th grade, and his 8th grade tutor

He heard something fall and he came out of his room to see what it was. He felt scared because it was something moving under the rug. He got the chair to knock it out first then see what it was. Then he got dressed up with protection, then lifted up the rug to see what it was. A possum was under the rug. He

screamed and ran and was hiding behind the couch. He left it there and then he was about to call the cops. Then the possum came back alive. He attacked the guy. The possum scratched up his face, but he had on a football helmet and he threw the possum off and ran and locked the door and called the cops. The cops came in and they tried to grab the possum. The possum scratched the cops and the cops called animal control. The animal control came and grabbed it, and the possum said, "Wait! I wanted to make a sandwich."

By Jaely, 5th grade

Max was coming to his home and started to read. While he was reading, he saw a big animal under the rug. Then Max got a chair almost to kill the animal. Then he put the chair away, and the animal came closer. So he cut the rug, and it was a big hamster, and it was from his grandniece's daughter. Max found her daughter and gave the hamster back to her.

By Kevin F., 4th grade, and his tutor

Two weeks passed, and it happened again. Herman's wife, Cindy, came back for revenge because he killed her by poisoning her coffee. He hid the body under the floor. His wife was going to haunt him, and scare him to death.

By Phyllis, 1st grade Once upon a time a man named Ben was sitting in a chair. He got up and saw something under the rug. He picked up the chair and got scared. He looked under the rug a tiny bit and saw a giant box of sugar, and suddenly he caught a turtle! "Got ya!" he said.

By Katie, 1st grade

There was a man who had a chair over his head. He saw something under his rug. He put his hand under it. He got it! It was a ball, his cat Kate's blue ball! He was relieved!

CHASING ZOMBIES, by Yan Myo, 4th grade, and his 8th grade tutor

Two weeks passed and it happened again. It was a walking, naked zombie, and it tried to chase the man. The man ran to a secret hideout, but the zombie found him. The zombie had X-ray vision. He was confused by the zombie following him. Maybe it was trying to eat him or poke his eyes out. The man tried to defend himself and grabbed a chair. Suddenly, another zombie came, a girl. The two zombies joined in and chased the man everywhere he went. Suddenly up came the sun. The zombie vision was off. It was hard for the zombie to see. The zombies went inside the house. The man went in, thinking the zombies were gone. He was happy. Then the zombies locked all the doors and started chasing him again.

Then suddenly his wife came in, and she tried to get a knife and tried to cut the zombies' heads. If she dared to cut their heads off, it will grow two heads. Then another zombie joined in and tried to chase them -- with three heads. Suddenly it was dark again. The man ran to the police station, which was 20-30 miles away. The zombies kept on following him. It was not fun. Then a new soldier zombie and general zombie tried to chase him, too, but he needed to run

20 miles to the police station. The man entered the station and said, "Help, help! There are zombies following me!"

The policeman said, "There is no such thing as zombies. Go away!"

Then he went to the lumberjack to see if they can help him, but it was 50 miles and 5,000 yards away. The man bought a motorcycle and then started to ride to the lumberjack. But when he got there, it was closed, and it said, "Monday to Friday, 9am-8pm," but it was 8:15pm. He was 15 min. late. Then he saw a sign that a magician can solve any problem, but it closed at 12pm. It was 80-100 miles away, but it was 11:30. He has 30 minutes to solve his problem. He needs to pay the magician 40 dollars to solve his problem. He was lucky because he had 45 dollars in his pocket. He said, "How can I solve my problem?"

The magician said, "It can only work tomorrow at midnight. Only at midnight sharp. Do it to one zombie, and they will be gone forever and the spell will be broken, and they will turn to normal people like you."

Then the next day he ran a lot of times, but they appeared only at dawn, and it was dawn, and the man tried to run for 18 hours, and he was more tired than any one was. The man was running, when all the zombies cornered him. He shot one, and the magician appeared and turned them back to real people.

By Kevin R., 4th grade

There once was a man that saw a big bump. He thought it was a little alien and he got a chair to hit it. When it hit it, it was like *RRRR! RRRR! RRRR!* and he hit it a little too hard so that the lamp fell down. Finally he took out the rug very carefully, and it was his dog! He was so happy, and a little scared, because he thought it was an alien. The dog was okay.

By Cherish, Kindergarten, and her tutor

There was an old man sitting in a chair listening to music. It was dark outside and he was alone. He opened up the door and the neighbor hears the music. When He closed the door, he heard barking in the living room. ...

