

Northwood School Literary Magazine 2021-22



Cover Art by Emma Mayo

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Art by Maeve McGrail

Boats

By Colton Warren

Boats are fun in the summer
Water splashes up all around
Floating on the water
Lakes or oceans
Jump in and go for a swim
I like boats.



Art by Hope Winslow

Unicorns

By Sawyer Critchett

Unicorns like summer.
Little unicorns like summer too.
Can I meet a unicorn?
The unicorns walk on the bridge
Under a rainbow.
So, that is where I will start to look.

I Am Charlie
By Charlie Crowley

One time I buried myself
at the beach.
It was fun!
I liked it.
That is it.

Beach
By Saylor Conner

Play
In
The
Water
And
Play
In
The
Sand
Until
The
Sun
Goes
Down

Langston

By Langston Mikolyski

Boat rides with my family and friends in the summer.

With my Mamy and Bampy, with my Dad's friend Dave, and Ms
Boudreau.

In Mrs Magnusson class

Be sure to subscribe



Art by Caleb Seymour

Summer

By Addie Malok

You can go on vacation

You can swim

You can play in the sand

I love summer!



Art by Emma Madison

A Spring's Calling By Julia Gendron

Drops of rain come sprinkling down
Millions of flowers like a starry gown
The bright sun feels warm on your face
It creeps past at a snail's pace.

The bees are buzzing up a song
Spring's sweet air is candy
The birds are coming back from south
The growing grass is like a newborn baby.

Winter is no longer near
Spring is finally near.

Short Poems

By Mabel Winslow

Chalkboard

White against a piercing black
Broad, **bold** strokes
I await recognition, still, on the rack
Pick **me**, I would have spoke

Big Blue

Smile for my endless mirror, smiled back
Reach out to the sea, reaches back in turn
Illusion, day is **blue**, night is black
Endless, **blue fire** burn

Intricate

*Deep holes, skateboard bowl
Open, close, retie
Spider living in shoe hole
Donation time, say goodbye*

Star Streaked

Empty hill, you and I
Stars, **streaking**, flying
Forming constellations, picture sky
Bright then **dark**, you then I

Stepping Stones

Mend the bridge
Forgive and **forget**
Remove the wedge
And move past it



Art by Bella Marston

Mother Nature's Poem
By Bradley Roy

Nature surrounds swaying green grass
Gold leaves sprouting soon
Clouds high in the sky blue glass
Like friends about to bloom.

Birds chirping and soaring
As a plane
Sun's flowers lifting like crane
Dark clouds soon will be pouring.



Art by Bella Place

Dear Flowers
By Cadence DeTrude

Oh flowers, how I miss you dearly
For your fluttering nectar gives me joy
Come back to me and bloom your colors!

Coldness and winter are over
It is your time to give me wealth,
Time to give me cover.

If you shall listen to my pleas,
Tho give you something in return
Oh please oh please come back to me!

-From, Butterfly



Art by Grace S.

Dancing with the Leaves

By Liam Quinn

The people in the trees dance with the leaves.
As I look out the window I see a leaf dancing in the wind.
Twirling and spinning as the leaf falls.
As I watch, I notice myself glancing to the side, where the grass sways in
the wind.
I walk outside and fly, as I stand there in the sky.

There I am, in the sky, with the leaves, and the trees
Leaves are all around me, in every direction.
When the leaves clear I take a deep breath.
As I look around, I see movement.
I know that it is the people in the trees, dancing in the breeze, with the
leaves.



Art by Ezra Perry

How To Live
By Samuel Frye

Be kind to everyone make lots
Of friends. Eat as much of
Whatever you like, read
Books that are
Interesting.

Go outside every day
Chill with friends and
Laugh. Play games
And sports and
Talk on the phone.
Change it up sometimes.

Be yourself wear what you want
Try new things and be confident.
Have fun with everything you do
Go outside and enjoy what
You have. Learn new stuff
And enjoy your days.

Ode to 7th Grade

By: Lillian Trudeau

7th grade, how interesting you were!
On the first day, losing a pet.
Making new friends, losing some too.
Finally getting lockers, and people forgetting their codes.

“You can’t go to lunch ‘till you’re quiet!”
The lunch staff said repetitively.
I’ll never forget reading the Hunger Games and how much I loved it.
And how my Tamogatchi flew away.

I remember playing in a band and how our music was “Hot
Garbage!”
When someone was late Ms. Jerram said, “¡Vamanos
Muchachos!” And Jaelyn said, “I just swallowed a rubber band!”

I remember listening to Olivia Rodgrigo and songs by Stellar.
And I remember Avery. Just Avery being Avery.

7th Grade was like a blank sketchbook, every day a new sketch was
added. Sometimes a good one, and sometimes a bad one.

But all of them were special.

Ode to 7th Grade By Gene Knox

Oh 7th grade how I will remember you!
Being gone for so long
And coming back with utmost confidence
It started off slow but started to pick up.

I remember all the funny memories we had
like when I acted like an elephant
And singing along to my random songs.

I remember the teachers making sure we were silent before we could go to
recess
I learned many new sports like basketball.

7th grade is like a hike up a huge mountain and through the thick clouds
you can finally see the peak.

