

Children writing to grow smart



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Book design

- Cover
- Front cover picture
- Book cover information
- Choice of font
- Decorative
- Choice of font
- How much text on a page
- Where should all go



A message from Growthpoint



"Is there anybody going to listen to my story?"

From ***Girl*** by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

The one thing we all have in common is that each of us has a story to tell. Our stories are as individual as our genes and they yearn to be shared regardless of our skill with a pen. Sometimes all we need is a mouth to speak and an ear to listen. In this book you will experience something beyond the conventions of grammar; you will hear from children as they share tales from their vivid imagination, their personal experiences, their hopes, their deep joy and sorrow.

The stories in this book were selected from nearly 200 submissions received for the Growsmart Story Telling Competition in 2014. They were all written by learners in Grades 4 to 6, most of whom come from previously disadvantaged communities in the Cape Town area and some for whom English is not their first language. This book celebrates these young authors and is in line with so many of Growthpoint's values, amongst them being that our people are our most important asset. May they continue to enrich our rainbow nation's remarkable tradition of storytelling fuelled by our wonderful diversity of cultures, shared challenges and struggles, and enduring hopes and dreams.



Norbert Sasse

CEO

A message from the Western Cape Education Department

Writing is a magical medium. It is a vehicle for communication, connection and creativity with the self and the world. It is an opportunity to learn and grow, have fun and hone the intellect. Being able to express yourself is a skill and a gift. By cultivating this ability in children, you are giving them the priceless power to share their thoughts and ideas with the world in a meaningful way.

On behalf of the Western Cape Education Department, we thank Growthpoint for inviting learners to compete at creative writing. The learners who submitted their stories in this diverse anthology come from primary schools across the City of Cape Town. We commend these schools for embracing the challenge to improve their language performance.

The competition has unearthed some sparkling gems from imaginative young authors. The creations are varied and vivid. They describe trauma, loss and coping. They reflect joy, happiness and memorable experiences.

May this collection inspire other children and their teachers to write and develop the passion for storytelling in written form.

Brian Schreuder

Deputy Director-General: Curriculum and Assessment Management



A message from Via Afrika

At Via Afrika, we most often have the chance to work with educational texts that serve to enable teachers and learners to discover the joys of education. It is our task to team up with the authors, editors, illustrators, book designers, typesetters and printers to craft one person's vision into a living object that benefits hundreds, even thousands, of others.

It has therefore been our privilege to work with Growthpoint, the WCED and these talented writers to publish this anthology of experience and imagination. We were presented with stories that moved or delighted; artwork that showed aptitude and insight; and a passion that invigorated us in our tasks – quite an achievement for a group of people with many years of experience in the educational book industry. We look forward to being able to participate in further projects of this worth.

Christina Watson

CEO

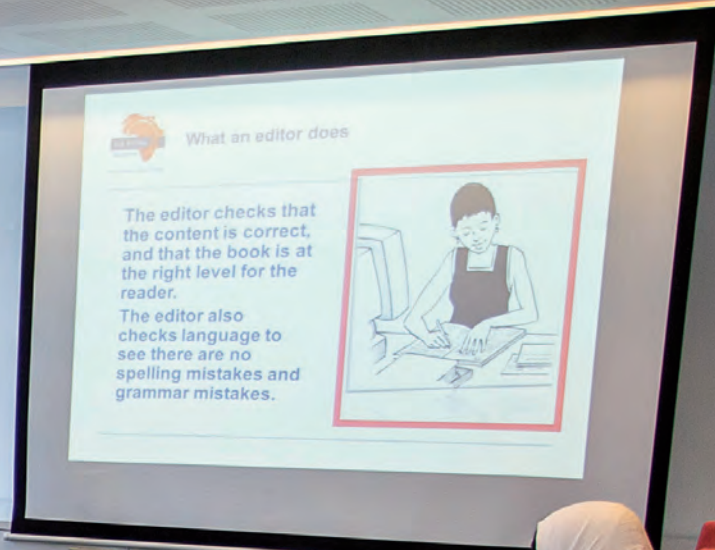


A message from Paarl Media

The Paarl Media Group is proud to be associated with the Growsmart project through printing this remarkable book. Paarl Media supports the education of our nation's learners, where writing skills form the foundation. Well done to all the participants and winners of this competition; you have done South Africa proud.



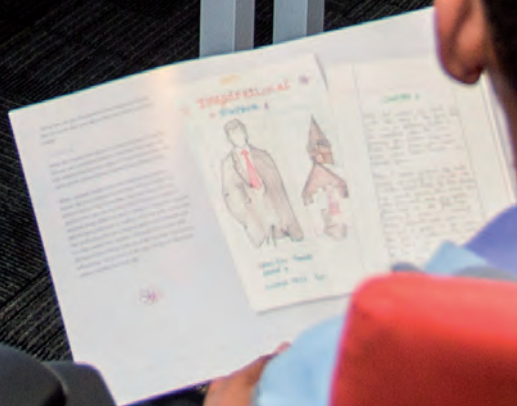
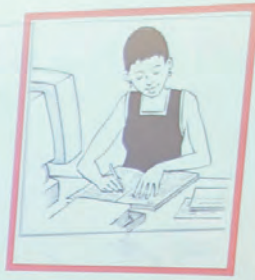




What an editor does

The editor checks that the content is correct, and that the book is at the right level for the reader.

The editor also checks language to see there are no spelling mistakes and grammar mistakes.





The most influential person in my life

Hakeema Matinka
Siversands Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

Can you guess who's the most influential person in my life? In this story I tell you how she was raised and how she raises us. How she cares for us and motivates us to be successful in life.

Dedicated to Mornic.

Background

My mother, Mornic, is the youngest of four children. She was born in 1985 in Cape Town, Happy-Valley and lived there for 20 years.

Life was good for my mom. She didn't struggle at all because her parents worked for the benefit of her future. That is what she does for us as a single mother. She provides us with our basic needs, e.g. clothing, education, housing and other important things we need every day.

Mom dropped out of school when she was in Grade 10, after falling pregnant at the age of 16. She gave birth to me at the age of 17 on the 23rd of August. I am my mother's birthday present because I was born after her birthday. Things haven't changed for her having a burning desire to have education, although her freedom as a teenager was cut short. So... my mom applied at an Intuition College where she also received a certificate for Introduction to Personal Computing.



Although mom struggled to support herself financially, she received two certificates because she was a hard worker, determined and committed.

The most Influential person in my life

Come, let
me tell you
a story.
Oneday....



By Hakeema
Matinka



Mom fell pregnant in Grade 10. She Left School.



Mom stopped studying when we moved to Durban in 2010 with my father. We lived in Smartiesville in Ladismith near Durban. She had a job at OK supermarket in 2010, where she worked as a cashier. We stayed until June and my mom and dad divorced. They had problems in their personal life. I did not interfere but I was curious. We moved back to Cape Town, leaving my dad behind. Mom had a job at the school I attend, Silversands Primary School. She did computer work and was a librarian. She left her job a few months later.



Interests and hobbies

My mom attended Blackheath Primary and Blackheath High School. She participated in soccer. She was also a member of the scholar patrol at Blackheath Primary. In primary school Mrs Esterhuizen, our deputy principal, used to teach them how to knit and do arts. Mom always loved doing schoolwork. Mom loves to think about others and always has exhaustible funny stories to tell us. Mom has

always been interested in computer skills and banking and financial management. My mother also used to play netball in primary school. She also used to help at the tuckshop or library. Mom is very authentic, meaning she really shows her true colours and doesn't hide her real personality. Mom has an affinity when listening to our problems and helps us. She also likes to do casual work.

The caring mother

This is my mother... the caring one. She supports my grandma financially. She is always good-humoured, but sometimes gets very angry, but not for long. She makes sure our basic needs are met. Her children and her future is her first priority. To me my mom is persistent. She persists in caring for us. I love her very much. I am so thankful God made these wonderful beings on Earth and let them be our mothers. She never lets us go to bed hungry and makes a plan. She even goes to borrow money to fill our tummies.



I try to make her proud every day and my sister Lateefah and I get diplomas every year and we are top achievers in school. She wants us to become better in life and achieve success. She always says to us "Never walk closed eyes through life." I have a reliance on my mother and wouldn't survive without her love and wisdom.

I can still remember the 17th of February 2013. Our house burnt down. We lived at the back of my grandma's house. I knew that my mom's heart was full of pain, but she just put on a brave face. At that time I admired her because





she tried to be brave and have courage, even though she was down. She is like a super-mom to me. Ready to save us from sadness, hunger and discomfort. She is special to me.

Although I have been through difficult times, you were a pillar of strength to me. You taught me how to overcome my challenges and to be positive and be focused in whatever I want to do in life. I have learnt that in life one can reach one's dreams despite any problem and for that I am gratefully thankful to you, Mornic. You made the best of me and I will live out the values you taught me. I have the realisation of success ahead of me and so many things I can do to become successful one day because of my mom who supports my hopes and dreams.

"The famous Nelson Mandela said that education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world, Hakeema," said my mom to me once. A good heart and a good head are always a formidable combination, but when you add to it a literate tongue or pen, then you have something special. That is why my sister and I want to make my mother proud...





A memorable experience at the Kruger National Park

Shawn Sithole
Delft Primary
Grade 5
12 years old

To see a predator attacking another predator (two of the big five) without fear, seeing how a predator attacks its prey, how the hunters have a strategy to hunt and how the hunted have a way to survive, was an experience of a lifetime.



The night prior to our journey to the Kruger National Park felt so long and I could hardly sleep. I was so excited to see the big five, that is: the elephant, the rhino, the leopard, the buffalo and especially the lion. When we arrived there, we got on the Land Rover with one tour guide and a driver. The guide had a rifle just in case some animals got violent, so that he could protect us. As we drove, the animals' eyes glittered as they were torched by the lights of the Land Rover.

The Land Rover had a big light that could flash to a distance of 100–150 m so that we could see the animals. It's so nice at night, because the hunters, like lions and cheetahs, are very busy. We saw a lion fighting to drop a zebra to the ground as it held tight onto its throat. The zebra struggled to get out of the lion's grip, but in vain. Eventually it gave up and fell down to the ground.

The tour guide said: "The lion aims at the neck so that it can crush the wind pipe on the throat, because if it attacks at the back, the zebra might



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Author: S
School: De
Grade: 5A
Age: 12 Years



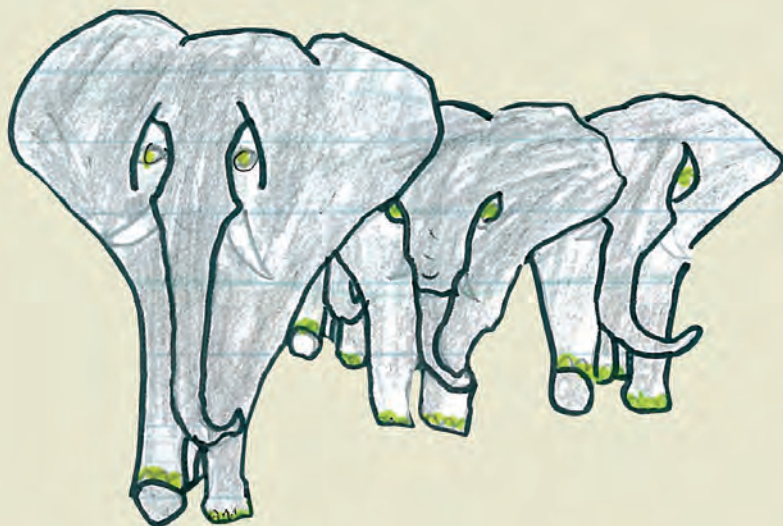
Shawn Sithole
Self Primary School

old



kick it to death. So when these animals are hunting, they also have a strategy to kill, and the zebra and some other hunted animals also have a way to survive."

It's very tough in the jungle, because after killing a meal, the intruders quickly come to the party – that's the hyenas and vultures – and it becomes a big fight over the meal. At times the lion gives up, because the hyenas come in big numbers and tear their prey into pieces. At night the animals can see just as good as during the day. Snakes are a major concern in the park, because at night you can't see them.



At the dam we saw zebras, antelopes, hippos, and even crocodiles. Everything was so peaceful in the early morning sun – only the sounds of the wild animals could be heard. While the animals were drinking water, they were looking around all the time, because they are always well aware of the crocodiles, lions and leopards that lie well hidden, waiting to pounce on them. In the distance, I could also

see three tall giraffes watching and peering over the tops of the Acacia trees, in fear of the enemy.

A crocodile was hiding in the water while it approached its prey (a zebra). The tour guide said: "A crocodile doesn't kill its prey by biting it. It pulls its prey to drown in the water and tears it apart. A crocodile's teeth are also not built to chew, but to crush bones." We saw the crocodile moving in on the zebras. Suddenly it attacked its victim. That was an incredible thing to see. We moved on and then we saw a herd of elephants. The tour guide said: "If an elephant dies in the herd, they mourn like us humans."

We moved on and then we heard this strange laughing sound and decided to check it out. It was a hyena, busy eating a springbok alive. The tour guide said: "A hyena's teeth and jaws are powerful enough to crush bones."

We were getting tired and decided to go back. On our way back we saw a massive buffalo wrestling with a lion. Dad said: "Quickly bring the camera". He started making a video. Suddenly the buffalo tore the lion's tummy with its two sharp horns. Eventually the lion died and it was such an amazing and unbelievable thing to see two of the big five going head to head. After a long and adventurous day, we went back to the campsite.

This is an experience I will never forget.



At the Waterhole





The princess and prince

Cassidy A. Abrahams
Delft Primary
Grade 5
11 years old

One morning they handed out forms at school. The form read that we were going to Artscape to see Swan Lake. I was sad to hear that not all my classmates could go with. Our teacher told us to put in luxuries. The day finally arrived. We left at nine o'clock. I felt very excited and oh so anxious to get there!