By Jesus L., 3rd grade

A long time ago there was an old man. He was sitting in a chair. Then something appeared in the bottom of the rug. The man was scared and grabbed his chair and put the chair in the air. Then he smashed the chair to the rug, but the thing moved back and forth.

By Kevin F., 4th grade

Two weeks passed and it happened again. Herman's wife, Cindy, came back for revenge because he killed her by poisoning her coffee. He hid the body under the floor. His wife was going to haunt him, and scared him to death.

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By Anthony, 8th grade

In the picture I see a man with glasses in a suit lifting up a chair. I also see a lamp and a cabinet full of books. It looks as if the man is about to hit the lamp

with the chair. For some reason he looks like he's in a bad mood. There is a big bump in the middle of the carpet.

In the beginning of the day, the man woke up from bed and right away he knew that today was going to be a bad day. As he went to the bathroom to take a shower, he noticed something very strange. He noticed scratches on the wall. So he quietly got dressed and started searching his house to see if he could find anything like an animal or any sort of rodent. As he was walking towards the living room, he saw something under the rug. The rodent was very big and fast. So then after a while the man decides to get a chair and start striking the animal until the animal goes unconscious.

By Brian, 2nd grade

The man notices there is something under the rug. He grabs a chair and throws the chair. When he grabs the rug and pulls the rug up, he saw it was a mouse. Then the man said, "Wow!"

By Alejandro, 3rd grade

John is mad because the ghost appeared under the rug. John wants to throw the chair at him. John is not going to throw the chair. Bark! John hears his dog under the rug and puts the chair down. John's dog comes out.

ARCHIE SMITH, BOY WONDER

A tiny voice asked, "Is he the one?"



By Jose, 5th grade,

There are two friendly ghosts in a good child's house. One of the ghosts says, "Is he the one?"

The child woke up and saw the ghosts. He freaked out and called, "Mama!"

Then the ghost said, "Are you the one?"

The good child said, "Grandpa?"

The ghost said, "Yes, I'm your grandpa. I was going to the airport, and I crashed with the bus and the bus threw me into Lake Michigan, and I died."

By Roberto S., 5th grade

Once there was a kid that played baseball whose name was Archie Smith. He was playing a baseball game and he was the catcher. Then the batter hit the catcher by accident. And the catcher broke his arm. Then he had to go home and take a rest. And also he had to stop playing baseball for a while. His parents called Dr. Gordon to check him out. Then the doctor said, "Is he the one?"

By Judit, 6th grade

There once was a boy named Archie Smith. People called him Boy Wonder because he was really good at cartoons. Maybe I should say that he was better than adults, maybe even the best in the world. One day Archie started drawing. He drew and drew for hours. He made enough drawings to fill a whole book. Finally he fell asleep.

While he slept something strange happened. A tiny voice asked, "Is he the one?" It was a fairy, a little one not bigger than a golf ball. Then the fairy flew in and hid somewhere where Archie couldn't see. The next day Archie woke up.

He saw something move. The fairy popped out, and Archie screamed and said, "Who are you?"

The fairy answered, "I'm a fairy and my name is Michelle." Archie said, "What do you want?"

Michelle replied, "I want you to make a book all about me, and not you!"

"Why?" said Archie.

"Because I would like to be famous," said Michelle excited. Archie wrote and wrote all about her.

By Nathan, 4th grade

Once upon a time there was a boy named Dan Paul who was on a basketball team named Nathan's. He won a game against the bulls. The score was 51-48. The boy was playing center. He scored 23 points. There was a celebration. A tiny voice said, "Is he the one?" because he was really good. He was as good as Michael Jordan.

By Giselle, 2nd grade, and her 8th grade tutor

One day, Archie had pizza, cake, and water for dinner. He finished his dinner, so he went to bed. He dreamed that he had a magic boat which gave him magical powers. That night, he flew outside in his boat. He wanted to find gold in a beautiful treasure chest. He saw gold lights in the sky. The lights took him to outer space to find the treasure on Planet Star. Archie saw the beautiful gold treasure, but there was an alien who wouldn't let Archie take the treasure. Archie had a yoyo in his pocket and he traded it for the gold. The alien was so happy – he had always wanted a yoyo! Archie went back to his boat and flew back home to go to sleep. The next morning, he shared the treasure with everyone in the town. Everyone lived happily ever after with the treasure because they could use it and the children could play with it.

By Damarian Miller and his 8th grade tutor

Once there was a giant who summoned a glowing light that could talk. The giant said, "Find the chosen boy for me." So then the light went off to find the chosen boy.