Sometimes By Cole Brown

Sometimes I can't remember
what I ate for breakfast, but I
can remember where I went
today three years ago

Sometimes I'm so tired I feel like
I'm about to pass out but then I
am just laying wide awake three
hours after I got in bed

Sometimes I will walk into a
room and then completely
forget why I went in

Step-Up Speech

By Mason Willand

Hi, my name is Mason. I am here today to honor everybody, especially myself in my journey through 6th grade, I was always inspired by great athletes, they have pushed me to become a better person. I grew up in Northwood, NH with a couple of friends. I have always had a strength in math. I grew up in a small community, not far from this little school called Northwood Elementary. I am going to state a quote from one of my favorite athletes: "If you're going to invest the time and the energy and make the sacrifices to be a great athlete, when it comes to compete--you need to cherish every opportunity that you get" - Nick Symmonds.

Some advice that I have for you young people out there is that when you want to work hard to get something, you need to commit, and use your time wisely, because your moment of glory won't last forever. I remember about six months ago when I wanted to do track and field, I started as one of the worst people on the team, I couldn't run, but I was a little bit better with the Muscley Field events like discus, and shot put. I tried to commit to running and tried to get better at it, I actually did a very good job, my teammates and my coaches saw that I progressed a lot, I was committing, doing every single day. Of course I wasn't the best, but I was progressing. I started to place in most of my events, like discus and shot put. I wasn't getting last all the time, I was starting to get 2nd and 3rd in my fielding and my track heats. But running and the sports that I did impacted my life, and I realized that if you want to be good at the stuff that you want to do, you need to commit to it, don't do it once and think that you will keep all of your skills.

Restating my quote from Nick Symmonds, "If you're going to invest the time and the energy and make the sacrifices to be a great athlete, when it comes to compete - you need to cherish every opportunity that you get" - Nick Symmonds. What you can do as a person moving forward in your short life, you can commit to what you want to do in life, don't do it because your peers like it, do it to pursue your dreams, and what you want to do in life. But my whole point is that you commit to something that you love, don't do it to please other people. I want to thank everyone for listening to my story, and I hope that you really learned something from this speech. I wholeheartedly wish the best for all of you guys/girls.

Step-Up Speech

By Jayden Fiore

In the wise words of a wise person (A.K.A. me), "If Pineapple can 'belong' on pizza, then you can belong anywhere you choose." I'm Jayden Fiore, and you can ask any teacher in sixth grade who their favorite student ever is, and they will say my name with no hesitation. I despise pineapple on pizza. Just felt like I had to establish that first, but the one idea to certainly hold onto is that you can choose to belong anywhere you want to. This brings to mind what will be happening to me over the next few weeks of my life. I will be stepping up to become a seventh grader. Changing from sixth grade to seventh I know will be a huge change for many reasons. Some of those reasons include having teachers who may not know me well. I will have to do more work, write more, learn more in math and science. This is causing me some anxiety because I don't really know what is coming ahead. Fear of the unknown can be a lot, but I guess when I think about this, stepping into the unknown and facing that fear is growth because I am learning to embrace new things.

Which brings me to a story about my life I'd like to share with you. When I was nine years old, I went to Six Flags and wanted to go on The Joker ride so badly, but I was SOOO scared. I stayed back from every single ride the whole day because I was so scared. My mom, the entire day, was trying to motivate and encourage me. Finally it was two hours until closing and I finally decided to go for it. In those two hours, I went on every single ride and it was so fun. Now I love roller coasters and specifically The Joker ride. Proving that the only thing stopping you from doing things you want to is YOU. So this brings me back to what I started out by saying to you which is, "If pineapple can 'belong' on pizza, then you can belong anywhere." Hold on to this idea because it will help you go far in life.



Art by Grace Lambert

Step-Up Speech
By: Grace White

Welcome family, friends, and honored guests. I am proud to be here today to celebrate the end of one era and the start of another. The past years have been enlightening to say the least. Every individual citizen sitting here before me has a future; they just have to ignite their future to make it happen. This reminds me of a quote: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." -*Walt Disney*. Throughout my life, I have had ups and downs, and the only way I got through it was to keep moving, not to keep talking but to enlighten my future and allow it to unfold. Life Has many twists, turns, and ups and downs. Life is not about reliving your past, it is about letting go and allowing yourself to move to the current time. You don't deserve everything life throws at you, and it can be unfair sometimes, but moving on is a huge part of being happy. So be excited! Don't put

yourself down about a traumatic experience because you don't deserve that--you deserve to live out your dreams.

My name is Grace White I have lived in Northwood for my whole life. I live in a lake house with my two siblings and my parents. About two year ago, after the beginning of the pandemic, my dad came home informing me and my brother that my papa would not be coming home. My whole family including me were devastated. Soon after I realized that he will still always be with me. That is when I realized that I had to move on. I found out that life has many obstacles and that was only one of them. I moved on and kept the memory of him with me. Now I am in sixth grade, my first normal year since the pandemic. So the quote "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing" by Walt Disney allows me to think of this story, because if I had kept thinking and talking about my papa's death, I would never have started my next chapter of life.