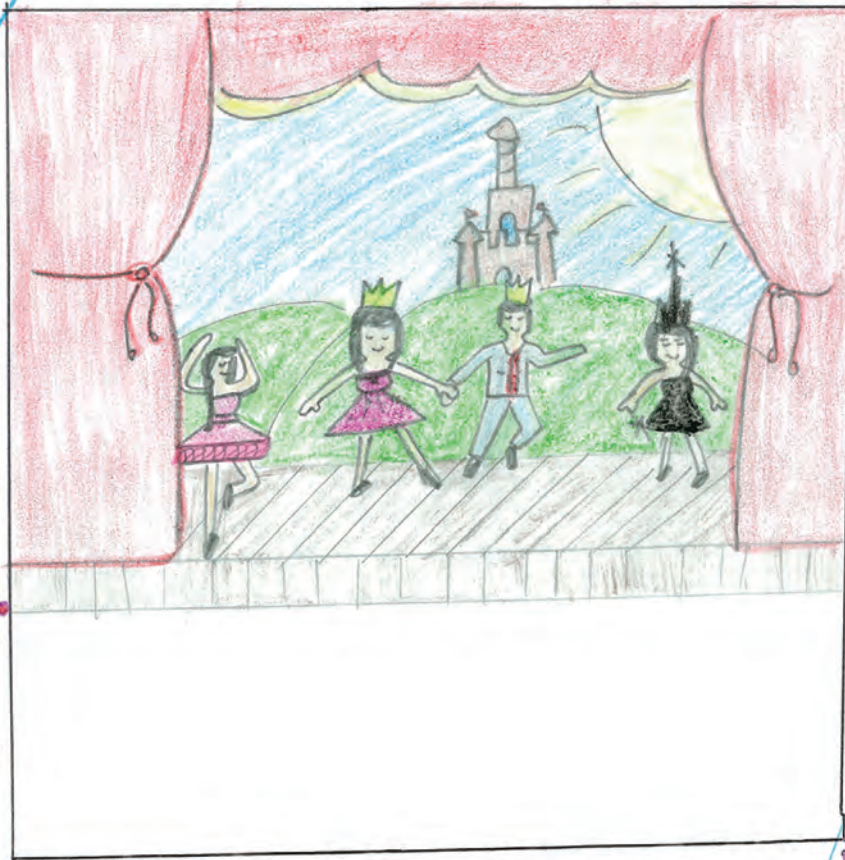
The evil Queen (Miranda) has done an evil thing and has left a spell upon the princess (Aurora). The prince (James) has a damsel in distress to save. What will he do now? Find out more...

When we arrived, I was so surprised to see how beautiful it looked inside. There were high walls and bright, shiny chandeliers. When we were seated the lights went off and only the stage lit up. The music began to play and at the same time four ballerinas came out dancing on the tip of their toes. They were so elegant! Their feet worked together and they did everything simultaneously. Suddenly we heard a sound. Bang!!! There was a tree in the middle of the stage and smoke appeared. Everyone was at the edge of their seats. "What was going to happen next?" they all wanted to know.

An evil Queen (Miranda) appeared out of the tree and scared the ballerinas away. Although Miranda was dressed in black, her dress sparkled because of the glitter on it. The princess (Aurora) came out. It looked like she was picking flowers, when all



The princess and prince



Author: Cassidy A. Abrahams





of a sudden Miranda approached her and gave her a flower to smell. As soon as Aurora smelled the flower, she fainted. Miranda left laughing with joy.

Suddenly the prince (James) appeared. He saw Aurora lying on the floor. He listened to her heartbeat and held her in his arms. He knew that she was dead. He looked very sad. The four ballerinas came out again. One of them whispered in his ear and James kissed Aurora. She had woken up so James hugged her so tightly and the curse was broken.



One morning
school. The form
Nico Malam
to hear the
go with. Our
luxuries. The
nine o'clock
anxious to

When we
see how
high walls
we were
the stage
at the so
dancing
so elegantly
did every
heard a
the mid
appeared
seats.

they at
(Maranda)
scared
Maranda was dressed in black,
dress sparkled because of the glitter on
it. The princess (Aroara) came out. It
looked like she was picking flowers, when
all of a sudden Maranda approached
her and gave her a flower to smell.

164
word



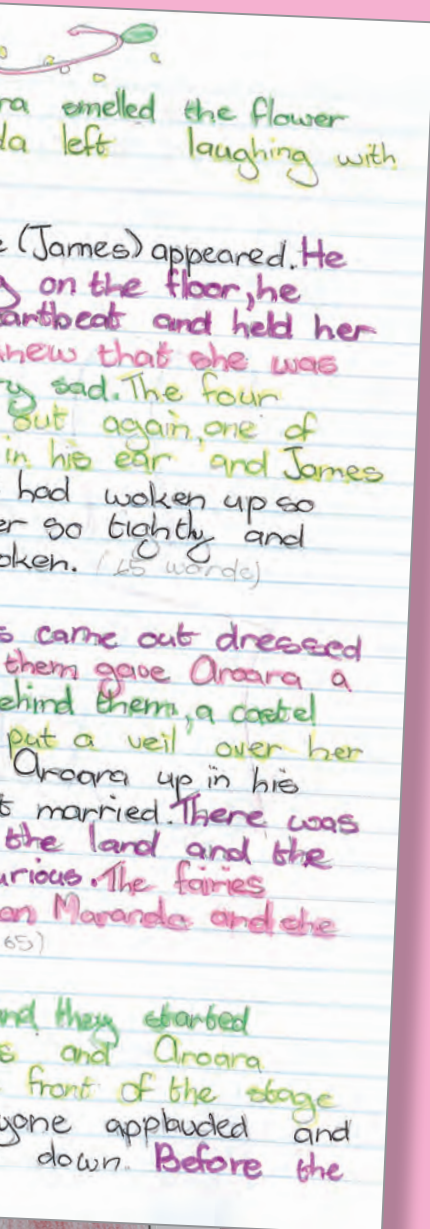
As soon as Aroara
she fainted. Maranda
joy. (114 words)

Suddenly the prince
saw Aroara laying
listened to her heart
in his arms. He knew
dead. He looked very
balletinas came
them whispered
kissed Aroara. She
James hugged her
the curse was broken

Four small balletinas
as fairies. One of
bunch of flowers. B
appeared. The fairies
head James picked
arms and they got
peace throughout
evil Maranda was
sprinkled silver dust
turned into stone.

Everyone celebrated
dancing together. James
held hands, ran to the
and took a bow. Even
the curtains came





Four small ballerinas came out dressed as fairies. One of them gave Aurora a bunch of flowers. Behind them a castle appeared. James picked Aurora up in his arms and they got married. There was peace throughout the land and the evil Miranda was furious. The fairies sprinkled their dust on Miranda and she turned to stone.

Everyone celebrated and they started dancing together. James and Aurora held hands, ran to the front of the stage and took a bow. Everyone applauded and the curtains came down. Before the show started a lady appeared in the corner of the stage. She told us what was going to happen in the story.

That was the experience I will never forget.

The end.





My amazing miracle holiday in Seychelles

Firdaus Salie
Strand Moslem Primary
Grade 5
11 years

I am Firdaus Salie and I am the author of this book. In my story you will find out what luck we had to be able to go, you will find out my flight experience, the good and the bad parts. You will also find out what I did in Seychelles, what I ate, saw and enjoyed. I hope you reader will find it interesting and enjoy it!

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- 2 Departure day
- 3 We have landed in Seychelles!
- 4 What we did in Seychelles
- 5 Our last day
- 6 Time to go home!

Chapter 1 • The beginning of a hidden miracle

We've just arrived at home (my father and I) and I'm planning to watch some TV. Just before I can get out of the car I start listening to this game show called Rapid Fire on 567 Cape Talk Radio Station. The show works like this: Every day from Monday to Friday at about 17:20 pm Rapid Fire, hosted by radio presenter John Maytham runs on 567 Cape Talk Radio Station. Each day people call in and two people are selected to play. Each player has a chance to ask John and his colleagues an interesting question, the studio team will try to answer the question and if they can't they will Google it. The player with the most interesting questions wins the game. They receive a prize like a lunch for two at a famous restaurant or cash or tickets to a cricket match or rugby match.

Well, today my daddy decided to call in for the competition. He called, it failed. He called, it failed, he tried again and he was chosen. We were excited that my daddy was on the radio. I remember his question was: "Which freshwater farm fish's skin is used to make leather?" The presenters guessed, some said salmon, trout, catfish but nobody could guess the correct answer. The answer was

Title

My Amazing
Miracle Holiday



in
SEYCHELLES

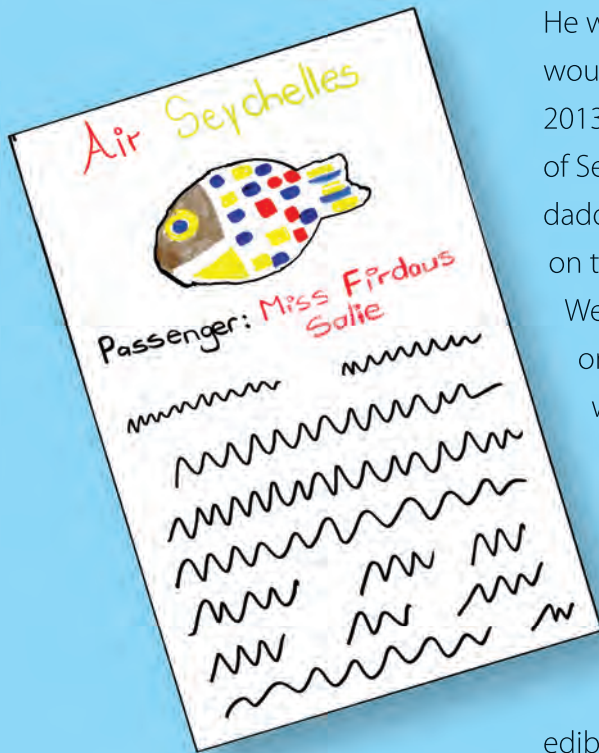


Author

Firdaus

Salie

the “Talapia Fish”. My daddy won that night because the presenters thought his question was the most interesting. He received a R100 voucher as a prize.



He was very lucky because the 4 winners of that week would be playing against each other on Friday 10 May 2013 to win a grand prize: A trip to the amazing island of Seychelles. Everyone in the family was excited for my daddy to win this competition. Some of my family were on their way to Langebaan for our annual camp weekend. We did not go that year. They were listening to my daddy on the radio. My daddy's question was: "John, if you were to grow some potatoes in your garden (let's say a friend gave you a few aartappel moere), you let the plant flower, and then leave it to fruit. What kind of fruit will it produce?" The presenters guessed and guessed but gave up. My father told them the answer and they were stunned. The answer was "a tomato like fruit" but do not eat it. It is totally not edible. I remember the presenters' word: "And the winner is... Khalid Salie!" We were overjoyed, all screaming and shouting, so excited. My dad could not believe he won, it was a dream come true.

It became closer and closer to the expiry date of the trip. My daddy teased and teased that we were not going with him and my mom to Seychelles. Then the Friday before we were actually leaving, my daddy took our tickets out of his jacket pocket. We were stunned, excited and speechless.

We couldn't wait to go!

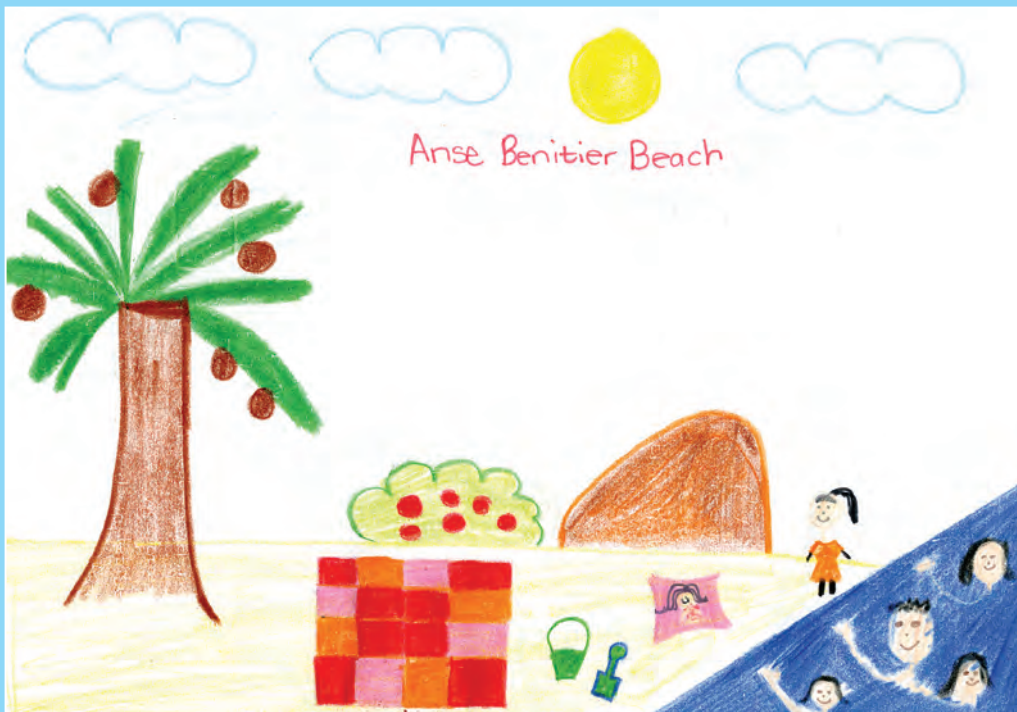
Chapter 2 • Departure day

It's departure day! It's 3:00 am and it is EXTREMELY COLD! Our tracksuits were laid out on our beds ready to put on. We got dressed, got our luggage and off we went. I was feeling so anxious all the way to the airport. We have stopped at the airport and we greeted our family and went inside. We got to check-in and our bags went through machines and wow the airport that morning was packed. It was just people, people and more people everywhere. We boarded a bus that took us to our aeroplane. We then boarded the plane and we were served breakfast. I did not enjoy the flight because we sat in the very last row of the plane. It felt as if we were dangling from the aeroplane and the breakfast made me nauseous. Well finally we landed in Johannesburg at O.R. Tambo International Airport. We walked to the food court and bought some Nandos' chips. (My sisters and I did not eat breakfast). It's time to board Air Seychelles! We boarded Air Seychelles and were on our way there. It was the best flight ever! The food was delicious! I watched a lot of movies like Bolt and High School Musical. We landed in Seychelles! I cannot believe the flight was that quick. As they say: Time flies when you're having fun!



Chapter 3 • We have landed in Seychelles!