The light searched every house, every town, every city and every state. The light went back to the giant, with no boy. The giant was furious. "Why haven't you brought the boy?"

The light called his brother and said, "Can you help me find the chosen one?"

They both set off to find the chosen one. They searched all over the world. They finally found him in his bed. They asked each other, "Is he the one?"

They bring the boy back to the giant. The giant said, "This must be the one. He is glowing."

By Armando, 6th grade,

There was a boy named Archie Smith. Archie got tucked into bed by his mother. Then he was asleep. He was dreaming someone took him. It was so dark he was crying. He wanted to leave the dark place. Then he went home. He was so happy to see his mom. He was afraid to sleep by himself.

By Celeste, 3rd grade

Once there was a boy sleeping. Then some little lights came in his room in the night. They were going straight to the boy. In the day the boy was taken to another place by the lights. They were little animals. When his mom went to his bedroom she screamed. She went to call the rescue department.

The rescue department came quickly over to the house and asked, "What's the problem?"

The mom said, "My little boy is gone. I don't know where he is."

The rescue department looked in every city, every state, and country. Finally they found him in Africa and killed every light. They took him in a helicopter and brought him to his mom.

His mom asked, "Where were you?"

He said, "A little creature that had light took me to Africa." They said, "We killed all of the little creatures."

Then the boy said something else. "I heard a little noise. It said, 'Is he the one?' I don't know what he's talking about."

But he didn't care about that. He just wanted to be home.

By Josef, 2nd grade, and his 8th grade tutor

Someone said, "Yes he is the one."

The boy sleeping was tired and alone in the house. Then his little brother came in and asked, "Can I sleep with you?"

The big brother awoke and said, "Yes."

Then they both heard a very small voice coming from the desk drawer. When they opened the desk drawer, a small superman hero popped out and said, "Hi, I'm superman." The he jumped so high he hit the ceiling and broke a light. The boys helped Superman up and saw him pick up the rest of the pieces that fell apart.

By Jennifer R. , 4th grade,

One day, Axel caused an argument with the aliens by going to space. When Axel had a rocket for Christmas and the aliens were scared by the rocket, and that night the aliens visited Axel because they wanted to discuss what he did, so they came into his room. By talking to Axel, they solved their problems.

By Aaron, 2nd grade, and his 8th grade tutor

“Is he the one?” the fairy asked the other fairy. “Is he the one that we should make magical?”

“Yes, he is. Let’s wake him up.” The two fairies wake up Aaron, the Boy Wonder.

“Wake up.” Aaron wakes up, very confused. He trembles, very scared of the fairies.

“Come outside, Aaron. We’re going to give you magical powers.” Aaron faints.

“Are you sure he’s the one?” one of the fairies asked.

“Of course. He’s just a little scared.” Aaron wakes up again.

“Am I dreaming?” Aaron asks.

“No,” one fairy says. “You’re not dreaming. We’re here, Aaron, to give you magical powers.”

“Magical powers. Which ones?” Aaron asked

“We’re going to give you the force.”

“The force? Cool. Can I fly, too?” Aaron asks.

“Yes, of course. I must warn you. Bad guys who took over our kingdom of fairies are coming here. You must save us Aaron,” the fairies say.

Suddenly Aaron gets the power of the force and can fly. Also, he can disappear and walk through walls.

All of a sudden, evil fairies appear to attack Aaron. Aaron uses his awesome force and flying to battle the evil fairies. He flies around, knocking out evil fairies with his force left and right. After he had defeated all the fairies, he called the police to arrest them.

Aaron walks through his bedroom wall, and he is suddenly in the Magical Fairy Kingdom. The two fairies appear next to him.

“As you can see, the Evil Fairy King made this place creepy and sad, when it was once beautiful. Aaron, Boy Wonder, get us our kingdom back.”

“OK. I will go defeat the Evil Fairy King at once.” The fairies snap their fingers and suddenly Aaron disappears, then appears at the Evil Fairy King’s palace. There are a lot of guards guarding the palace, but Aaron turns invisible so they can’t see him. Then he pretends he’s a ghost.

“Ooooooh.” The fairy guards, not the brightest, are so scared, they run away. Then Aaron sneaks into the Evil Fairy King’s throne room.

“What are you doing here, Aaron?” the Evil Fairy King asks.

“I’ve come to win back the kingdom. I challenge you to a race. The first one to get back to my house wins the Kingdom. The loser gets banished from the kingdom forever.”