So I thank you all for coming and those important people listening. I call you to inform you that every obstacle and moment thrown at you will be a whole new experience. Life can be difficult and unfair but to hold on to the hard parts of life will get you nowhere. So to be able to move on and continue on with life will allow you to live out your dreams and continue to the next part of life, the next obstacle. This time, though, I hope you find what's special in life and who you have around you instead of what you lost. Life only happens once, and I would hate for you to hold on to what you don't have and not continue to follow the journey ahead Remember that was only one obstacle of the many to come. Opportunity, love, and happiness will follow you as long as you try to overcome your obstacles. Thank you for listening, and I hope you continue your journey and learn what is important in life.



Art by Kenzie Simmons

Animal Testing By Nic Ludwikowski

Why would you want to harm an animal just for some tests? According to *Use of Laboratory Animals in Biomedical and Behavioral Research* “Between 17 million and 22 million animals are estimated to be used annually...” (use of). Animal testing is wrong. It is abuse to animals, it violates animal rights and it is unnecessary to waste products that could be used for better things. Using animals for tests can help us find out what certain things do and how certain things react, but there are definitely way more things to test that won't harm the animals or just using something else instead of animals.

First, the use of animal testing is abuse to animals. There have been countless examples of this shown online. According to *Save the Animals: Stop Animal Testing* “Animals are deliberately sickened with toxic chemicals or infected with diseases, live in barren cages and are typically killed when the experiment ends” (Save). They force the

animals to be tested on. They sometimes implant wires into the animals brain, and crush their spines and much more.

Second, animal testing violates animal rights. The animals do not have a choice if they want to be tested or not. Usually after the tests are over it causes permanent damage to the animal. Animals do not benefit from testing, only humans are benefitting from animal testing. Their pain and suffering is not worth any possible benefits to humans anyway. Animals should be treated with the same respect as humans. Animals feel the same pain in many ways that humans do .

Next, animal testing is unnecessary and a waste of products. Those products that are used on animals can be used for so many different things that would benefit humans way more effectively. Most products used on animals are toxic chemicals that end up killing the animal. Using artificial skin would be way better than using animals because it's easier to get that and use that instead of killing an animal. You can even use computers that tell you the amount of damage the chemical would do. There are so many ways to test chemicals and objects without using animals that are a reliable source.

Finally, in conclusion animal testing is wrong. It is abuse to animals. It violates all animals rights and they do not even have a choice, and it is unnecessary and a waste of products. What would you do if you ever witnessed an animal being tested?

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“Movement City” by Sophia Purinton

Differences Between Renewable and Non Renewable Energy By Leah Ramsey

I recently read a few passages about renewable energy and nonrenewable energy. After reading these passages I know that Renewable energy is energy that can come back once it's made or gone. Non Renewable energy is energy that can't come back once it's made, so once it's gone it's gone forever. I found out that renewable energy helps get electricity and heat to heat our pools and things in our homes. I also learned that nonrenewable energy has something to do with fossil fuels because it's non renewable. When fossil fuels burn, they release smog and air pollutio,n which can cause health issues for some people.

Since nonrenewable energy can't be made again once it's gone, people should start to consider walking or riding a bike instead of cars and try to use public transportation if available.



Art by Bennett Gendron

Ukrainian History

By Nolan Cook

In 882, the Viking Oleg seized the city by the Dnieper River, Kyiv, and made it the capital of the loose East Slavic totally not Viking federation, the Kievan Rus. The Kievan Rus lasted 400 years until 1240.

The Rus was weakened and unstable from multiple factors such as the crusades. Because of this weakened state they easily fell when the Mongols invaded. Also, barely anybody survived the Mongols except the Japanese because the Mongol navy was bad, and so was the weather.

Soon the Mongols fell for various reasons. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth soon had control of most of Ukraine. What's that I hear? Muscovy just formed the Russian Empire, Prussia just formed the German Empire, and the Austrian Empire still exists. The Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth was split between the three empires, with all of Ukraine going to the Russian Empire who just took all of Siberia.

Now it's 1914. A young Serbian nationalist assassinated Archduke of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was formed in 1867, which caused WWI to happen because of a long list of alliances I'm not going to go through. Eventually the Central Powers, the side essentially trying to get revenge that evolved from

Germany joining on their side to basically take over Europe, was defeated. Germany, now reformed as the Weimar Republic, was crumbling, which led the Weimar Republic to form into Nazi Germany in 1933 when Adolf Hitler took control of Germany. Nazi Germany, the Kingdom of Italy, and the Empire of Japan formed the Axis. Germany invaded Poland in 1939, causing WWII. Japan and Germany both believed their race was superior, while the Italians wanted a stronger Italy. They soon switched sides, then the north of Italy was invaded and turned into the Nazi puppet state of the Italian Social Republic, which was not Communist despite the name.