We have landed in Seychelles! The Airport is beautiful and boy it is Hot! We are on our way to the resort. I can't wait to call my family but wait I forgot I can't. We've entered the resort and it is amazing! It is so beautiful and luxurious! Each house comes with a club car to ride around the resort. Our apartment was beautiful. It had 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a lovely patio! It is fully air conditioned, thankfully! The resort has 2 pool areas and pools and 4 private made beaches. It has a shop called Foodmart in the Eden Plaza (it is actually a Spar supermarket). It is Friday and we ate our first breakfast in Seychelles. We just lay in our rooms settling in and packing out. We had some lunch and went to explore the resort and check out the pools and beaches. We went for a swim at the club house pool then we swam at the hideaway pool (we called it that because not many people go and swim there and it was hidden in the trees). We went to the Plaza and got some groceries. One thing not so nice for Muslims is that there is not a single *halaal* takeout or restaurant on the whole island. The next two days were the same: My sisters and I did not want to leave our resort, it was too relaxing.



Chapter 4 • What we did in Seychelles

It's Monday and we have hired a car to roam the island. We kind of at first got lost. Then we found the mosque. We drove up and down hills and all over Seychelles. We went to a stall and bought a coconut then my daddy also bought a tuna fish. We went back home and watched TV. The next day we woke up early and went to play tennis then we got washed and ready to go to the craft flea market. We bought some T-shirts, scarves and bags. We returned home and went to swim! We went to the beach called Anse Benitier and just so you know the beaches over there's seawater is SALTY!

Chapter 5 • Our last day

Today is our last day in Seychelles. At the same time, I was feeling sad and happy. We dressed, had some breakfast and went to swim at the hideaway pool. I remember messing with chips in the pool. Then we went to the beach and we collected a huge amount of seashells. There were so many different kinds. My father still said: "You are taking too many shells. They won't let you take that many home. There won't be any left for anyone else." We laughed. After that we went home and washed and sealed the bag of shells. But boy was the bag HEAVY!



Then we went and took our last swim in Seychelles, at the clubhouse pool. There we met a girl, her name is Danyella, she also lives in South Africa, she lives in Benoni. Her father is from South Africa and her mother is Russian. She speaks fluent English and Russian but she is only 4 years old. Finally we went to play some tennis. My sister Rahma fell and hurt her knee badly. But she is a tough tot so it was not the end of the world. We went back to the apartment and got our luggage ready to go.

Chapter 6 • Time to go home!

It's Thursday. I woke up and immediately I was not feeling well. But anyway I carried on and it's time to go. We checked and double checked everything. Off we were. Bye Seychelles! We arrived at the airport and I'm still feeling sick. My family decided to go to the shop but I stayed sitting at the gates. I took some medication and felt much better. I also took a nap. I ate such a delicious raisin muffin with jam and butter. We're in SA! We departed the plane, and checked our luggage in again. Then we went to the SLOW LOUNGE. It's so cold there! You can eat anything by not paying. (FNB payers can go there.) There was lots to drink like coffee, tea, cold drinks, juices, grapetiser and appletiser. There was lots to eat. There was a selection of cheeses, chicken wraps, crackers, sandwiches, red, blue, green velvet mini cupcakes, muffins and pastries.

So now it is time to go home. We boarded the plane and we were seated in Business Class. It is so comfortable. We had delicious chicken burgers to eat. We have landed in Cape Town. We're home! We got our luggage and there was our family waiting for us. We went home and had Breyani for lunch at my grandmother's house. Oh well that's my story of my experience in SEYCHELLES!!





20 years into Democracy

Shane Sobotker
Siversands Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

Voting day

On 7 May 2014 Jason's grandmother was getting herself ready to go to a voting booth to cast her vote. When Jason (9) asked his grandmother (51) where she was going, she replied that she was going to vote because she wanted South Africa to stay a democratic country. Jason looked curiously at his grandmother and asked, "What is a democratic country?"

This story is about Jason who wants to learn about democracy. His grandma tells him how democracy has benefited people today.



His grandmother explained, "A democratic country is a country which is lead by democracy."

Jason asked again, "What is democracy?"

She explained, "Democracy is a system of government in which people choose their leaders in elections. But it is much more than that..."

Jason went with his grandmother to the voting booth.



He watched the long process that she had to go through just to vote. He got very bored. At last his grandmother was done voting.

He asked his grandmother, "How did you feel when you voted for the first time?"

She replied, "Jason, I am too tired to talk now, but I will explain when we get home."

Jason learns more about democracy

When they got home, Jason nagged his grandmother to tell him about democracy. She agreed but first sent him to buy milk and bread. He saw his friends on the way and told them his grandmother was going to tell him more about democracy. They asked if they could also come and listen to his grandmother. He replied, "Yes, I am sure my grandmother won't mind." They were so happy to hear Jason's answer.

They went with Jason and sat in a semi-circle around his grandmother. They listened as she started excitedly.

Democracy requires both the government and the people to follow certain rules, and every citizen who lives in the country has rights and freedom, but every citizen must obey the laws of the country.

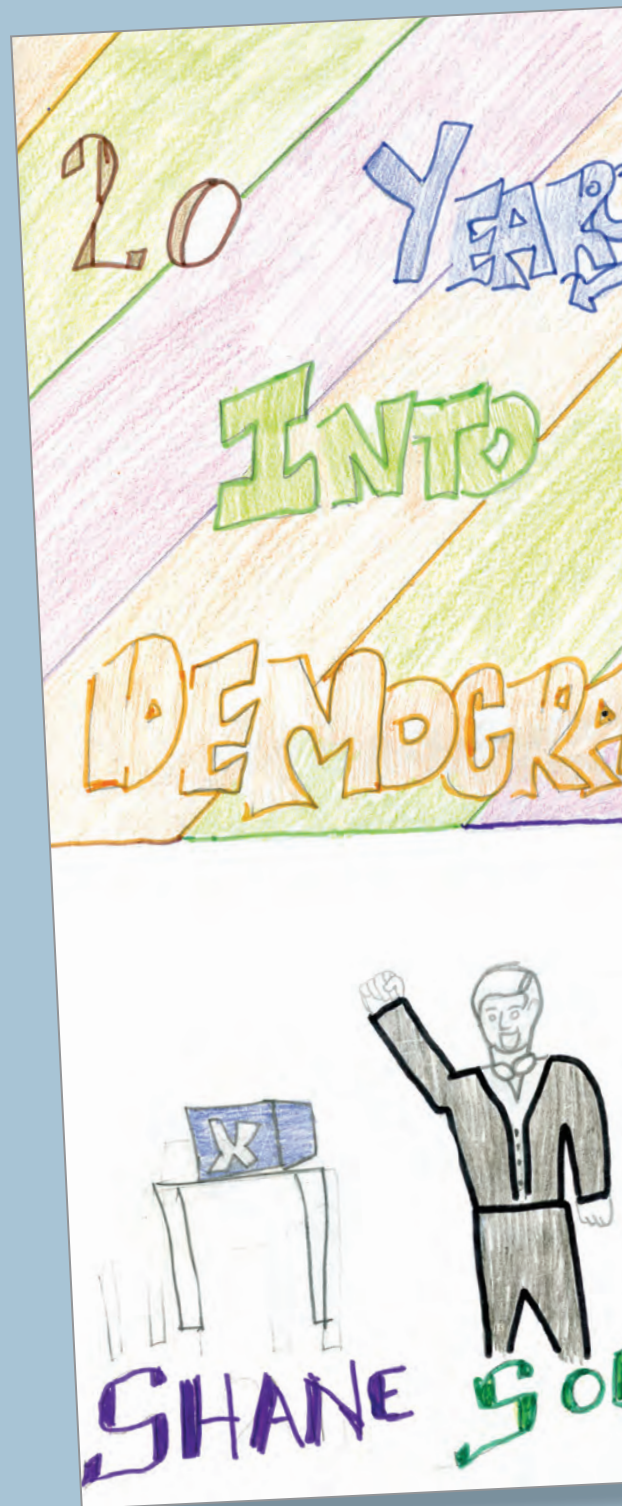
Jason is more curious

He asked his grandma, "Gogo, is it ok if I asked you questions about democracy and how you felt?"

She replied, "Ok, you may."

He asked her, then she would reply, "How did you feel when you voted for the first time?"

She replied, "I felt happy again." He asked again, "Have you benefited from democracy?" She replied, "Yes, I have, but



VOTING DAY

On 7 May 2014 Jason's grandmother was getting herself ready to go to a voting booth to cast her vote when Jason (9) asked his grandmother (51) where she was going, she replied that she was going to vote because she wanted South Africa to stay a democratic country. Jason looked curiously at his grandmother and asked, "What is a democratic country?" His grandmother replied, "A democratic country is a country which is led by democracy." Jason asked again, "What is democracy?" She explained, "Democracy is a system of government in which people choose their leaders in elections. But it is much more than that..."

Jason went with his grandmother to the voting booth. He watched the long process that she had to go through just to vote. He was very bored. At last his grandmother was at the voting booth.

Jason asked his grandmother, "How did you feel when you voted for the first time?" She replied, "Jason, I am too tired to talk now, but I will explain when we get home."

BOTHER

not only me, all the blacks and coloureds have benefited from democracy."

"How have you benefited from democracy?" He asked her, then she replied, "We were unable to live in the same area as whites during apartheid, but we can do things nowadays that whites do."

Jason's grandma told him with a smile on her face, "You know Jason, the youth of South Africa has a better future with more job opportunities, primary and high school selections, so you won't have to drop out of school, because you get a free education."

Jason asked his grandma, "Gogo, is it true that people get jobs easily nowadays?" She replied, "Yes, it is Jason."

"Why are whites and coloureds friends?" he asked her, then she answered, "All people are treated equally now: whites, coloureds, blacks, Indians, Muslims, etc."

Jason then asked, "Grandma, could I become a scientist during apartheid?"

She replied, "No, only whites were allowed to get jobs such as prosecutors, scientists and senior positions in certain jobs."

"Yoh!" They all shouted out together looking astonished, they were also very excited and interested. One of Jason's friends, Watson, asked his grandma, "Can the government change things as they please?"





She replied, "No, the government cannot do whatever it likes. It has to respect the Constitution and the rights of the country's citizens."

Jason and his friends felt very lucky because they didn't have to experience apartheid. Jason felt lucky indeed, but he was also sad for her because she went through apartheid. He walked up to her and told her, "I am sorry you had to go through apartheid, but I promise to give my best and enjoy life."

She replied with tears in her eyes, "Thank you, that is all I need from you." Jason always did his best from that day on.

The end.



A memorable experience

Ayesha Ariefdien
Norma Road Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

This is a story of two best friends who work together to set traps for some robbers. The robbers came and broke in. They tied Alicia and her family up. Then another robber came in and also tried to steal. What will happen next?

One Friday night I was on my way to visit my best friend Alicia. I was very excited because we had been looking forward to it for a long time. When I got there, there were two suspicious men outside her house.

I kept on walking making sure they didn't see me looking at them. When I came back from the shop the two strange men had left Alicia's house and were missing.

Then I went around the corner and came back to Alicia's house. I looked around Alicia's house, I searched everywhere but I couldn't find the two suspicious men.

So I heard voices in an alley. I followed the voices and it had led me to the men I had been searching for. I heard what they had been talking about.

I actually found out they were house robbers and were planning to rob Alicia's house. They were talking about what they were going to steal.

So when the two robbers went into another room I grabbed their planning sheet and ran as fast as I could. When I got home I read the planning sheet.

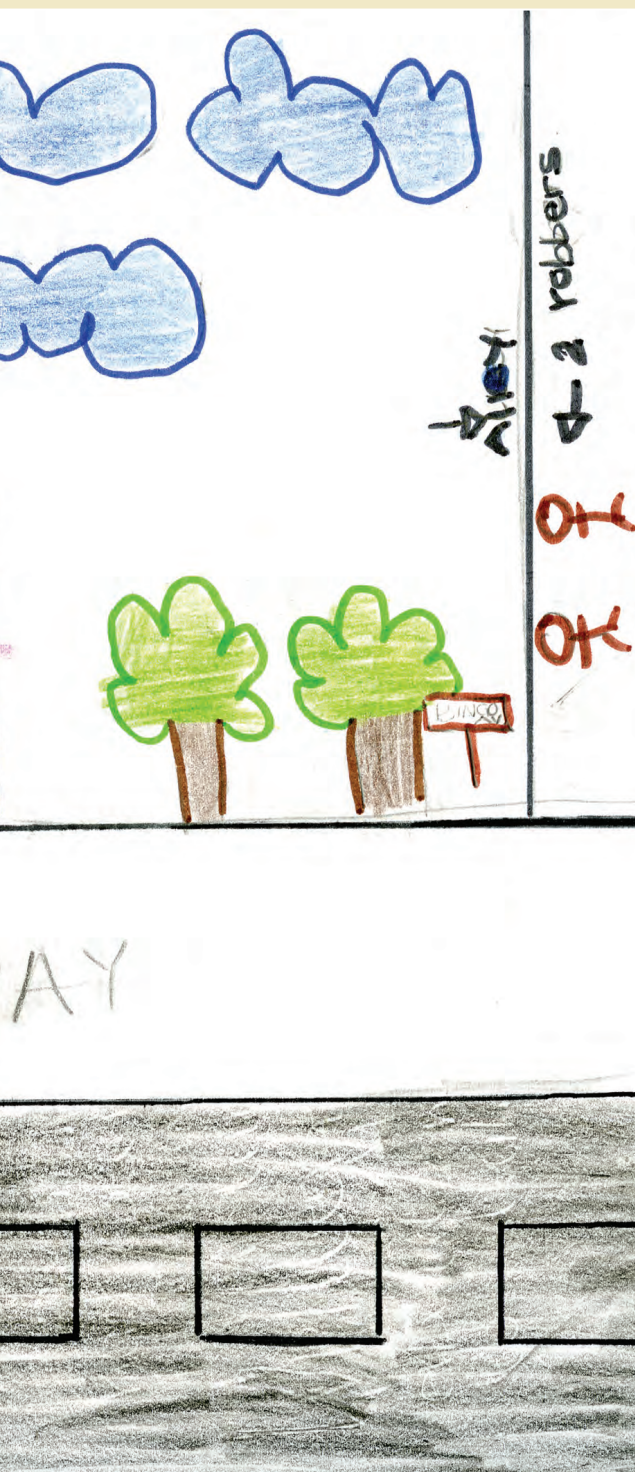
A Memorable Experience



STANDARD BANK	
DATE 25 June 2014	
PAY Ayesha Ariefdien	R 100 000 .00
Sum of One hundred thousand rand ONLY!	
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>[Signature]</i> MR. PETERSON	<i>[Signature]</i> Mr Croxley
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Written and Illustrated
by
Ayesha Ariefdien





I went to Alicia's house the next day to give her the planning sheet. She asked what it was. I explained to her what had happened.