“Deal,” the Evil Fairy King says. The race begins. For much of the way, the Evil King is winning. They are nearly back to Aaron’s house, when Aaron uses his force to block the Fairy King. Aaron wins the race and gives the kingdom back to the good fairies.

Archie’s Dream, by Hashon, 6th grade

It’s a boy in his room, and his name is Archie. Before he was sleeping, he was looking at the sky, then he went to bed and was dreaming, and he was a million

years old. He was buying stuff, like shoes, clothes, stuff he did not need. But he did not pay his bills, so he was also having a nightmare when he woke up.

By Edgar, 8th gr.

Peter was a good student. He did all his homework and work. Peter was in 7th grade now. New students were in his class, but there was this one student who was going to bother Peter until they graduated. Peter came to school the next day, but the name of the bully was Matt. Peter got to class and Matt told Peter to tell him the answers of the homework. Peter told Matt that was cheating, and Matt said, "I don't care, but give me the answers or after school I am going to beat you up." That night Peter could not sleep. Peter was scared of him, but what Peter did was pray so he can be okay, and that night his prayer made God to let two angels go and protect him.

Seven months later ... Matt was kicked out of the school for bully Peter, but Peter knew that God helped him out

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By Daniel N., 5th gr.

There once was an alien named Glurb. He was an alien. He lived in planet Glurb. He was driving his ship. Then Boom! He crashed. He tried to call his mom, but there was no such thing as phones in planet Glurb. He ran to Campbell Street. He was caught. Everyone screamed, and he yelled so loud he turned to ash!

By Brayant, 8th gr.

There is a boy, and his name is Max, and he was sleeping in bed. He was dreaming about becoming the best baseball player. Earlier today there was another kid named Larry who saw Max play so well at the baseball game. Larry found out that Max was his neighbor. The next day Max and Larry went outside of their houses at the same time. Larry told Max he played well yesterday at the baseball game.

Max said, "Thanks."

Larry asked Max, "Do you want to play baseball tonight?"

Max said, "Sure." So Max and Larry played at the park with two of Max's friends.

It was getting night. Larry and Max were walking across the street, and a car was going so fast that Max dropped his bat, and the car broke the bat.

So then Max said, "That was a close one."

Larry said, "I know... Well, see you tomorrow."

Max ran home. Larry saw the broken bat. So Larry got his old bat and went to Max's house. Max went to bed and he forgot to close the window. So Larry saw the window open. He climbed a tree and left the bat near the window inside Max's room.

By Mario, 8th gr.

This picture is about a boy and his dreams. I see a boat, yo-yo, and baseball bat in his bedroom. Some shiny bubbles are getting in the window. A tiny voice is asking if the boy is the one about something in the future. In his future he might be a sailor, a yo-yo artist, or a baseball player. The boy wonders if a big monster would take him or chase him.

The shiny bubble might be a monster. Maybe the monster would take him or chase him. An alien might come in through the window. There are five shiny bubbles. Three of them are small, and two of them are big. They might be monsters.

The boy might be scared because someone or something is scaring him and planning to take him. It might be an angel, or monster, or a person. Someone is protecting him in the darkness.

By Darius, 6th grade

Archie Smith was getting ready for bed. He threw on his pajamas and brushed his teeth. He jumped into bed, closed his eyes and dreamed.

Archie was at home plate, holding the bat. The pitcher was ready to throw.

"Here comes the pitch," the announcer said.

Voom! The ball was pitched at 98 mph. BAM! He swung hard and hit the ball! "Long down, extra far, it's a HOME RUN! Smith has his record-breaking 101st home run in the season!"

Yaawwn... "Archie, time for school!" his mom called. "Get your breakfast!"

"Okay..." he called. He grabbed his bookbag, caught his breakfast in a bag, and took the school bus.

UNINVITED GUESTS



"His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn."

By Jonathan E., 7th grade, and his 8th grade tutor

One day, two brothers wanted to go ice skating, but one of them couldn't find his other skate. So he, Sam, decided to look in the basement. As Sam walked down the stairs, he found his missing skate and also noticed a small door in the wall. Sam was surprised and also curious. He decided to open the door and see what was inside.→

When he opened it, he saw a mystical, magical garden. In the garden, Sam saw dwarves, unicorns, and other creatures.

One of the dwarves, named Sylvester, said to Sam, "You are not allowed in here. You must leave at once!"

After hearing one of the dwarves speak, Sam fainted. A couple hours later Sam woke up in his bed. Sam didn't know whether he was dreaming or if what he saw and heard was real. Sam went back into the basement, and there was no door there. He felt better that none of that was real. Sam went back upstairs, but then suddenly saw Sylvester running through the house.