Focusing on Germany, who at this point had a non-aggression pact with the USSR known as the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact. When Germany couldn't land in the UK, Germany broke the pact and invaded east into the Soviet Union, which owned Ukraine. Ukraine saw some of the most heavy and destructive damage on the eastern front of WWII. Eventually the bombing of Pearl Harbour by Japan brought the US into the war. The US launched an attack known as D-Day on the beaches of Normandy. France had been taken over quickly by the Germans in the second year of the war and had been mostly annexed by the Nazis, leaving some left as a Nazi puppet called Vichy France. An independence movement in France called Free France helped the Allies liberate France and push Nazi Germany back. On the Eastern front the Germans were advancing but guess what, Winter came. The Soviets pushed the Germans to Berlin while the allies advanced in the west. Eventually Germany surrendered, two years after Italy. Japan was all that was left and surrendered after the US dropped two nuclear bombs on Japan. In 1991 the Soviets collapsed giving Ukraine independence. In 2014, Russia invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea while two Pro-Russian states known as Donetsk and Luhansk tried to break away from Ukraine.



Art by Zoe Harlow

Gmo Food Opinion By Grace Lambert

My class recently read two articles titled, “A New Kind Of Corn” and “Food Fight.” These two articles were about Genetically Modified food (GMO). In my opinion, I disagree that GMO foods should be used. My first reason is there hasn’t been enough research on GMO. Secondly, GMO food might harm the environment. Lastly, pests can build a resistance to any pesticide.



The first reason I believe GMO foods may be dangerous is because it might harm the environment. For example, the chemicals in the GMO food might hurt other insects like monarch caterpillars. Secondly, we don’t

know what GMO food will do to the soil in the long-term. What if it damages the soil!!! Finally, farmers are growing GMO food at an alarming rate and if there is too much it will start going bad. That will lead us to wasting more food.



The second reason I think GMO foods are bad is because there hasn't been enough research on GMO food. First, is that the rats scientists use to do tests, have gotten stomach lesions. Also, there have not been any long-term tests on GMO food yet. Lastly, scientists have only done tests on rats they haven't done tests on humans. So how do we know it's safe for humans!!

My last reason I believe GMO foods might be harmful is that pests can build a resistance to any pesticide. For instance, rootworms are already building a resistance to GMO foods. Furthermore, people are worried weeds will start cross breeding and become GMO weeds, which may hurt the animals eating it. Last, over time any sort of bug can make a resistance to pesticides.



In conclusion, my opinion on GMO foods is that they are not good for humans and animals. These are my three reasons why GMO food is bad. GMO food might harm the environment, pests can build a resistance to any pesticide, and there hasn't been enough research on GMO foods. This is why GMO food is bad for our planet.

The Water Monster

By Heaven Osgood

Once upon a time there was a hole in the ground in the woods, and it was 25 feet long and no one knew what it was. So they searched it up but still no luck. So they searched up an animal that big. Still no luck.

They found a path and followed it and found a big abandoned house. They stayed there overnight but kept hearing creaking sounds all over the place, but they couldn't leave because there was a storm outside. What they didn't know was that hole they found was a water monster's home and the monster came out of its home. So in the morning they searched for the hole, but the monster was still out of his home. They hit a rock but it wasn't a rock, it was the monster!!!!!! They ran as hard as they could. The monster was faster, but little did they know a troll lived there and pulled them out of the trail.

The troll said, "What were you thinking?" but they can't understand the troll. To them, he was saying gibberish, so they walked away. But they turned invisible, so the monster went home, but before he went home he made friends with them so they hunted together. They were friends forever and lived happily ever after.



Art by Ava Stevens

!A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A 6TH GRADER!

By Benjamin Sheldon and Caleb Seymour

So I step out of my bed *crack* OWWW THE LEGO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! O.K. we're good *falls in excruciating pain* I get my clothes on and zip down the stairs. There my brother is AND THEN HE SPILLS HIS MILK ALL OVER MY SHIRT AND IT WAS PICTURE DAY!! So anyway I changed my shirt and went downstairs again. Attempt number 2. I poured some lucky charms (you know the magical cereal) and drank a smoothie. I got my snack ready for school and walked out the door. THEN THE BUS WAS A MINUTE EARLY so I sprinted all the way UP my STEEP driveway and got on. I sat next to my friend Mecole. We started talking about what we ate for dinner and ragging on each other about our crushes. His was Addy, and mine was Molly. I stared out the window counting how many trees we passed once we got bored. I counted 314 trees. That was boring though. Mom's boredom busters NEVER work. SO finally, after listening to 8th graders make fools of themselves and throw day-old tomatoes at us, we got to school.

I step inside and get greeted by the principal again. I just figured I was in trouble. Just as I made a promise to myself to not get in trouble anymore... BUT IT WAS GOOD!! It turns out I had the 2nd highest test scores in the grade and Mecole got the fourth best. We were psyched but I didn't say anything that could ruin this day because something probably would. I walk into my home room(which is math) and the teacher was like,"Grab your notebooks, we're taking notes about fractions." If you didn't know already, I HATE fractions, but I know them really well. AND we got to play a game with fractions so it ended up being pretty good.

My second class was English. Our English teacher was really good too. So we played this game called wordle which you try to find the word out by saying words and getting the letters in the word right. Turns out it was actually a class game and was really fun!

Now it was Social Studies time. It was always interesting, but when we got there, OUR SAVAGE RETIRED GYM TEACHER THAT ONLY SUBS WAS OUR TEACHER. Aaaaand we had a test. It would be fine, I was sure. We did the test.