She didn't seem surprised when I had finished explaining. She said that there were many break-ins at her house during the past year.

So we made our own plans. I helped her with the traps we had to set. I told her how everything worked. I also told her where to walk and where not to.

We sat up till 11 'o clock that night fixing traps. I went home at 12 'o clock. I went straight to bed and set my alarm for 5 A.M.

The next morning I got up at 5 A.M. I took a shower and got ready to go to Alicia's house. On the way I saw the window broken at Alicia's house. I knew something happened.

I went closer to the house to have a better look. I went to have a look through the broken window. I saw Alicia's mom, dad, 2 brothers and herself sitting in a room.

They all had blindfolds on and their hands were tied behind their backs. Just then one of the robbers came in. I just then recognised him. He was one of the men I saw at Alicia's house.

Then the other robber came in. They knew where all the traps had been set. They both knew exactly what to do in the house. They might have been spying on us while we were busy working on the traps.

Then they both took Alicia's parents into another room. I then quietly opened the door. I walked in quietly and went to take the blindfolds off Alicia and her brothers.

Alicia told me what had happened. Then another robber came in. He didn't know there were other robbers in the house. He didn't even notice us.

Then I thought the robber must be blind. The thing that gave that away was the sunglasses and the guiding stick. I then put my foot out and tripped him.

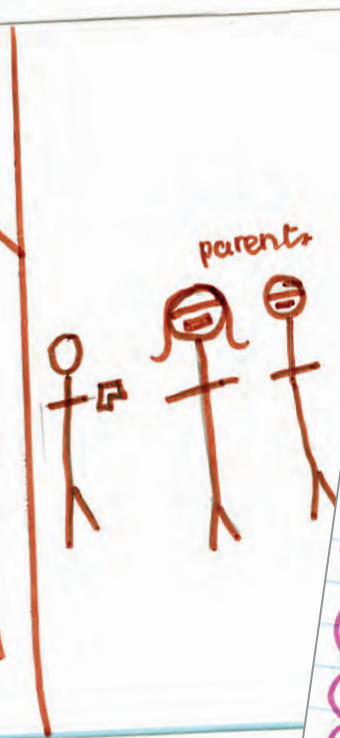
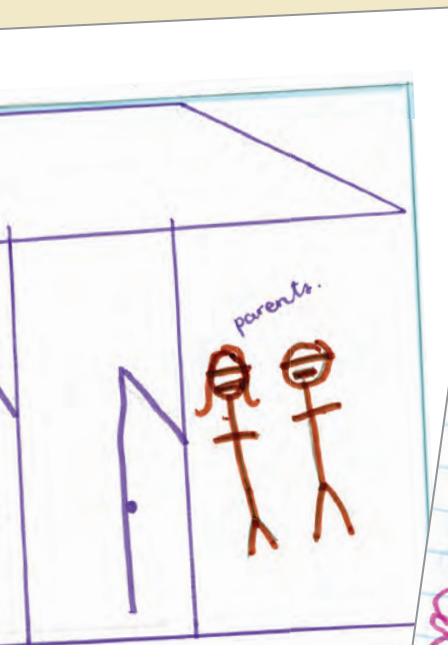
The other robbers who were there first came in to see what all the commotion was. The first robber saw me and told me to step away from his victims.

I told the robber I wouldn't tell anyone if he let us all go free. He said he wouldn't take that chance. I tried to escape but the other robber held a gun in my face.

The next thing I knew I was also tied up. I told Alicia that I would move behind her back and would try to untie the rope around her hands.

We did this for a very long time. The first robber came back. He asked the other robber if he should start shooting but he didn't get an answer.





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He again went back into the other room. I remembered I had a knife in my pocket. I asked Alicia to take it out of my pocket and cut the ropes.

When I was free I went after the robbers. I went to find them. One of them was busy on the house phone. I saw a large stick and picked it up.

I took the stick and hit him hard against his head. I hid behind the door when the second robber came in. I hit him behind his head too and tied them up.

I untied Alicia and her family. Her dad called the police. They came right away. They asked who had caught the thieves and Alicia's dad said I did.

They said that the robbers were two of the most wanted men in South Africa. They also said they were offering a reward to the person who caught them

I asked what type of reward and they said they were going to give away R100 000. I said I would keep the money and the robbers.

The officer asked why, so I told them they would give a reward to the person who caught the robbers and I caught them so they couldn't take them.

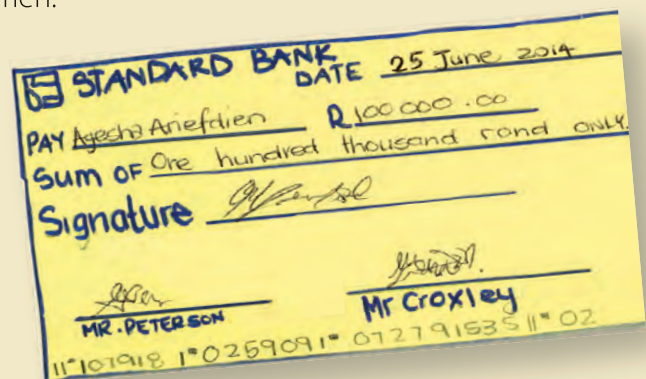
They didn't understand, so I explained that they would give a reward to the person who caught the thieves, not to the person who would put them in jail.

I took the reward and gave it to charity. I also made the robbers my own personal butlers. They each had a collar around their necks so if they tried to steal anything the collar would set off an alarm.

A couple of days after that the holidays were over and I asked Alicia how she felt about the robbery and she said that her best friend caught two most wanted men.

This is my most memorable experience.
The best one actually. The one where I became a HERO!!

The End





A memorable experience

Thato Mpapa
St Augustine Primary
Grade 6
12 years old

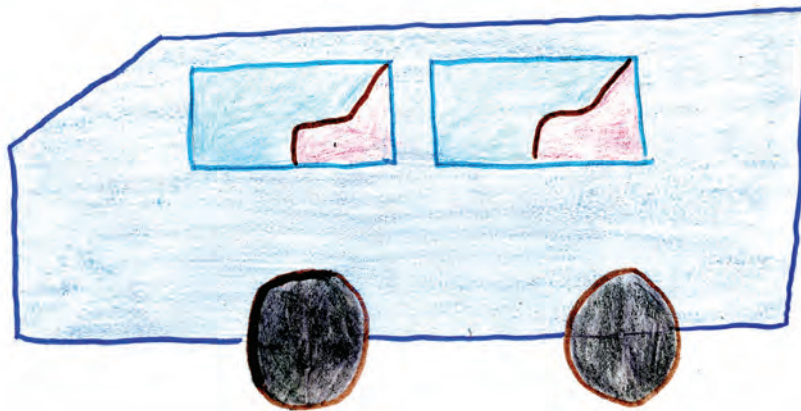
This is an awesome story written by an awesome author. It is a book about a camp that was cancelled because of Vuyolwethu's irresponsible deeds. Sit back and enjoy the magical moments brought by magical Thato.

Finally the moment arrived! We were in a bus heading to Kimberley. We were going to a camp that would last for three days.

The bus was very noisy as people were singing, shouting and talking. We made so much noise that the bus driver got furious and started yelling at us. After the bus driver got back to his seat, a large shadow of silence fell over the bus. Nosipho who couldn't live without the sound of music put on her earphones and slept.

After a few hours we stopped at a refreshment area and refreshed ourselves. Soon after, we got back to the bus and drove off. After sometime I realised that Nosipho was missing! She must have been left at the refreshment area. I quickly sprang up and shouted, "Stop, stop Nosipho is missing!" Nosipho's mother got such a fright that she too sprang up and started shouting. The bus driver, who was a grumpy old man once again got out of his seat and started telling how uncaring and how unkind we were. After the long speech we finally drove back to the refreshment area, which was approximately 15 km from where we were.

A MEMORABLE!



EXPERIENCE!!!

Author: Thato Mpapa

Illustrator: Thato Mpapa

When we arrived at the refreshment area, I saw Nosipho curled up in a small ball and crying. When she saw us, she bawled louder and did not make any effort to get into the bus. Nosipho got on board and started telling us a long story of what happened. The story was so long and unexciting that I started feeling gloomy and sleepy. Unexpectedly I fell asleep.

After a long, exhausting journey, we finally reached Kimberly. The camping area was a huge, grassy field without any street lights.

There was a lot of work to be done. Firstly we had to remove the grass in the area where we would place our tent. While we worked peacefully I suddenly heard a loud voice shouting, "A snake, a venomous one!"

Suddenly there was a great chaos as people were running away. But then I heard another voice saying, "It was a pipe!" People let out great sighs of relief.

Soon after this we put up our tent. That was really hard. It took us hours. Eventually our tent was up, but it was not stable. Our instructor said that we should get in it because we could not make any difference as it was getting dark.

In the middle of the night we saw lightning and then we heard a loud crash of thunder. Unexpectedly there was a storm and strong winds arose. Our tent began to swing side to side and finally it fell. The pole which held up the tent fell and hit Refilwe on her forehead. Refilwe gave out a loud sigh of pain and started calling for help.





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Mrs Mdimbaza woke up immediately and called the ambulance. Unfortunately there was no signal so we couldn't get hold of the ambulance.

We sprang up and woke other campers begging for help. Soon the whole camp was up and rushing to help us. A qualified first aider helped Refilwe.

The following morning, all the campers were called to a meeting. When we arrived at the meeting we were told that the camp would be cancelled as Refilwe's injury was very serious. All the campers growled and complained, but they did it in vain. The next morning we once again got on board and headed to Cape Town.





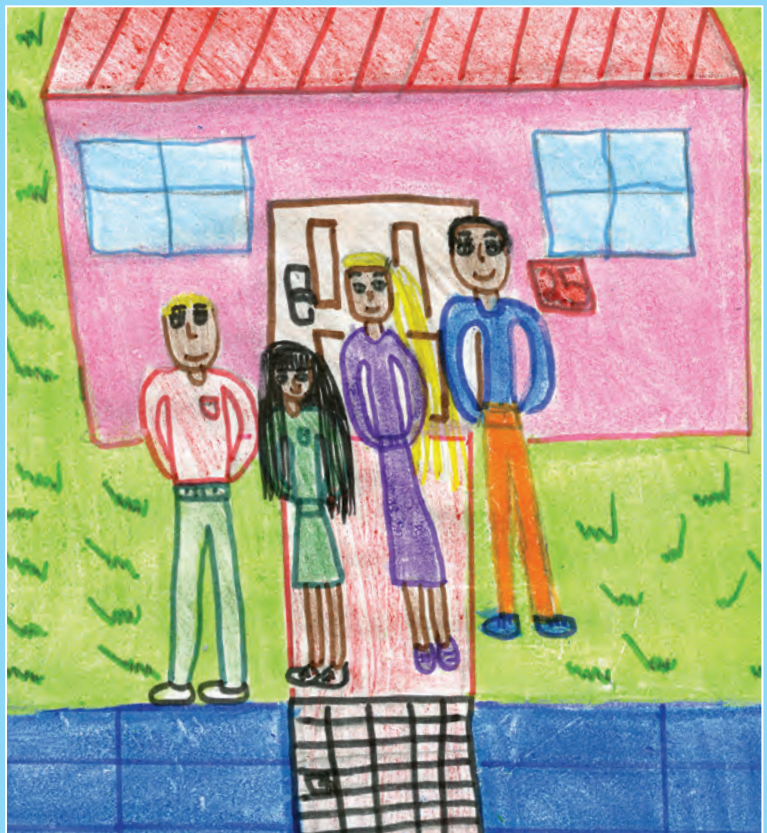
A memorable experience

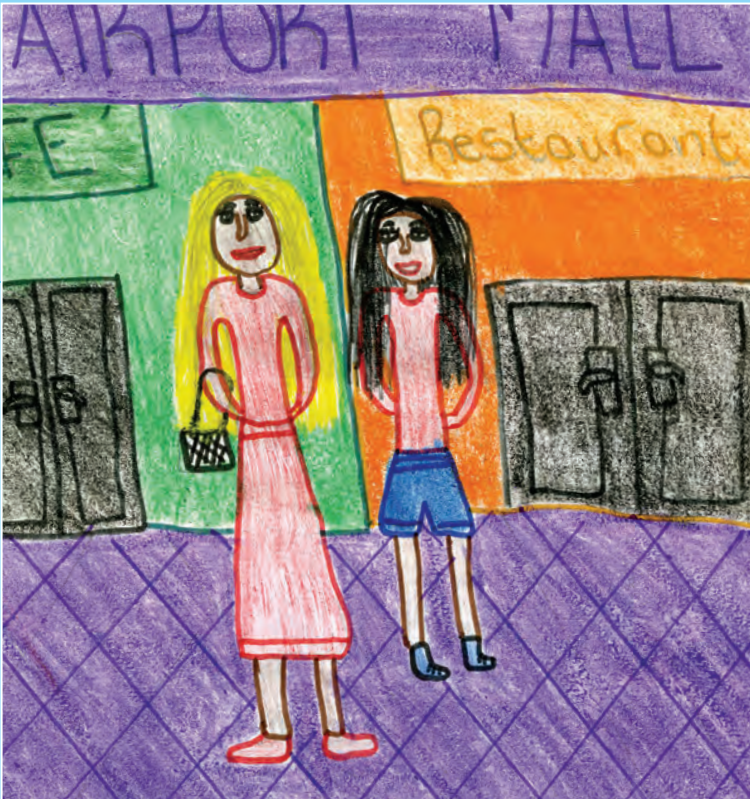
Nikita Robinson
Symphony Primary
Grade 6
12 years old

This story is about a young girl named Olivia Smith. She tells us how she gets kidnapped and how she felt during this whole experience. She also mentions the good things that came out of this horrible experience.