Sam said to himself, "O gosh, that was real! I have a dwarf problem."

By Kallieo, 8th grade

"This is the last time I say yes to your ideas. Next time we are going to talk about it, but first, how you going to get us out of here? I'm scared," Brian said.

The boys are pacing by the stairs in the dark and drafty basement with a messy floor. The only sunlight that shines through is the light coming from the window next to the stairs.

"Dude, I know I'm. I'm scared, too. Those bullies chased us in the house in the first place, and you are always rushing me, too," Kevin said. "Let's just find a way out of here."

The boys look around and see a little wooden door with a black handle.

They quickly discussed their options and got to work.

First, they got the rug and unrolled it. Then the boys got some paint on the stairs and got ready for the bullies to kick the door open, saying, "You will never get us!"

The bullies finally kick down the door and rush at the boys, and then they slip on the paint, and the boys quickly wrap one of the bullies up and run up the stairs, and the other bully goes around and says, "You're dead."

So the boys run up the stairs and into the other room, and Joseph says, "Jump out the window. We will be okay." So he goes first, and the boys follow, and so the three boys get out Scott-free.

By Edwin, 2nd grade

Once upon a time there was a man. His heart was pounding because he was sure that he had seen the doorknob turn. Then he saw an ice skate, a rug, and a lot of food. Then he opens the door and he saw a lot of branches because a man was cutting the trees. When he saw the man, he went back to the house and shut the door, and he went back to his room to sleep so he could see the man that was cutting the trees. When he woke up he said, "It is a dream." When he stood up, he saw a man cutting the trees, and he said, "My dream came true." Also, he saw a lot of branches on the floor, but he was not afraid of the man.

By Kevin E., 1st grade, and his 8th grade tutor

Little Person wanted to use Big Person's skate to go sledding. Meanwhile Big Person was looking for his skate. He could find only one. Little Person had taken Big Person's skate to go sledding without asking. Big Person was mad because Little Person hadn't asked to take the skate. He went in Little Person's room and took all his stuff. Little Person was mad.

Little Person went up to Big Person's room and asked for his stuff back. "I'm sorry," said Big Person. "I felt bad when you took my stuff without asking."

“I’m sorry,” said Little Person. “I shouldn’t have taken you’re stuff. I should ask next time.” They lived happily ever after.

By Nathan, 4th grade

Steve was having a party. Then he went into the garage to get some supplies for his party. Then his heart was pounding because he thought he saw the doorknob turn. He thought more people were uninvited guests to his party. He ended the party. He took his friends out for pizza.

By Keydy, 3rd grade Diego went to the park. He saw the home and went in because he was hungry. He got lost. He found sandwiches and milk. He went upstairs and he got scared. He knocked on the little door. The door knob turned by itself. His brother was at the door.

By Saralyn, 2nd grade, and her 8th grade tutor

His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn. The small door in the corner had been opening and closing that week, but nobody was every seen. As the door slowly creaked open, he finally saw a face, or a couple of faces. But as he slowly realized, the faces weren’t those of humans, but of dogs. The dogs started barking like crazy, but when they saw him the quieted, for he was greatly feared. He had been living alone and that’s why people were scared, they didn’t know him. He stepped towards the dogs and then kneeled. As the dogs cautiously moved towards him, he reached out a hand and began to pet them. As they began to get comfortable with him, they all became best friends. The dogs guided the man out of his cottage, and he lived with many people. He was never lonely again.

By Yan Myo, 4th grade, and his 8th grade tutor

His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn. Then he tried to hide but.... There was too much stuff because he was too big. So he used his magic potion and turned invisible. And then the door opened. It was the mayor of the town village. He was hiding from the mayor because he forgot to pay his bills. He needs to stay camouflaged because he is the thief of the village. And he’s rich. And he needs to go to the airport so he can go to Monsterville. Wherever he goes he needs lots of potion because the monsters only accept monsters. And people from Peopleville don’t like monsters. And he did it again! He stopped something from the Monster Mayor. The monster was angry, so he said to the monster guards, “Go to the airport and guard it so the thief cannot escape!”

So the thief uses speed potion and he uses it to get to the airport fast. He was early, and then the guards came. They think they made it in time, but they were too late. They didn’t check the basement, but that was where the thief was hiding. The guards tell the airplane to go to Zombieville. And then the thief did it again and again, and he blamed a homeless zombie for the crime. And then they check the cameras to find out who did it, so they saw Jason stealing all the money in Zombieville. The thief was Jason! They told the zombie airplane to check every part of the airplane until the guards come. So when the guards came

and the airplane guard came down, he drove to Alienville, to his home, and they went to paradise and they were rich.