Halfway through the test Mecole needed a pencil. I underhand tossed it to him and Mr. Fredrickson screamed for a weird reason. HE YELLED AT ME TO THROW IT OVERHAND, NOT UNDERHAND. The class ended shortly and I could just hope that I got a good score.

FINALLY it was time for science with Mr. Winston. He was awesome. That and me and Mecoles crushes were in the class. Mecoles' crush knew he liked her, but mine didn't YET. So in science class we were learning about sound waves and how they travel. This was the class that I would do IT(boys know what that means:). Anyway the lesson started and we were gonna do an experiment, trying to reflect a laser with mirrors to hit a target. It was fun. So then the school BOZO named Karl (his nickname was Karl with a C because he hated it) made the mirror shine the laser in my eye and I FELL OUT OF MY CHAIR BECAUSE IT WAS SO BRIGHT AND PAINFUL IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. I tell Mr. Winston what happened and he just whispered in my ear that he understood, but just let it go, and that he'll be on my side if it happens again. Then he spoke to Karl, which none of the other teachers do. Mr. Winston was awesome. I also didn't do IT because I chickened out.

Now for lunch and recess. As we walk into the cafeteria, the server hands me my hot lunch. Every single time the server hands me the hot lunch, I just know the food is going to be B-A-D. When I opened the styrofoam tray, it was a choice of what to eat. It was either brown slop, or multi-colored slop with colors I've never seen. I just ate an apple and drank the chocolate milk. I tried the slops, both not having a recognizable taste. I talked to Mecole for the rest of lunch and went outside for recess. Me and Mecole joined soccer, which we were both pretty good at, but it was hard when you are playing on a 30 yard field with 36 people. The final score was our team 37 and their team 26. Pretty low scoring game, right (that was sarcasm by the way. My dad says that I have to be older to master it, but I'm pretty good at it)?

We walked up to go to our related arts. I had a band, along with Mecole, and both of our crushes and like 15 other kids. Maybe I would actually confess this time. Anyway I played the trumpet, and Mecole played the saxophone. We practiced notes for our concert that was in two months, and then class was over. Our music teacher was awesome. She always helped who needed help. I needed help with slurs. Anyway because I am NOT going to explain everything about band right now, the class was over. Then I went up to Molly and said these

THE MOUNTAIN

By *Nikolai Friend* and *Connor Johnsstone*

Christopher sat on the edge of the hill likely contemplating his choices.

“Whatcha thinkin about?” said Christian.

“I’m just wondering if things could have been different,” he said rather quickly, as if anticipating the question.

“What things?” said Christian.

“Sit down, son, let me tell you a story.”

“It was day 293 since the plague began to spread.”

“What’s the plague, Daddy?” asked Christian.

“It was a very bad disease,” Christopher replied. “We were hiking up a mountain, trying to get away from the ‘things.’” Christopher trembled. Christian was once again tempted to ask a question but thought better of it. Christopher regained his footing as he began to talk again. “We had been scaling the frigid mountain for days at that point and we were beginning to run out of resources. It was just me, you, and Charlie.”

“Who’s Charlie? Christian replied, more confident in his father’s state of mind.

“He’s your uncle,” stated Christopher in a rather straightforward manner.

Christian seemed rather surprised that he had never heard of him before. But nonetheless he decided to refrain from asking any more questions. Christopher began talking for the final time as he had found his flow. He slung Christian over his shoulder and began hiking up the mountain toward a distant satellite.

On the way there Charlie began panting more than the others. They knew he had severe asthma so they took multiple breaks throughout the journey. This turned out to be tragic for Charlie as he could not continue walking and his body slowly began to shut down. While Christopher refused to abandon him it was very apparent that he would not make it. At that very moment Charlie collapsed face first into the icy mountain.

Christopher tried to give chest compressions but to no avail. After a brief session of mourning, he knew he would end up just like his brother if he did not begin back up the mountain. As the sun began to set they had a newfound sense of pace but even at this brisk speed they knew they wouldn’t make it. And so rather than attempting to scale the mountain they searched for refuge under a rock. They rested under the rock but hardly slept as Christian’s continuous crying continued in the night.

But in the morning Christopher had an angry feeling. A feeling that could only be relieved by avengement. Anger fueled by the death of his close friend and brother. An anger so strong it would cause him to scale the mountain at his fastest speed yet. Ignorant to any pain his body felt throughout the hike or any pain Christian felt as well.

He reached the satellite before noon as he sat down and started panting, finally noticing what he had put his body through. With minimal food and an insatiable appetite he began to eat, making sure to ration some for Christian as well. After refueling for a bit he finally decided to enter the satellite he so foolishly strided for. He instantly regretted his decision as he saw something he would never forget. He saw the “things,” who immediately turned their gaze toward him. He had already seen them before, climbing the mountain, and knew what he was up against. The things were undead creatures who seemed to be nearly invincible. He decided to slowly back out so as to not scare them out of their temporary docile state. But it was too late, he heard one make its signature hiss from behind him as he backed away and all of the sudden he was surrounded by the beasts. He realized that his only choice was to fight... And fight he did.