Chapter 1

My name is Olivia Smith. I live with my parents and my older brother. Up until a month ago I was a normal college student studying to become a successful dentist. Then a very tragic thing happened, that I will never forget.





A month ago I was kidnapped. I was tortured and held captive for seven days. On the eighth day I escaped. I ran as fast as I could to the nearest police station. The experience that I had was horrible, and after that my life was forever changed.

Chapter 2

My mom and I went to the mall. As usual we went our separate ways. When I was done buying the things I needed, I went to look for her. While I was trying to phone her a man approached me and held a gun to my side. He told me if I said anything he would shoot me. I was very afraid!

The man told me to walk out of the mall and towards a car. He tied me to the seat and took away my phone. He also put a blindfold on my face. We drove for about half an hour and then we suddenly stopped. We had stopped in front of a house with a lot of gates and locks. He took me into the house. I heard a lot of gates and locks open. I did not know what was going on around me, but I heard voices and sounds.

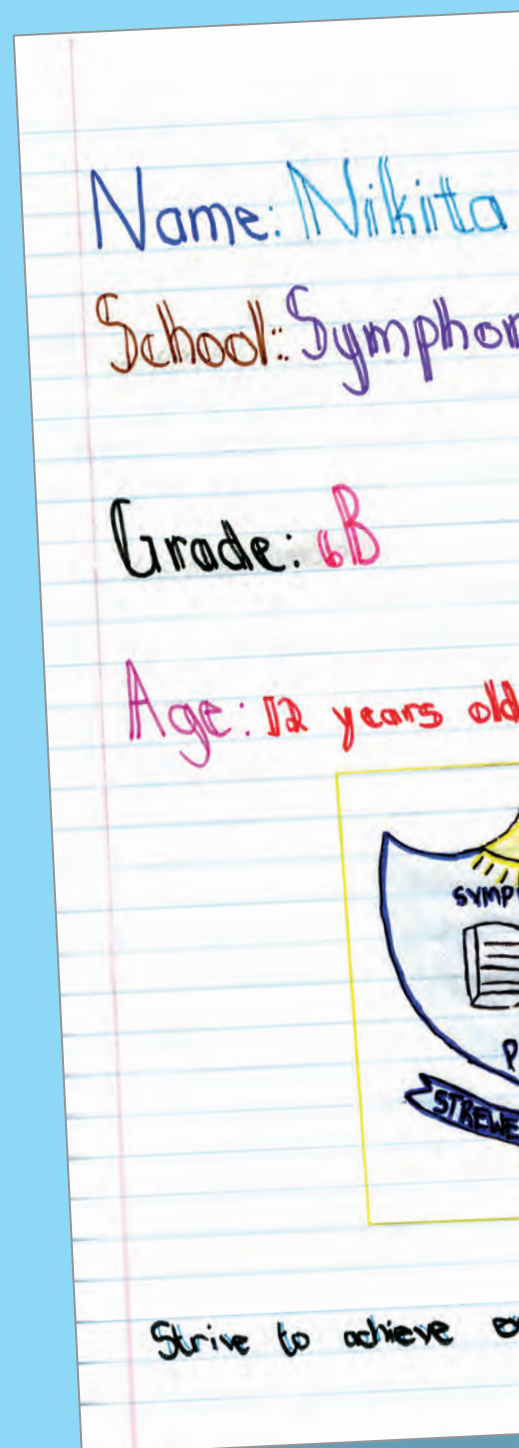
Chapter 3

When the kidnapper took the blindfold off I looked into his eyes and saw hatred. I felt so terrified! I observed my surroundings and I saw another girl also tied to the wall.

I tried to speak to speak to her and said, "What is your name?" She looked at me and whispered "Jill is my name and I have also just arrived at this place." I then told her what I felt in my heart at that moment, and we shared emotions. Jill and I developed a great relationship during those few hours. After that the kidnapper walked in. We were very quiet. We kept still.

Chapter 4

When the kidnapper came in, he tortured us for seven days without stopping. He kicked us, hit us and also raped us. By the eighth day I was beaten very badly, but I had not given up hope.



Robinson
Primary



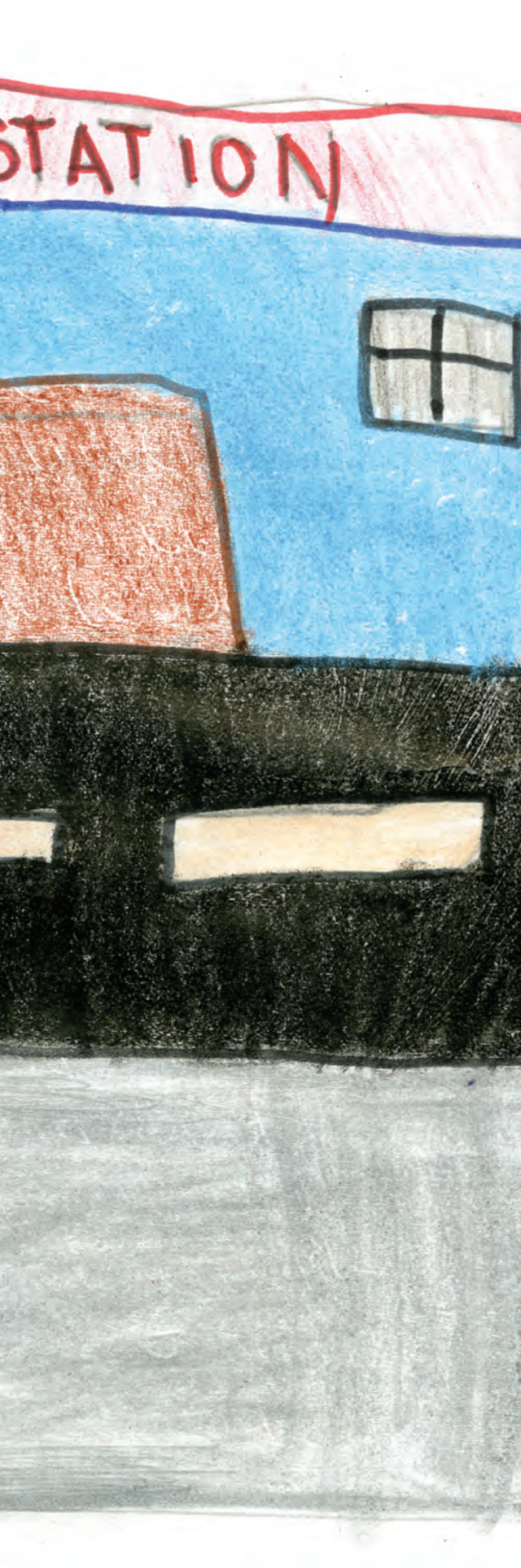
ellence !!!

Chapter 1

My name is Olivia Smith. I live with my parents and my older brother. Up until a month ago I was a normal college student studying to become a successful dentist. Then a very tragic thing happened, that I will never forget.

A month ago I was kidnapped. I was tortured and held captive for seven days. On the eighth day I escaped. I ran as fast as I could to the nearest police station. The experience that I had was horrible, and after that my life was forever changed.





At the end of the day Jill and I found a way to escape and ran as fast as we could to the nearest police station. The police officers let us write a statement and then took us home to our families. We were very happy to see our families again.

Chapter 5

After this experience I have become a successful detective. Jill and I also travel around the world spreading our message as motivational speakers. I teach everyone I know to be careful and alert.

I would not change what happened to me because it made me a better person and it taught me to appreciate life more. It also brought me closer to my family and friends. I also gained a wonderful best friend named Jill who would catch a grenade for me. Even if the kidnapper is not caught, I still forgive him and I hope that God will too. Jill and I also encourage people to live every day like it's their last.





A visit to the museum

Zethu Ndleleni
Liwa Primary
Grade 5
11 years old

For my family, school and friends whose contribution cannot be measured in monetary terms.

On the 16 December 2013, exactly at sunrise, my mother told us to prepare and go to the Museum of Science and Technology. Everyone was excited by such good news in the morning. We quickly bathed. My cousin who normally complains when it comes to bathing never grumbled on this day. After breakfast we drove in my father's car.

A visit to the museum with my family and friends was an eye opener. We learnt a lot of historical facts which I cannot forget and helped me to accept other culture without reservations.



It was in summer and it was very hot. We saw a shop that sold ice-cream. One ice-cream was R1. Each person got an ice-cream, which was delicious, before we continued.

The children in the car were hungry so we went to Hungry Lion. When we arrived at Hungry Lion, we ordered meat, potato chips with tomato sauce and some sweets. After eating lunch at Hungry Lion we got inside the car. On our way we met my father's friend.

His family also wanted to visit the museum of Science and Technology, but there was no space in our car.

A visit to the museum



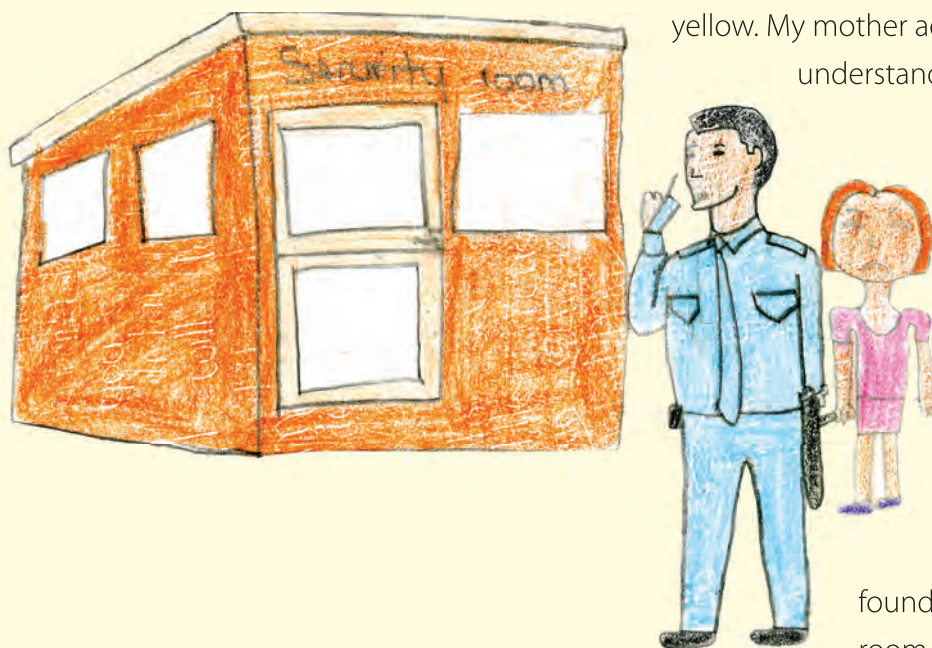
Zethu Ndleleni

We decided to go in groups using my father's friend's car.

As we approached the museum of Science and Technology, we got so excited. We were eager to see interesting things. At the museum there were lots of people, children and cars. We found a space to park our car after a long time. Our parents left us in the car while they went to buy tickets.

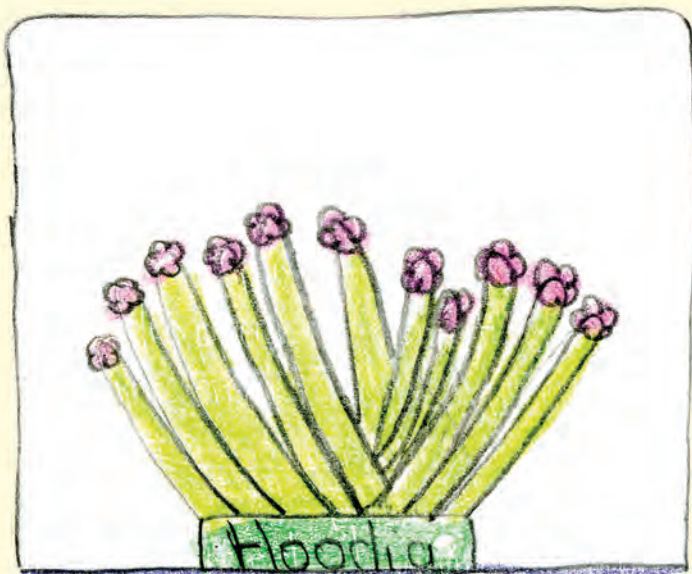
There was a long queue. We were hungry so we took some food to eat. We waited what seemed a year before my cousin's mother came to fetch us. We were so happy to get inside the museum. I realised that the museum was very big.

Inside the museum we first saw clay pots that San people used long ago. The clay pots were red, black and yellow. My mother advised us to learn and understand that the San used them.



My cousin is naughty and did not want to listen. She got lost while playing with a new friend she met there. When we realised that she was lost we all panicked and started looking for her. We finally found her crying by the security room after 20 minutes and everyone was happy to see her.

We continued looking at the beautiful interesting things. We saw San people's drawings on rocks. Our tour-guide, Sindi, gave us a lot of information about San things. She seemed to have lived with the San. We enjoyed her company. Sindi explained that the pictures show San people hunting animals, collecting wild plants for food and for medicine. The San people were hunter-gatherers who lived in caves. San people were nomadic.



I also learnt that San people were creative and painted on rocks. Most of their drawings have animals and people hunting. They used different colours to draw like red, white, black and yellow.

The San painters used tiny brushes made of feathers stuck onto the end of reeds. We saw a plant called Hoodia. They were using Hoodia to stop thirst and hunger when hunting.

We also learnt a lot of information about skeletons of animals and people. We saw a skeleton of a dog and a dinosaur. We learnt that dinosaurs ate leaves and lived on earth long ago, but now are extinct.

When Sindi was talking my silly cousin was also talking. My father said, "Hei! Stop talking, you are making noise." My cousin did not listen to that and her mother said, "I will lock you inside the car if you make noise again," she said angrily. My cousin was scared to be locked inside the car and she kept quiet.

I was surprised to see a man carrying two spiders. My little cousin was afraid and she ran to her mother crying. Everyone laughed. My parents left us at the museum while they went to organise a venue for my sister's birthday party. All of us were in the dark about this. After some time my parents came back and asked us to go to the car. We thought we were going home. We were surprised to find a table set for us at Spur.

We also found a birthday cake with my sister's name written on top. That cake was my sister's dream cake. It had a beautiful doll in the middle. She was very excited to see her birthday celebrated at Spur. Everyone started to respect my sister. My silly cousin thought there would be no celebration. She thought we were going back home.