By Leoncio, 6th grade This basement looks like somewhere to work or someone weird lives there. The paint on the top looks like someone uses that to paint a picture. The things in there must be the stuff to work on something. The little door must be where the mouse lives. The stuff that might be inside is a mouse mansion. The mouse is welcome there to eat and wash himself (ONLY). That's everything that's in that door.

One day there was something weird happening in a person's basement. Something kept making a noise in there. When the person left the next day, some of his stuff was missing. There were mice inside behind that weird door. Each day they stole stuff from the house owner. They used that stuff to paint because the mice loved to paint. Inside the door was a nice and awesome mouse mansion.

When a couple years passed the mice were not lucky anymore. They weren't lucky when the day came that the house owner had the time when the mice began stealing. He caught them and the mice quickly ran in. The owner instead of being mad at them, he was happy. He looked at their mansion. He made a deal with them. He said he will give them all his painting stuff if they let him play with them there. The mice said, "Yes!"

By David R., 9th grade

It was a snowy afternoon and Bob wanted to go ice skating and get out of the house to do something that was active. He gets ready to go ice skating. He thought that he had seen the doorknob turn. His heart began to be pounding. He stands there silent and hears some noise behind the door.

Bob walks slowly to the door and the noise begins again. He starts walking again and goes up to the ice skates, and the door began to open slowly. The door opens and a mouse comes out quickly, and "Boom," the door shuts again. Bob looks at the mouse while it's running away. Bob is scared to know what's behind that door. And again the door began to open and Bob was getting scared. He didn't want to turn around. Bob decides to turn around. He sees the door open. While he is standing there, he is afraid something is going to come out. And then he sees a hand, then a person comes out. And Bob was so scared that he ran away, when his mom comes out of the closet. And she tries to run after the mouse, when she hears Bob running away.

By Luz, 1st gr., and her 8th grade tutor Once upon a time, there was a ghost in a spider web. It went to a haunted house. Inside the house was a girl. She was scared. She was crying for her mom. She heard noises. Then she goes to her house and she wanted her mom and day.

By Unique, 10th grade

There is a stairway down into a basement that is showing a small closet-looking door that is small. The door looks like it's only big enough for a small preschooler or animal, and as you are looking at it, it looks like it's opening slowly.

As the door opened, there was a little mouse that came out from the door, and he said, "Hi. My name is Little Bill," with a big smile on his face, and he asked for my name. For a second, I was nervous because first I saw this tiny door with such a tiny animal walking out talking.

I asked the mouse how he knew how to talk and where he was from.

The little mouse said, "I'm from my mother."

Then I said, "No, like what planet or world are you from?" The little mouse said, "Oh, I'm from Planet Dream. I fell out of the sky and worked my way around town, and found myself liking it here. I first found your house and built my little home in your home. I never knew you or anyone would find my house. I tried to be quiet and keep low, so I could stay longer." ...

A STRANGE DAY IN JULY

He threw with all his might, but the third stone came skipping back.



By Melissa, 5th grade, and her 8th grade tutor
One night in July, there were two children. One was a girl, and one was a boy. They were at the ocean, and the boy got a rock and he threw it into the ocean. Then he threw a second and third rock. The third stone came skipping back.

The rock came back because the ocean was magical. The boy and the girl didn't know that the ocean was magical. Finally the two kids noticed the ocean was magic.

There were many waves in the ocean. The boy and the girl saw a witch under the ocean. She was looking at them. the boy and the girl were so scared. The children thought that the witch was going to do something to them. They ran away because they were so scared. The witch wanted to take the two

children. The witch looked mean. The witch was mean because she told them that she wants to kill them and the witch yelled at them. The witch took them in the ocean and they wee never seen again.

A STRANGE DAY IN JULY, by Diocelyn, 3rd grade, and her 8th grade tutor
The boy and the girl woke up. Then they went to the beach. They were throwing rocks. They were sitting on a big rock. They saw the sprinkles in the water. The girl was wearing a pretty dress. The boy and girl were next to the grass. The boy was stepping on the rocks.

By Jaritzi, 5th grade, and her 8th grade tutor

Once upon a time a boy and a girl were at the bridge seeing the waves in the water. They saw other rocks and then they started throwing them until the third rock came back. They were freaking out, so the little girl stands up and runs away. The boy just keeps throwing the rocks because he made a wish on the rock.