He needed to avenge the death of his brother in some way. And his zen-like calm as he backed away was suddenly replaced by a blind rage and a hatred towards the beings that had caused the mess. Suddenly he ran in the direction away from the door before kicking one of the things. Knowing it would only temporarily blind it. Speed was not of the creature's weaknesses though as he quickly ran in the opposite direction slamming the door behind him and hearing the dent in the door as multiple slammed into it. From within the safety of the heavily guarded room strewn with abandoned supplies. He let Christian run freely as he looked at the board filled with electronics that he did not comprehend at all. He stared at the board in awe. He went to tug on some wires just to see what it would do. It exploded into a ball of sparks into his face as he was taken into a trance before realizing the banging on the door had stopped. He turned around and saw....

You Are Not Alone

-Maya Anguiano, Amelia McGuigan

Day One: The start

I woke up. Sand filled my ears. I looked around and I was at a beach at night, but the beach looked strange, it was glowing with Bioluminescent particles.. I felt like I've been here before but I can't remember anything except that I'm here now and I have no idea how I got here. I rolled over and looked at the water, I went to go take a drink, and noticed it was bright blue! I was so thirsty that I drank it anyway. When I swallowed the water, instead of it tasting like normal lake water or ocean water, it tasted like something I used to drink when I was a kid and some of the other flavors were unexplainable but delicious.

Day Two: Finding food

It was the morning, and I still had no idea where I was but my stomach was rumbling. I knew today was the day to get food. I got to my feet and I saw I was growing skinny. How long have I been here? Only a day and a half, right? It didn't matter, I just needed to find food. I went to climb a hill above me to see what I could find. I saw some trees that looked like they had good wood. I cut off a long stick and started to sharpen it with a sharp rock to use as a weapon.. I started up the slope again when I saw a bird. I stumbled over something but when I looked down I saw a keyhole. I was confused but my attention went back to the bird. It was like a bird but bright colors were bouncing off of it. It also had feathers that looked like they were made out of felt. I went over to it and felt the bird's feathers, and it was so soft, not like how you would think a bird's feathers would feel, and surprisingly it didn't fly away! I was so interested in its beauty that I almost didn't see the mystical deer-like creature, I did not want to hurt it but I was starving so I threw the spear at it and it hit it directly in the stomach and out came this weird greenish-blueish gue was pouring out of it. The bright bird was still next to me so I gave it a name, which was Cleo. I went to the deer

thing and tried to drag it home. I made it home with the creature but I was very sad because I have always loved animals and wildlife but I was starving so I made a fire and cut out some of the meat and grabbed some berries from a bush and ate a delicious dinner. I then laid down on my bed to notice that the bird was there. I was exhausted so I went straight to sleep.

Day Three: Making a shelter

Last night I had a good dinner so I was not that hungry this morning. I started remembering some things like some different fruit names and some animals that I have seen. I think I recognize them. Also the bird that I met yesterday keeps coming back and flying up to my shoulder and sitting there. Today was the day I was going to try to make a shelter because last night I had to sleep under a tree and it was very uncomfortable. I started by searching around for some big branches. I found some and brought them back. I leaned the branches up against a tree then headed back out. I was walking for a while because I couldn't find any more branches. That's when I heard something in the bushes, was it a voice, or was it an animal? That's when I heard someone say "hello" I answered the hello by saying hello back. A girl advanced from the bush. She was taller than me with long brown hair that went down to her butt she had freckles along her face and had deep green eyes. She said her name was Stella and I told her my name. She then signaled me to follow her. I dropped my sticks on the ground and continued walking. She brought me to a nice hut with a mossy roof. She showed me around the inside of the hut and told me I could stay with her.

"How long have you been here for?" Willow asked.

"I don't know, all I know is it hasn't been too long and I found a key in the ground recently" Stella said. She pulled out the key from her pocket and I showed her the keyhole I found in the ground and it fit!

To Be Continued ...

The Boy In The Clock Tower
By *Allie Sanders*

Up in the clock tower in the middle of town every night, residents would hear a beautiful sound coming through the night's air. Every night a boy would go up in the tower to play. He would play his beautiful music. He taught himself to play the piano after the passing of his mother. When he was young he did not remember much about his mother, only that she played the piano, and he would play the piano for her, trying to get back the little memories he had of her through his music. He did not have anyone to look after him and he was on his own. He would go to the shrine every day to pray. He would pray for more memories of her.

One night he went up in the tower and his grandfather was standing next to the piano. "So this is where you go every night to this dusty old place," he said. The boy was in silence. His grandfather would check in on him once in a while when he could, but he was so busy as the town's baker.

"Grandfather, it is not just a dusty old place. This is where I feel her the most when I play the piano."

"You foolish boy, how can you feel her she is gone Get out, get out!!"

The grandfather left, and the boy walked to the piano and sat down. In a whisper, he said, "She is not gone, she is here with me." He started to play, but this time it was not happy or fast--it was slow and it let out everything inside him. He played his heart out.

The next night when he went up in the tower, someone from town saw him. They followed him up there, not only to see the piano but to see who had been playing this music all along. Everyone thought the clockmaker was the one who made the clock make the music. The boy who followed James up in the tower started recording the music and the boy. The boy's name was Richard. Richard thought, "Wait, that means the clockmaker lied and took credit for something he did not do."