We wanted to play at the playing-room and we were given permission. We were jumping on the jumping castle. It was fun! There were lots of games like play station, jumping castle, fun horse and climbing mountain. I mostly played at



Steak
Ranches

A taste for life



We also found
my sister's name on
my sister's cream cake
doll in the middle.
to see her birthday
Everyone started to
silly cousin thought
celebration. She thought
home.

We wanted to
and we were given
jumping at the
fun! There were
jumping castle, fun
mountain, mostly
fun horse and
castle. While we
mother - calling

We found the
sweets and
birthday so
My sister
hands. Our
shoes. Photos

put pieces of cake
After eating we put
containers and we went
not long before our parents
called us.

A visit to the museum

Name: Zethu Ndleleni



School: Liwa Primary School

Grade: 5

Age: 11

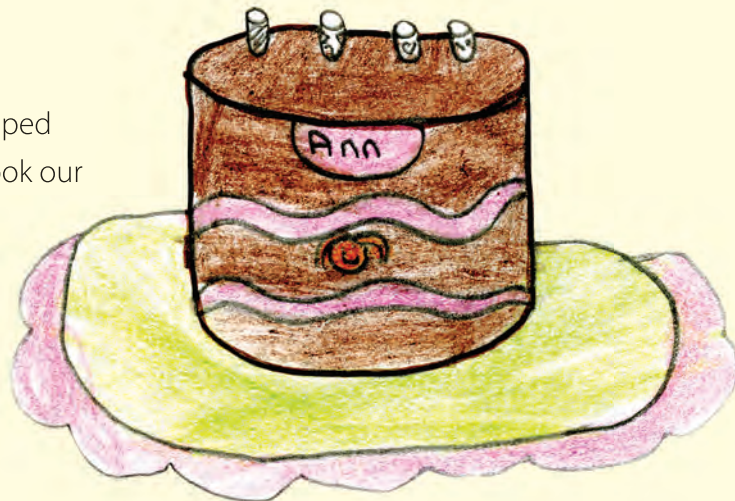
the climbing mountain. My sisters liked playing at the fun horse and my cousins at the jumping castle. While we were playing we heard my mother calling us and we ran to her.

We found the table set with delicious food. Sweets and dessert came later. We sang a birthday song and we were happy. My sister blew candles and clapped hands. Our parents told us to wear our shoes. Photos were taken for remembrance. They put pieces of cake in tupperware containers. After eating we put left overs in take-away containers and we went to play. It was long before our parents called us.

We first made a queue to take our party packets. Inside the party packets were lollipops, chips (simba), chocolate biscuits and sweets. We went to the car and took our seats. Others started to eat their party packets. On our way we saw a gigantic house and Tata Madiba's statue. It reminded me of the sacrifices he made for us and a better South Africa. "REST IN PEACE TATA."

On the street it was very quiet. We first dropped my father's friend's car and family and we took our car. We went to buy petrol for our car. We saw a shop that was selling cheap food and sweets. I went there to buy some food to eat while driving. We dropped our cousins and proceeded home.

I can hardly forget that day. It was very exciting and I wish it can be repeated again!!





My biggest fear I ever overcame

Aakifah Dantie
Accordian Street Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

Aakifah had to overcome her biggest fear, she wasn't up for, so her dad told her a little white lie to say they were going on holiday. They did in fact go on holiday, but read her story to find out where it ends...

On the 5th of December 2013, my biggest fear I thought I would never face was bungee jumping. I feared this hobby, because it looks scary and creepy to jump off a bridge between the mountains with a rope tied around your ankles, but I was all wrong...

My family knew how much I feared and disliked this hobby, so they planned and organized a family road trip. We then went to a guest house near Table Mountain's peak top. Once we were settled in, my father showed me a bucket list for what we were going to do the next day. There were lots of fun and exciting activities to do. He also said that once we are done they had a surprise, which was for me. I then felt very special and very excited. My father told us to get a good night's sleep to be ready for tomorrow.

The next morning, we woke up and immediately got ready for the big day. We rushed through the activities just to get to my surprise. "Right, we're done!" they said.

I was now really scared and overwhelmed all at the same time. We took a cable car up to Table Mountain, and what a spectacular sight it was, with beautiful birds flying around on our way up to the mountain. When we reached our destination, I was lost, but then I saw a huge sign which said

A memorable experience

My BIGGEST FEAR I EVER OVERCAME



Written by: Akilah Dantie
Illustrator: Akilah Dantie



"Bungee jumping". "To-do," they said, laughing and giggling. I was still lost, but then I realized that this was my surprise.

They forced me into jumping and once I was strapped up, I saw the people who jumped screaming and they looked frightened. I was really scared now and it felt as if there were butterflies in my stomach.

"Come on, this way!" said a very friendly bungee guide. I then knew that there was no turning back now. Once I jumped, I screamed and shouted until I couldn't move my mouth. It was the most scary thing I have ever done. It felt like I was going to bang against the narrow and small mountains below.

When they unstrapped me below, I was furious at my family, but once I cooled down I thanked them for helping me overcome my biggest fear. When I looked up and saw from where I jumped, I couldn't believe I was that brave and daring to jump. My parents were very proud of me and they couldn't stop laughing at how scared I was before I had to jump.

We watched the video film and laughed, I was like, "Can we do this again some time?" It feels like I'm now in love and addicted to bungee jumping. And when I made that compliment my father's response was, "Darling, Christmas only comes once a year," and I was like, "Oh come on, now I have to wait another year to go bungee jumping?"

It was the most beautiful, memorable day of my life. It was definitely my biggest fear I overcame.





An inspirational person

Andrea Fritz
West End Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

Chapter 1

I grew up in a big family full of influential people. If I had to choose the one who influences me the most it would have to be my uncle/pastor. His name is Dean John Herold. When I was five years old, at my uncle's church, we had Sunday school where they taught us to recite all the books of the Bible. Me, as the youngest, my uncle was so impressed that he let me recite it in church.

My uncle used to preach on the radio on occasional Monday mornings. He took me with him one Monday morning where I recited it live over the radio. At that time I was in Grade R, and my teacher asked us if we knew any stories out of the Bible. I then told my teacher that

I did not know any Bible stories but I knew the books of the Bible. She then asked me what the books of the Bible were and after reciting it out of my head she was so impressed that she took me to the principal's office where I had to recite it again.







Chapter 2

When I was in Grade 1 at the end of the first term my teacher informed my parents that I was struggling with my literacy. The following Sunday our Pastor said: "I need to bless all the children." He prayed for all the children and then prophesied over my life that God bless me with intelligence. We did not think much of it and went on as usual. At the end of the second term my teacher informed my parents that I was excellent in my schoolwork. At the end of the year I received a diploma for Literacy. Every year after that I received more diplomas. In Grade 3, I wrote a *Conquista* and I received one diamond and two platinum awards. In Grade 4 I wrote the *Conquista* again and received three diamonds, two gold and one silver award. My name also appeared in the Principal's Message to the whole school and if I ever struggled with my schoolwork my uncle was just a phone call away.

Chapter 3

In 2013, we were having church in a building that we were hiring. My uncle then told us that he wanted to buy our own church building. He found a building that he wanted to buy and went to the auction. Even though he had no money, the bidding ended at one million rand. When my uncle informed the people that he had no money they were furious, but he informed them that he would have the money and today he is the proud owner of the building and also



opened a crèche in January. He employed four people at the crèche which means he is a job creator. The crèche fees are also the lowest in the area which means that my uncle also cares about the community and their needs.

Chapter 4

What also inspires me about my uncle's life story is the fact that he was a freedom fighter in the apartheid years. He was detained for fourteen days in Victor Verster prison, the same prison where Nelson Mandela was released from.

When I passed Grade 4 my uncle advised my parents to put me into a better school. Most of the schools my parents found, the school fees were too much and my parents then put me into West End Primary. In Grade 5 I received three diplomas and in Grade 6 I received a gospel BID for doing the best in maths in the first term. Every year, my uncle prays for the school students and I believe that it is that prayer that carries us through the exams. With all these brave things that my uncle has been doing he is influencing me so much that I want to be an influential person just like him one day.



omac



CHAPTER 4

What also inspires me about my uncles life story is the fact that he was a freedom fighter in the apartheid years. He was detained for fourteen days in Victor Verster prison, the same prison where Nelson Mandela was released from.

When I passed grade 4 my uncle advised my parents to put me into a better school. Most of the schools my parents found, the school fees was too much and my parents than put me into West end Primary. In grade 5 I received three diplomas and grade 6 I received a gospel I.d for doing the best in maths in the first term. Every year my uncle prays for the school students and I believe that it is that prayer that carries us through the exams.



How my brother died

Zuhairah Safodien
Summit Primary
Grade 6
12 years old

This story is about how my brother died. I will tell you everything in the story.

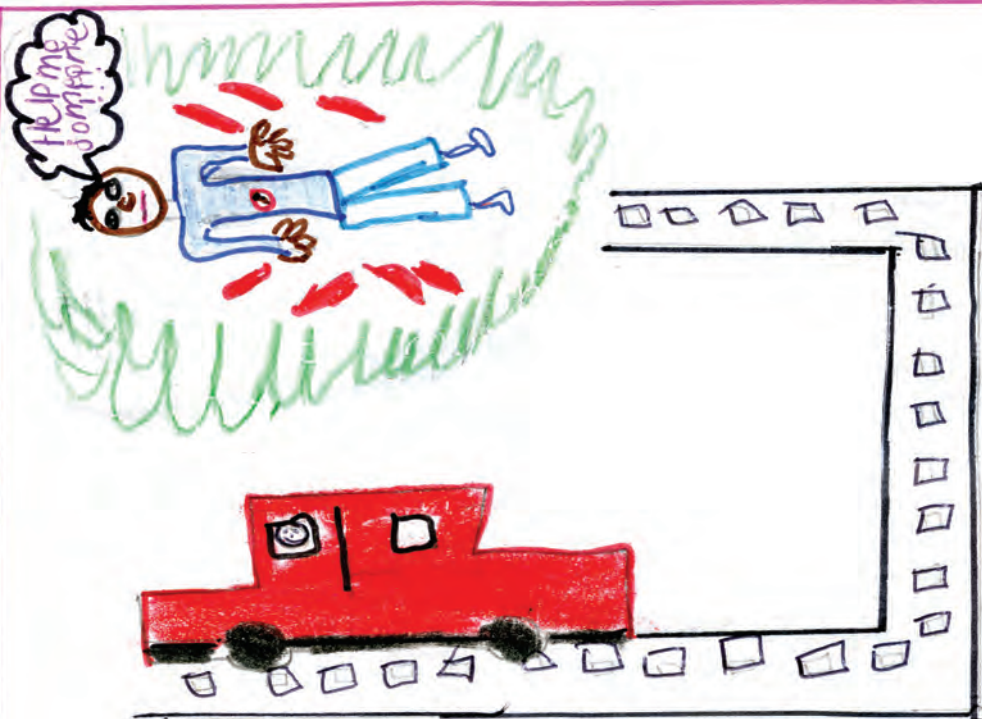


It was one cold dark night when my oldest brother was at his friend's house playing PlayStation games. When he was done playing he told his friend that he was getting very bored and that he was going to visit his girlfriend and his two children. His friend said it was okay, because he was also getting bored of playing PlayStation games. So, he went to visit his children and his girlfriend.

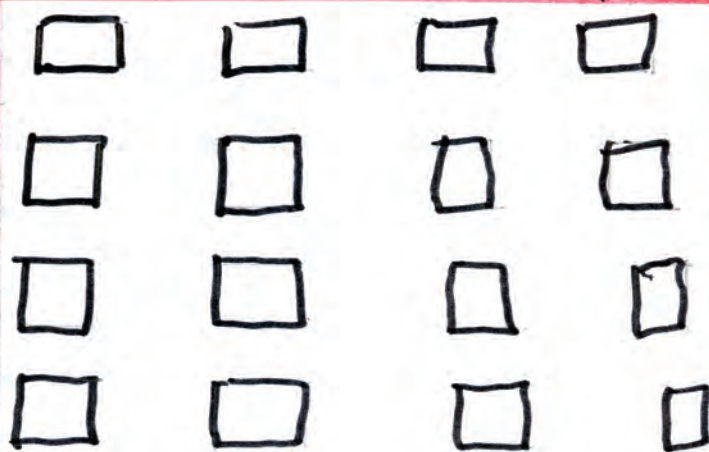
While he was walking to his girlfriend's house one of his other friends mugged him. They took his black, silver and blue cellphone and more of his personal belongings. The guy shot him once in his stomach. One of my mom's friends immediately called my mother.

That night my mother was looking and looking for a driver to take my brother to hospital. My brother was laying in the cold, cold field for about an hour when a man drove past. He saw him laying there covered in blood. He quickly jumped out of his car and immediately took my brother to hospital.

The hospital got my mother's number somehow and called my mother again to tell her that my brother was in hospital. My mother rushed to hospital because she finally found a driver. This was like 22:00 or 23:00 in the



Hospital





night. Before she went to hospital she quickly called her friend to look after me because I was still young that time. I obviously was too young to be all alone at home. The hospital was very near to our house so my mother could get there very quickly. That night my mother even slept at the hospital. I don't even think my mother ate that night. My brother's funeral was the next day.

A lot of people came to my brother's funeral the next day. It was a really, really sad day for all of us. My mother could not stop crying that day. She was crying so much that day that the people even had to give her some sugar water. My brother's baby boy turned a few months old so his mother gave out some party packets to the children in our neighbourhood. The next day a lot of people asked my mother what she was going to do to the guy who killed my brother. My mother said that she was going to leave him in God's hands.

I feel really, really sorry for my brother's two children. They don't really remember their real father because they were still really young when their father died.



I miss my
father



I don't
remember
father

The





When I ask them if they miss their father, the girl, his daughter, will say yes she misses him very much. If I asked the boy if he misses his father he would not know what I was talking about. I first had to remind him what I was talking about then he will say yes he misses his father.

This is my sad story about how my brother died.





One night alone

Ju-ché Arendse
Watsonia Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

Once there was young girl
whose parents are invited to her
grandparents. Her grandparents
and parents went on a social visit
so she was left behind. Something
really spooky happened to her. If
you want to know what it is, read
the story...