His wish was to see his mom and dad. Then he threw the rock again, but it comes back again. He throws the rock for a third time, and it finally did not come back. The rock floats on top of the water until they saw that it was a bomb. The bomb explodes and the boy gets really hurt. Then the little girl comes back to help him. He went to the hospital quickly, but his grandma noticed that the little boy wasn't really hurt.

They were both okay, but they never went back to the bridge again.

By Sheily, kindergarten, and her 8th grade tutor

Sheila and David were at a party. After the party, they went to the pond. They began to play with rocks. The rocks were flat and they were skipping them in the pond. Sheila and David were cousins that loved playing together. The two continued to play at the pond all night under the twinkling stars.

By Lucia, 2nd grade, and her 8th grade tutor

Once upon a time a boy and a girl went out to play by the water. They threw pebbles into the water. Then the boy threw one and it skipped back to him. The pebble was magical!

"Hey! That's not funny! Who threw that?" said the boy.

"No one, it came by itself!" said the girl.

The girl grabbed the pebble out of the boy's hand. She squeezed the pebble until it disappeared. The girl became a princess. She then saw a pumpkin and turned it into Cinderella's carriage, with two white horses and a driver. The girl took the boy's hand and turned him into a prince. The two ran to the carriage and rode off into the sunset.

By Aniya, 4th grade, and her 8th grade tutor

Sam and Julie were walking to Lake Michigan, and when they were there, they found a rock. Then they started throwing rocks into the lake. They were having fun, so the rocks started skipping back. They saw fishes and stones in the water. Later they went home for lunch. After they had lunch, they went for a walk in the park. While they were at the park, they saw a pond with frogs. Sam tried to catch a frog. Then Julie had pushed Sam in the pond. Sam got out, and they when to home to clean up. He found a frog in his pants. Finally, they stayed home for dinner.

By Hashon, 6th grade,

Donald and Donna, they were trying to skim rocks in the water. But they had one problem. They did not know how. So they tried and tried to skim rocks, but they

could not. So they saw down and thought of a solution, and they threw the rock hard, and it worked. So now they knew how to skim rocks.

By Itzel, 1st grade I see a boy and a girl at the beach. The boy and a girl are throwing rocks in the water. After he threw a stone, it skipped back to him.

By Rosalinda, 5th grade, and her 8th grade tutor Lucy and Jack were throwing rocks into the water. After that, they went to a wedding. They were feeling happy. They had a fun day!

By Sheila, 7th grade, and her 8th grade tutor
Two kids were at an adult party that was happening because of their dad's work. They went through the back door and to the sparkling lake. Josh picked up a rock and tried to skip it. He threw with all his might, but the third stone came skipping back. They were shocked. Maria took a stick and started to draw a puppy in the sand. Josh drew a "friendly snake." As the water washed over their drawings, they noticed something rather peculiar. The pictures came to life. The lake must have been magical.

By Esthefany, 4th grade, and her 8th grade tutor
James and Amber are brother and sister. This evening their family is having a fancy party. James and Amber left because they were bored. They went to the beach because James wanted to skip rocks and Amber wanted to sit and watch him. The rocks James threw came right back at him. He threw one more rock. After he throws the rock, his mom calls them back to the party.

The mermaid, who was throwing the rocks that landed near her, heard the kids' mom calling. She peeked her head out of the water and saw two friendly kids. She swam over and started talking to them. People from the party came down to see who the kids were talking to.

"Is that a mermaid?" one man said.

"Yes," said Amber and James.

The man tried to capture the mermaid.

"Don't try to catch her!" the kids said angrily. "She is our friend, and if you catch her she won't be able to see her family!"

The mermaid was mad at the man for trying to catch her. However, she liked the kids. So she swam away, but not forever.

By Yohana, 3rd grade

The first time he threw a rock, then the third one came back. Next he threw more. They came back, but they were not magic, but at last he knew that it was a fish or a whale.

By Dayveana, 1st grade, and her 8th grade tutor

They are throwing rocks in the water. Jack and Chloe are brother and sister. They are six and eight years old. They're talking about water. They see fish

swimming around in the water. They are feeding the fish. It was a fun day for Jack and Chloe.

By Freya (K) and her 8th grade tutor

The boy and the girl looked out at the water, and it all disappeared. "Oh well," said the girl. "I guess it's empty." They both walked home.

The Magic Unicorn, by Cindy, 2nd grade, and her 8th grade tutor

A boy and girl went to the beach. They are brother and sister. They wondered what was past the horizon. The brother began to swim very, very far. The sister wonders what he's doing. The brother sees a unicorn at the horizon. The sister swims after him, and they live happily ever after with the unicorn.