James thought, "Why doesn't grandfather understand I feel her more here in this place?" James sat down and started to play. He was hurting inside. He played so much he let all of his feelings flow out of him through his music.

After that evening James was on his way to the clock tower, and when he got there he stopped right in his feet. He couldn't believe his eyes. His piano--it was destroyed. Right away James knew who was responsible for this: "GRANDFATHER." James ran and ran. He knew exactly where he was. When he got to his grandfather, he was ready to break down crying. "How could you?" James screamed.

“I don’t know what you're talking about,” his grandfather said like nothing happened.

“You destroyed my piano,” James screamed again. “Don’t lie to me!”

James knew his grandfather would not admit to anything. James left almost in tears. The boy who saw him play, Richard, walked past and saw James crying. Richard went over and asked what was wrong. James told him why he was upset. Richard knew he had to do something to help the boy who played greatly. That day James walked outside of his small little apartment, and what he saw stunned him and made him a bit embarrassed. Richard had posted the video of James playing the piano everywhere. Now everyone knew who was playing the piano, and it wasn't the clockmaker. Everyone that day came up to him and asked him to play. He told them he could not play anymore because his piano was broken. When he went up to the clock tower that night to try and feel his mother, he was so surprised at what he saw. He saw almost everybody in the town and of course his grandfather was not there. But what was so surprising was that there was a piano right where his old one was. “Is this for me?” he asked.

“Of course,” everyone said. “You helped us through hard times, now it’s our turn.”

Everyone moved so James could get to the piano.

“Can you play us a song?” a little girl asked.

“Of course I will,” James replied with a smile. He played and everyone enjoyed it. This part of his story is over. Another one has just begun.

The Creature in the Woods

By Bryant Folsom

Jake was walking in the forest at night when he heard a stick go crunch. Then he went home and got a good night sleep, and the next morning it was nice and sunny. That day he went to the same forest, which was called Rose Lake. He was running, he tripped, and he rolled down a dirty hill and saw a big cave. He went inside. He had a flashlight in his bag and there was a lot of water in the cave. It was like the cave was flooded, and it was empty except that there was a bunch of drawings on the wall. It was already sunset so it was dark and then he heard another crunch and he saw red eyes. When he tried to shine the flashlight, it was gone.

He went back home and sat in his bed and wondered what that thing was. The next day he went out and packed his supplies so he was ready. He went back to the cave and waited for the creature to show. Then he heard another sound, a big thump, and he went to go check it out and nothing was there. It was night time and he was bored waiting for the thing, so he ate a snack while he was waiting. He started to walk home. Then he saw something out of the side of his eye, and it was as quick as the light. It ran away, then he fell into a ditch. The next day he woke up and was in the cave again and he was soaked with so much water. He saw the creature eating some animal meat, and he got a good look at it but not its face. It also ripped all his supplies so he found a rock and threw it at the monster and he made a run for it. Then the thing started to chase him and when he thought he outran it, it found him and grabbed his arm and he kicked it in the gut and he started to run again. It was faster than him, it grabbed his leg, he tried to get out, he grabbed a log and hit it. Then he jumped into the lake and hid and he escaped.

He went home and went to sleep. He had a hunting van, so he went to the forest and camped there. It was a really rainy night. He put some bear traps out and set them all around

Rose Lake and he put cameras around too. He also set a drone and sent it around the lake and saw the monster it was on. He got too close to the creature with the drone, and the creature destroyed the drone. So he started to head where he saw the creature. He saw it and it started to chase him and he put a trap and it fell for it. The monster yelped, and he just watched it try to get out of the bear trap, then started to head to the camping van. He grabbed the rope to go catch the monster then it was gone, then it attacked him. He grabbed him and threw him into water, and flowed away down the river, and the monster just watched him as he flowed down the river.

He woke up in a big puddle then went back to the van, but the van was scratched up and destroyed. All of his food was gone, but he still had some traps and a tent. He went into the forest and set his tent and made a fire, made some meat he hunted, and placed a trap with the meat on it. He heard it scream and he went to hunt it and saw it run. He went through a shortcut, and he caught the monster and locked it in the cage. Then he went home and saw on the news that he could get a hundred thousand dollar reward if he caught the creature named Bigfoot. So he went to the place and turned in Bigfoot and got all the money. Hunting is Jake's job now.



Art by Luke Krochmal

Meanwhile, Emperor Fox is flying over Animal City in his cargo plane that he had put a bomb on, with the plan to destroy Animal City. “I will destroy Commander Racoon!” said Emperor Fox.

Using his jet pack, Commander Racoon soars into the air towards the cargo plane. He lands on the top of the plane undetected by Emperor Fox. Using his lightning eyes, he cuts his way into the cargo plane. Once inside, Emperor Fox sees him, and a battle for the survival of Animal City begins.