Based on a true story. Enjoy.

*The ghost is near
But don't fear
The coast is clear*

My grandparents invited us (me and my parents) to a weekend on the farm nearby Wolseley. There are a lot of trees around the house and nearby was an old graveyard where they buried the first owners of the farm.

On the day that we got there my grandpa took me to the graveyard and showed me around while he was telling me stories about the first family that lived there on that farm. I enjoyed it. After that we went back home and I went straight to my room to unpack.

Later that day my parents and grandparents went to their friends for a social visit and I was left alone at home. I decided to take a shower, and after that I went to watch television. Suddenly I got a feeling that someone was watching me. At first I thought I was just being paranoid because I was alone.



Then I heard a noise in the kitchen. Like someone was busy washing dishes. I switched off the TV because I wanted to make sure that I was not imagining things. But I wasn't; I could hear it loud and clear, that someone was busy cleaning the kitchen. That moment I was just sitting there too scared to get up and take a look. After a while I got up really slowly and quietly on my toes and I went to the kitchen. That moment I was just sitting there too scared to go up. I went to the kitchen to see for myself what was going on because I knew that I was supposed to be alone in the house.



When I got to the kitchen everything was fine and there was no one there. Then just when I wanted to laugh at myself for being scared, I heard another

noise coming from the living room, and then I decided to go and see what was going on and when I got there the fire burned in the fire place. I knew there wasn't a fire burning when I was watching TV, and I got really scared and started to shout out loud that if there was anyone in the house with me they must come out immediately because it's not funny what's going on.

There was no one. After that I decided to go to my room and call my parents to tell them what's going on but they didn't believe me and said I was just being paranoid. They said that I must stop watching TV that time of night and go to bed. And so I did!

It was quiet for a while and suddenly I could hear footsteps coming straight to my bedroom door. There I was lying in bed watching the door, waiting for someone to open it.

Then I was starting to cry and covered my head with the blankets. I was really scared that moment. Then the door opened. There it was ... A black figure stood in the doorway. I was crying very loud this time and praying at the same time. My head was now fully covered.

Then suddenly my phone rang and it was my parents calling to ask me if I was still fine and I was crying that there was someone in my bedroom. My mother then told me that I must ask who he or she was and what they wanted from me, but when I lifted my head there was nothing and my bedroom was closed. I got up when my parents wanted me to open the door for them and everything looked fine. It was like I dreamed the whole thing. I told my parents and grandparents what happened and everyone laughed except my grandpa. He told me that I must not be afraid next time because it's the daughter's spirit of the first owners that was there to protect me. I said, "No, no, no, there will not be a next time," and I slept next to my mother that night and the rest of the weekend.





Shirley's secret

Megan Steyn
Brooklands Primary
Grade 6
12 years old

The Alinel jewel is known for breaking the curse of the Firand Pack. Shirley is the last relative of the pack and it is up to her to break the curse for five of her dead relatives to be resurrected. The jewel also cures ill people once every full moon. The mayor of Highrend Town plans to use the jewel to cure the illness of his loving spouse, Inica. Who gets the jewel first to break the curse or cure an illness?

Chapter 1 Shirley's mission

Shirley Barklay, a 31-year-old, had recently moved to Highrend Town. Shirley inherited her parents' mansion, The Oakland Mansion. The Oakland Mansion is situated in the Oakland Cemetery. As Shirley entered the mansion, the maids ran to carry Shirley's luggage to her room. They all greeted each other as they walked into the lounge. Shirley sat down on the dusty sofa, while searching around the room. She got up and started to chant, "Letter, where is that letter?"

At last she found a creased, torn page with a very untidy but legible handwriting on it, between two books. Shirley read aloud:

Dear Shirley

You are the last of the Fidrand Pack and it is up to you to break the Alinel jewel to break the curse. In the meantime, you need to keep in touch with me and to do so, request a witch and give her my ash. She will know what to do.

*Your mother,
Debora*



Chapter 2

Finding Debora's ash

Shirley said to herself: "Where do I find Mum's ash and a witch?"

She soon asked the maids where her father, Mike, had put her mum's ash. The maid who came out of the kitchen with the refreshment answered, "Shirley, your father put the ash in our haunted attic." Shirley stood up and calmly walked to the attic as if she knew the mansion her entire life, even though she was new to it.

She walked into the storeroom along the passage to the attic and came out with a bright flashlight. Once she was in the attic, the light beam of her flashlight came across a shadow that was not hers. She got a fright and when taking a second glance at where the shadow was spotted, she became even more frightened to see that the shadow disappeared into thin air. She ignored what she had just seen and looked into the corners of the attic to see where the ash had been hidden. She often tripped over a lot of junk from the 1900s. She found a jar and knew it was her mom's ash as she immediately spotted the R.I.P abbreviation. She instantly ran down the stairs as if someone was chasing her. She felt the force of someone pushing her as she tumbled down the stairway. The maids soon saw her lying on the wooden tiles, motionless. They carried Shirley to her room and lay her down on the bed so that she could soon regain consciousness.



Shirley walks
calmly towards the
attic.

Chapter 3

Inica Heffley's suffering

At the exact same time that Shirley fell down, the mayor, George Heffley, visited his stunning wife, who suffers from a rare disease.

Inica Heffley is in her early forties. Her son, Zack, also sits next to her. Mayor Heffley told Zack cheerfully, "Zack, just five days until the next full moon. Well, I will go and get the Alinel jewel for now!"



"No Dad, I will go into town and get the jewel or stone or whatever, I'm sure it'll make me feel better," said Zack.

At the Oakland Mansion, Shirley regains consciousness and remembers to consult a witch. She jumped out of bed and ordered a maid to organize a cab.

Chapter 4

Shirley finds a witch

"Shirley, where shall you be leaving in such a hurry to?" asked one of the maids.

"Well, I need to find a witch to bring Mum back to life. Do you have any suggestions on where I might be able to find one?" replied Shirley.

The maid answered, "Certainly. Fortunately she lives across the cemetery, three blocks away."

"Thank you, you are a big help. Love, cancel the cab!" said Shirley. Shirley left the creepy cemetery with her mom's ash, in a hurry. Soon Shirley arrived at the house of the witch. The house looked demolished, the doorbell was in pieces and some of the roof tiles were completely broken.

She knocked at the door desperately. Instantly, someone answered the door.

"Hi, you must be Shirley Barklay, Debora's daughter. I have been waiting for your mom's ash!" said the witch. The witch grabbed the ash out of Shirley's hand and shut the door. Shirley walked away and said to herself sarcastically, "Quite decent neighbours around here!" She walked into the main street, which some folks call Highrend's life. The museum was quite far from where Shirley was now. It was 8 pm, which meant that the museum was closed.

Chapter 5

Shirley takes desperate measures

Shirley ran to the back of the museum. She spotted a rock and banged it against a window with force. She did this repeatedly until it broke the whole window. Finally, she was able to sneak in. Shirley had been searching around the museum for the Alinel jewel for more than two hours. She saw that one of the containers was covered with a fine, silky sheet. She pulled it off and saw that the alarm was attached to the glass container that was holding the jewel captive. Soon someone else entered the museum. It was Zack. Shirley hid behind a statue as Zack entered a code into the alarm, which released the jewel. Zack took the



jewel and put it into a jeweled box. Shirley grabbed one of the least important ornaments and hit Zack on the head with it before he could leave. Shirley took the jewel and ran as fast as she could to get back home.

Chapter 6

Debora returned

She stopped at the witch's house. Soon she felt her mother's presence. She fell down in shock as she saw her mother.

"Oh, darling don't be scared, its' me your mummy!" said Debora. Shirley gasped, "Mum, it's really you!"

"Yes, but I am a ghost! Now, we should get inside and break that jewel!" insisted Debora. Debora floated through the door to open up for Shirley.

"Once again, I am amazed!" remarked Shirley. "Mum, you do realize that the Alinel can only be broken on a full moon?" Shirley said, as she walked inside. "Well, I suppose you're right, but your sister wants out right away! And, as you already know, patience is her weak point," replied Debora.

At the museum, Zack woke up, remembering nothing that has recently happened. Zack stood up and noticed blood on the floor, then he slowly reached up to his head and hovered over the area where he felt the most pain. He looked at his hand and saw blood, which meant that he was badly injured. He walked out of the building and called

for a cab. Zack went home and explained to his father what had happened and that he couldn't remember what had happened to the stone.

"Well, you should land in hospital in an instant due to that serious injury!" the mayor insisted. "We will have a look at the scene, in an instant!" the mayor promised. Then he promised his wife, Inica, that he would bring the jewel back and cure her at the appearance of the full moon. The mayor called the police and the police called the forensic scientists.

Chapter 7

Shirley becomes a suspect

They all gathered at the scene of the crime and started to investigate. One of the scientists looked at the weapon and said that it would be possible to identify the fingerprints and find whom it belongs to. It was three days away from the appearance of the full moon when they finally got the results. They called the mayor and told him that the suspect is Shirley Barklay and that they would find out everything about her. They also mentioned that they needed to make sure all facts are true, which took two days. The mayor was relieved and also very disappointed that there was only one day to cure his wife. In the Oakland Mansion, Shirley suggested that they break the jewel immediately when the moon appeared early in the morning. Debora disappeared after mentioning that she would go to break the delightful news to Kirsten, Shirley's young sister.

Chapter 8

Only four resurrected

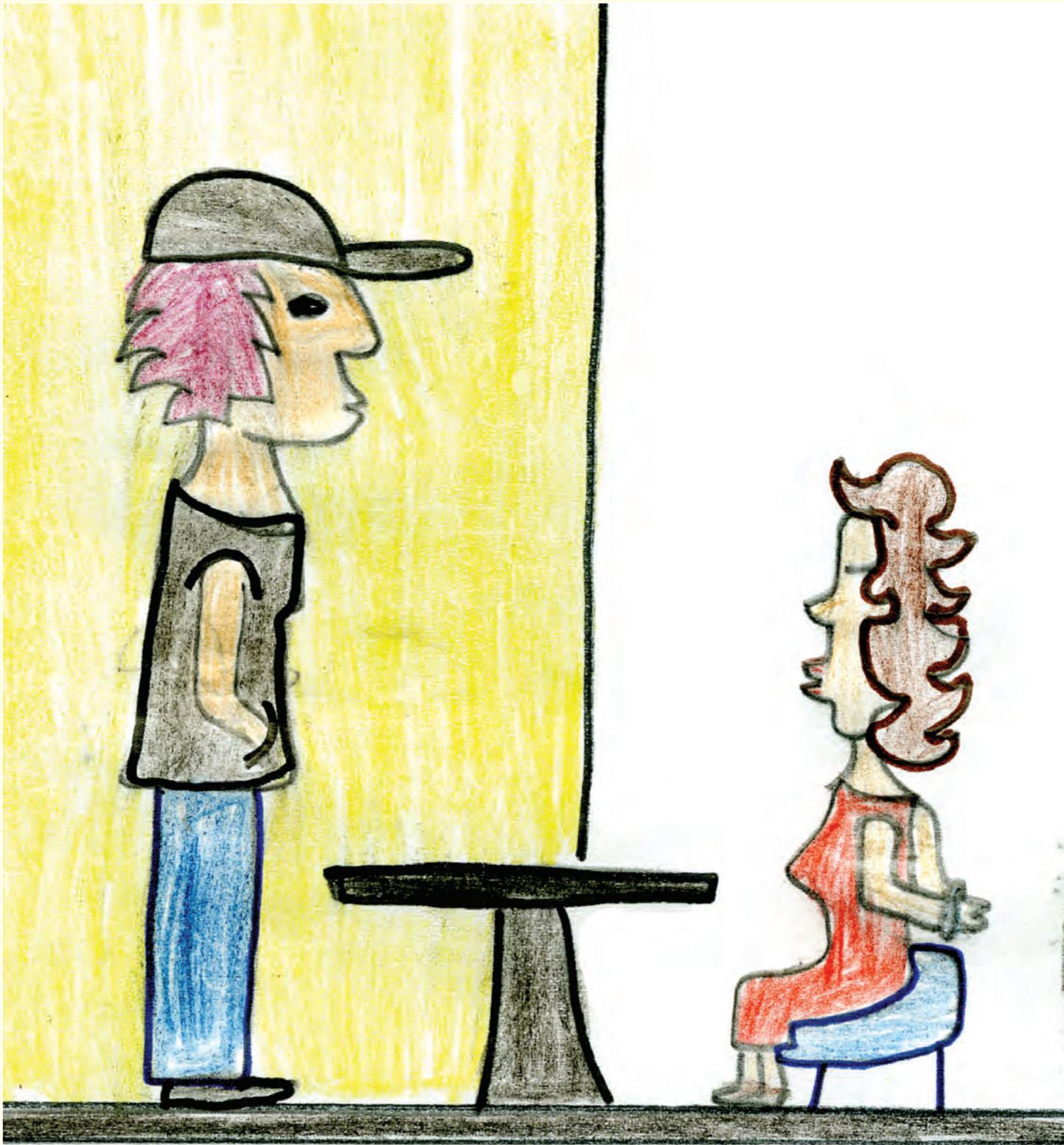
When Shirley work up early in the morning, she saw the full moon, so she got the jewel and threw it hard on the floor. The jewel broke in half and it turned black. Shirley said four of the names in her family which she wanted to be resurrected. She said aloud, "Bring back Debora, Kirsten, Mike and me!" Instantly, out of the red air, four people appeared. Then Kirsten questioned, "What about the fifth person, Shirley?"