By Maria, 1st grade, and her 8th grade tutor

One day Jack and Rose were picking rocks. They threw some rocks on the water. The water was shiny. Jack sees a fish and Rose wants to catch the fish, wants to feed the fish. Then they went home.

THE SEVEN CHAIRS



The fifth one ended up in France.

By Fernando, 5th grade

Emily ran into the church because Finn and Roger found out Emily was a witch. Finn and Roger captured Emily so she wouldn't destroy the French town. Emily combined seven chairs into one magic chair and Emily sat on the magic chair and started floating and put a force field so Finn and Roger couldn't get in. What Emily didn't know is that Finn and Roger put a trap in the ceiling. Finn and Roger pulled the rope. As the rope was pulled, rocks fell and hit Emily in the head and she fell from the magic chair and lost her memory. When Emily got up, she forgot who she was, but Finn and Roger told her that she was a nice witch sent to protect the French town. The town was finally

protected by Emily. Emily didn't destroy the French town.

By Fatima, 5th grade

I walked into the building. When I saw the chair in the middle of the room, I was confused. I walked over to it and sat down. The chair flew. I was scared when the chair flew. The two men came into the room. No one said anything. It was very quiet. The chair flew all over the room. I was screaming. The chair calmed down, then went back to where it was. I talked to the man. They said they had nothing to do with it.

I said, "Why did the chair go crazy?" They said, "The chair is magical."
I was surprised, because I had never seen that before. I went home.

By Sbhat, 12th grade

Once upon a time there were seven chairs at one church. Seven nuns were sitting on them. They had a mission and it was to praise God. God gave them a miracle that showed them how to sit in their chairs. They all flew out to different places. One ended up on France. And the priests there saw the miracle. It strengthened their faith, and they all began teaching about Jesus.

By Cinthia, 5th grade

Once upon a time there lived a beautiful princess. And she had a magic chair, but the only way it worked was if she made a poem that rhymes. But one time she tried the chair without the poem and rhyme, but it didn't work. Then she tried it with the poem and rhyme, but this time she sat on the chair and it worked. It made the chair go up. And that wasn't the only thing it did. It can take her to places, fly around. Once she landed, she looked around. At first she thought she was at home, but she wasn't. She was in a fancy world. She tried to go home, but she realized she lost her powers, so she had to spend the rest of her life in the fancy world.

By Ana, 5th grade

Once upon a time there lived two old men, and they took care of a queen. They took care of her because they wanted her safe. And she had a magical chair. She gave the chair some of her dust. The dust is dust from a fairy, and the fairy sent it to her in a little bag. That is how the queen made the chair fly up.

By Yan Myo and his 8th grade tutor

The fifth one ended up in France. It managed to float in midair, with no hooks or strings attached. The ghost of the chairs appeared again. It caught a woman. Most were afraid of the chairs, but this woman was only intrigued. They were surprised and they called the police. The police could not explain the chairs, so they called the government.

By Leslie, 11th grade

One day in the church of Massachusetts, which had previously been a cemetery, strange things started happening. Windows started opening at night, knocks were heard, and stairs creaked. The next day, one of the nuns woke up in a chair. But it wasn't a normal chair, it was levitating. The nun was crying for help, and two men came up to help. But sadly, it didn't work.

By Summone, 7th grade

Once there was a magical nun who was part of a famous circus. After years in the circus she became tired of sleeping next to a tiger cage every night, so she became a nun. She decided she wanted to become closer to God.

As years and years passed, she noticed that she missed magic. One day she gathered things that she needed to practice her magic. She decided to do her magic trick in the church because she thought it would be a good way to worship God. Her most favorite famous trick was the floating chair.

She sat in the chair. She clapped two times and the chair started to rise. A few hours later she began to fall asleep. Two guys started to walk past and decided to stop and look at the church. A few minutes later they saw a lady floating in a brown chair. They were so fascinated by a floating chair so they decided to stay and watch. Before he tried to stop himself one of the men sneezed. The nun woke up and clapped two times. The chair began to get lower and lower. She started to greet her guests. They started to ask many questions. "How does the trick work? Why did you clap two times? How come it's so dark in here?" The nun started to stall.

As the nun was stalling, one of the men started to creep around the walls in the church. He found ropes and chairs behind a wall. He called his friend to look. His friend ran over and saw the ropes and chair. They turned around quickly and glanced at her. Just then she clapped two times and disappeared! She was never seen again.