Emperor Fox using his fire power, and Commander Racoon using his lightning powers, battle back and forth. Emperor Fox’s fire is so hot that it’s blue, making it difficult for Commander Racoon to fight back. But Commander Racoon is dodging the fire, and is able to spray it down with his hose just enough to be able to use his lightning eyes, and shoot out the plane’s controls. As the plane is going down Commander Racoon is finally able to defeat Emperor Fox with one final lightning blast, sending him out of the plane's window and into the ocean. Commander Racoon, survives by jumping from the plane and using his jet pack to coast back to his cave. Emperor Fox’s plane crashes into the ocean, sparing Animal City.

About the author:

Ari is a student at Northwood Elementary. He lives at home with his parents and older brother and their pets. He enjoys reading books, especially the *Dog Man* series and the *Wings of Fire* series. He enjoys watching the Harry Potter movies with his mom and Formula 1 with his Pepe. He likes to play video games, soccer, and do karate. He enjoys school, especially science. His favorite holiday is Christmas. His favorite colors are orange and green.



Art by Avery Culinane

Ludington Play By Ainsley Albert

(Ludington Home)

Narrator 1: The American Revolution is when the British Colonies that were sent to America decided that they no longer wanted to be under British rule.

Narrator 2: This is the story of a young woman named Sybil Ludington who rode at midnight in pouring rain and a dress to warn the American Militia during the American Revolution that the British army was burning Danbury.

Father (pacing): I must send someone to warn the troops. The British are going to burn down Danbury! All of our weapons are hidden there!

Mother: Alright, Just don't choose Gordon I've heard he's quite (does the cuckoo spin)

Father: I agree. Gordon is interesting.

Gordon (From backstage): I Can hear you ya' know.

(Sybil runs in)

Sybil: I happened to overhear your conversation. I thought since I know where everyone lives, I can make the ride to warn the continental army.

Mother: Oh yes she'd be perfect. She does know where everyone is, she's great at horseback riding, and she's brave.

Father: Yes but please don't warn Gordon. He'll mess it all up.

Gordon: Can still hear you- wait, warn me about what?!

Sybil: I shall leave now. Goodbye, family.

(Everyone exits backstage)

Sybil (While banging on shutters with stick): The British are burning Danbury Muster at Ludington's Mill! (Repeats once more)

(Arrives home to soldiers lined up in front of her house)

Soldier: 400 soldiers at your service.

Sybil: You must Drive the British out of Danbury!

(Everyone Grabs guns and shoots towards the British in Danbury.)

Sybil: Why did Paul get all the credit? I rode longer, harder and in much worse conditions.

This moment will be forever hidden from history until someone comes to unlock it.

Unfortunately, there are countless stories of women having contributed to history but those stories are often not told. Over time, we must all do our part to make sure stories like these are told and remembered.

“The Drive-Thru Struggle”

A Play by Morgan Harvey & Kaelin Cocozza

McDonald’s Employee: Hello, welcome to McDonald’s.

Customer Guy: I need a full sized Frosty.

McDonald’s Employee: Sir, are you aware this is a McDonald’s?

Customer Guy: Where is the nearest Wendy’s?

McDonald’s Employee: Across the street.

Customer Guy: Thanks. *drives full speed ahead across the street*

Wendy’s Employee: Hi, Welcome to Wendy’s.

Customer Guy: I need a full sized Frosty.

Wendy’s Employee: The machine is broken.

Customer Guy: Can I get a McFlurry then?

Wendy’s Employee: We don’t sell those. McDonald’s does though.

Customer Guy: Ahhhhhhh *drives across the street to McDonald’s*

McDonald’s Employee: Hi, welcome to McDonald’s.

Customer Guy: I need a full size Oreo McFlurry.

McDonald’s Employee: The machine is broken.

Customer Guy: AHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

McDonald’s Employee: There is a Dairy Queen down the street.

Customer Guy: oh my g-

Dairy Queen Employee: Hi! Welc-

Customer Guy: Give me. A Blizzard. NOW.

Dairy Queen Employee: The machine is broken.

Customer Guy: AHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!! OH MY G-

Dairy Queen Employee: May I offer a soda?

Customer Guy: Sure, a large root beer.

Dairy Queen Employee: Here you go. *hands over a large drink*

Customer Guy: This is a Dr. Pepper.

Dairy Queen Employee: Sorry sir I can give y-

Customer Guy: *Throws at Dairy Queen Employee*

Dairy Queen Employee: *screeches*

Customer Guy: *Drives away* *goes to a Wendy's across town*

Wendy's Employee: Hi, Welcome to Wendy's.

Customer Guy: I need full sized Frosty please

Wendy's Employee: Sure thing, here you go. *hands over a full size Frosty*

Customer Guy: Thanks. *drives home to his girlfriend*

Customer Guy's Girlfriend: What took you so long?

Customer Guy: Had to go to a Wendy's, McDonald's, Dairy Queen, and then another Wendy's across town. Anyway, here's your Frosty.

Customer Guy's Girlfriend: I didn't want a Frosty, I wanted a Chocolate Cookie Crumble Creme Frappuccino from Starbucks.

Customer Guy: AHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!! *gets in car and drives to Starbucks*

Starbucks Employee: Hello, welcome to Starbucks.

Customer Guy: Can I get a Chocolate Cookie Crumble Creme Frappuccino?

Starbucks Employee: Sure, here you go. *hands over a Chocolate Cookie Crumble Creme Frappuccino*