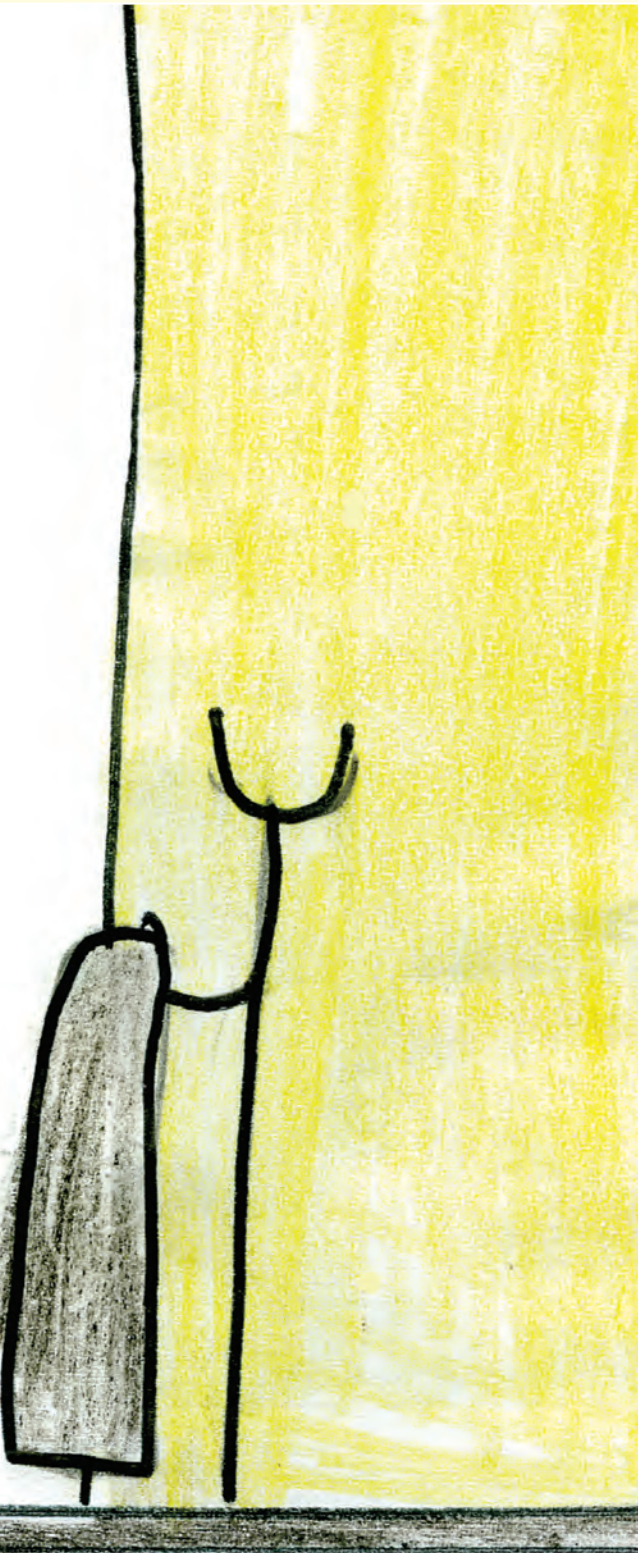


Chapter 9

Shirley's secret becomes exposed

At the exact same time, the police broke in and only arrested Shirley. They held her captive for fifteen minutes and soon questioned her. The last question they asked her was why she did everything. After forty-five minutes of questioning and answering, Shirley's secret was completely





exposed. The mayor showed Shirley how badly his wife was suffering and the serious injury that his son received, all thanks to her.

"For that, you shall go to jail," said the mayor furiously. Shirley asked him if she could make a deal with him. She told him that there was a little power left in the jewel, enough to cure his wife. She continued and said she would only give him the power if he wouldn't send her to jail. Since the mayor was desperate to save Inica, he agreed right away. Later that day, Inica was cured and Zack's injury was healed a bit. Shirley was happier than ever. The town's latest gossip was all about what had happened that week.

Shirley had no secret to keep now; everybody knew about it.





When grandma died ...

Michaela Esau
Beacon View Primary
Grade 6
11 years old

Introduction

How could this happen? I can't believe it. This is what I always feared. Now I'm sitting wondering what would have happened if she was here. She would've shown me love. She always said, "Madison, believe in yourself." When I came from school she would say, "Do your homework immediately."

One day as I came from school, my mother waited for me. She had a worried look on her face. What was happening? I always dreamt that this day would never come. My mother told me we must hurry home. I asked her for a reason but she didn't reply.

When I arrived home, I saw a van with paramedics. I went inside the house, then into the room, then I found out.

Chapter 1 • Finding out

I was shocked. I did not know what to do. I felt really sad. I went to see her. She looked as if she was sleeping. Her eyes were closed, but she was conscious. I still did not know anything that had happened, but I knew that she was not feeling well.

Introduction

How could this happen
believe it. This is what
Now I'm sitting wonder
have happen if she
would've shown me
said, "Madison, believe
I came from school
"do your homework immediately"

One day as I came
mother waited for
look on her face
I always dreamt that
never come. My mother
hurry home. I didn't
but she didn't

When I arrived
with paramedics.
house, then into
out.

Author: Michaela
Esau.



Title: When grandma
died....

How could it happen? She was in hospital for four days. My daddy came home and told us that my grandmother has passed away. I tried to hold back my tears, but they just slipped out. My daddy was crying and I could not bear to see him so sad.

I tried to cheer him up, but it did not work. I guess no one can take his mother's place.

Chapter 2 • Where's the old Michael?

My father was never the same again. He was different. He did things he never did before. I was worried about him. I started questioning him about this. He told me he missed his mother and he needed to learn to live without her. He said it's difficult to live without a mother. He said I was lucky to still have a mother. I loved my mother and my father, but God loved them more. I wanted my dad back.

He's very different now, but then suddenly it slipped. I told him that I wanted the old Michael back. He asked me what I meant. I said, "I want my old dad back, the fun one. The one who loves playing; but lately you changed." He told me that it would take a while before he became his old self. I was worried about him because I missed him. I missed her too.

Chapter 3 • How we waited

The Monday we tried finding a cemetery for her, but everything was booked up, so we waited till the next week. We buried her the next Saturday. We felt very sad. They played 'You raised me up'. I kept thinking about her and when I touched her she felt ice-cold, lifeless. I really, really miss her. I wish I could have done something about her illness. I want to know what or who caused her death. I've been investigating her death. I've been on that case for a long time. I found very little information about her death. I wonder what really happened, or who killed her?

I wanted to know. Did she die of a natural cause? She was an emotional person. She always asked me to do things for her like clean the kitchen, clean her room, make her tea and also be successful in school.

I wanted her by my side so I'm investigating more on that case now. I looked for people she knew and they gave different stories. Some of them told me she was a bad person. Of course I did not believe them because of the way she treated me.

Chapter 4

I looked all over and had some DNA done. I found one small piece of red hair on the clothes she had on that day. She had black and grey hair. So I thought about one lady that had problems with my grandma. She has red hair. Oh I hate that lady. I suspect that she killed my grandma.

I was angry and I went to her house and acted all nice to her and while she wasn't watching I put sleeping pills in her juice. As soon as they dissolved I was gone. I went home and told my mom because when I got there I saw thick sellotape with black hair and she was busy ditching the evidence. She had a weird look on her face. I then decided to tell. I wouldn't have told my mom.

I am accusing her and I know she did it. I'm not accusing her for nothing. I know I'm right.

Chapter 5

The next day I went back to her house, and I saw that the tablets worked. She was fast asleep like a little baby. Then I saw a magnifying glass which was exactly what I needed. I took it and started investigating.

Then I found another piece of black hair. Then I took it for a DNA test. The test results were different from the last test. I was even angrier at the end of the test. I wanted proof once and for all that she killed my grandmother, but how. How would I be able to prove it with all this black hair? I'll keep doing my thing. Trying to nail her, but she is a clever

one. I need to try harder. I have to outsmart her. I've been trying my best. I'll try the best I can.

I've got my next great plan. I know what I'm doing. I could not sleep. I was waiting for dawn. I kept my plan in mind. I'm waiting for tomorrow.

Chapter 6 • Game on!!!

Dawn came. I hid behind her house till she left for work. When she left I went inside. I looked around the house. I found something astonishing. I found my grandmother's bracelet. The one she got for her birthday. She had it on the night of my cousin's birthday.

The next day she landed in hospital. I was so shocked. I worked on the plan I had the day before. It worked out great. I took all the valuables and hid them. Then I took the bracelet and found her fingerprints on the DNA for the bracelet.

I went back to her house, and found more belongings of my grandmother. Then I heard the sound of a key in the door. I hid under a bed in her house. She saw that the bracelet was missing. I was hiding under the bed in her room!

After she saw that the bracelet was missing she went straight to her room and into her jewellery box. She saw that all her jewellery was missing.

Chapter 8 Got it!

The next day I went to again with my plan figured in while she was there. I watched her, closely. She had lunch and got ready for some guys to lift up the car. They put it in her car.

I thought for a short while. She works at a factory making weapons using metal. She left for work. I saw the whole room full of weapons. They were labelled.

The weirdest thing the weapons were brands they came from he was working. I looked at that one was already and looked at it. It was in the factory where she

Chapter 9 Investigating...

I went back home and thought what would it mean if she had a weapon used. Was she a murderer or was it a one time thing. I took the weapon with me, hoping that she wouldn't that it was gone. I looked at it closely, but I couldn't find any evidence to use.

I took it to the lab and had some DNA tests done. The results came back. There were fingerprints on the gun but it wasn't Alex's. I felt so irritated. They found a guy's fingerprints. I found some details about the guy. Then I found out that this guy works at the same factory.

He was the guy who helped her with her metal. I found a picture of him. It showed his address. The next day I went to his house. It looked like a nice cosy home from the outside. When I slipped inside I was surprised. His house was full of weapons. It was everywhere. In the kitchen, in the bathroom, everywhere. Luckily, he wasn't at home. So, I investigated.

Chapter 7

She saw something shiny, and that was her small earring. Then she bent down to pick it up, and it was right next to the bed. As she bent down, she looked under her bed for more jewellery. I was clever enough, and I put a suitcase in front of myself.

As she looked for more jewellery, she tried moving the suitcase. Then suddenly she heard a knock on the door. It was a lady. This lady had a lot of weapons on her. The lady sold one of the weapons to Alexa – that was the suspect's name. She bought a heavy lump of metal.

She ordered a guy to help her take it in her secret passage. There was a room. A dark room. She opened the door and let him in. Then she locked the door and talked to the lady with the weapons. Then she bought a lock for the room.

She put a code on the lock. I looked closely, but I couldn't figure it out. She left the house and took her car and drove away. So I got out.

Chapter 8 • Got it!!!

The next day I went to her house again with my plan figured out. I slipped in while she was there. I hid in her closet. I watched her, closely. She packed her lunch and got ready for work. She asked some guys to lift up the lump of metal. They put it in her car.

I thought for a short time. That's it! She works at a factory that manufactures weapons using metal. She left the door open. She left for work. I went in. I saw the whole room full of weapons, different weapons. They were labelled for each use. The weirdest thing was that all the weapons were brand new. It seems like they came from the factory where she was working. I looked very closely and saw that one was already used. I took it carefully and looked at it. It also came from the factory where she was working.

Chapter 9 • Investigating

I went back home and thought what it would mean if she had a used weapon. Was she a murderer or was it a one-time thing? I took the weapon with me, hoping that she wouldn't see that it was gone. I looked at it closely, but I couldn't find any evidence to use.

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Chapter 10 • Innocence

I went back home. I thought and thought. I couldn't figure it out. Why would two people kill one person? I was very confused. Then I found out. They didn't kill her. They never killed anybody. I was wrong.

The reason why she had a room full of weapons was that she had a husband. Her husband was in the army. She kept his weapons for him. She was innocent.

The guy who had the whole house full of weapons was a dreamer. He dreamt of being in the army. That's why he had all the weapons. He was innocent too.

I was wrong. My grandmother died of natural causes.

The end.



The odds of a single parent

Kyle Ruiters

Bellville South Primary

Grade 6

12 years old

Chapter 1 • My mother's dark baby days

My mother's baby days were not easy. My grandma was an alcoholic. She grew up in an unstable environment. She saw many drunk people gallivanting in the house, yard and street. Some days looked worse than others. My grandma did not care about my mother's well-being. When my grandma was drunk and became aggressive, my mother knew that she had to keep her mouth, so that she could be

A riveting story told of a woman who has endured many difficulties and hardships. She's a domestic worker and she lost her husband in 2008. This story can teach you a lesson that no matter what you've been through, you have to persevere if life gives you too many blows.

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2 A single parent

3 Her tragedies

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MY MOTHER
DAYS

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THE ODDS OF A Single PARENT



BY Kyle Ruiters
Illustrations by
Kyle Ruiters

the better person. My mother is fair-skinned. The children joked and laughed about it. They bullied her as well as her two sisters. They called my mother “Barbie”. After school, the children would pull my mother’s hair. Antoinette, my mother’s other sister, would tell my mother to hit them. One afternoon, when they wanted to hurt Barbie again, Antoinette said: “Let’s go.” Barbie was astonished to see that Antoinette could talk like that in front of the “Big Bosses” of the school.

Chapter 2 • A single parent

My mother is a single parent. It’s not easy to play the role of a father and a mother. Hardships and difficulties have crossed my mother’s path many times but it made her a stronger person. My mother is a domestic worker. We may not have much, but there’s always food on the table. She told me that no matter what I come across or experience, there’s always a reward at the end. She said: “No matter how dark days seem to be or actually are, there’ll always be something in you that will be superior to your circumstances.” I’ll always cherish our moments and our day-to-day talks. She always advises me to do the right things. One of her difficulties was that she had to deal with the death of her husband and her mother. Eventually she took control and she knew that she had to work hard to provide for her children.





Chapter 3 • Her tragedies

My mother has been through a lot. When my grandma died of cancer it was like my mother's dreams were shattered. A teacher in Belhar adopted my mother. She stayed there till she was twenty-five years old. Then she found her prince on a white horse. They were married for eleven years. Tragically, he died on the 10th of August 2008. We were still four very small children when my father died. That was when my mother's depressive problems started. What I admire about her is that she went for psychological help. Her braveness means a lot to me. Now let me share a bit of my life experience. Your tragedies make you stronger. When my father died my mother had to make provision for four children. She knew that jobs are scarce, but she promised us that we'd never go to bed without food. About five years ago my mother felt lonely and meaningless.

She realised that there was no reason to dwell in the past because she'll spend her life in the future.

Chapter 4 • My inspiration

My mother has an extraordinary personality. If you meet her you will always see a smile on her face. She has this glow in her eyes that no one can resist. She told us to never patronize people because she knows how it feels to make people feel that they are stupid. She truly inspires me with her valuable advice. Thank you for enduring all that pain and difficulties. I don't know where I would be without you. Thank you, sincerely. You really are my inspiration. You are a star.







Spy Mission

Jesse Nyman
Steenberg Primary
Grade 5
9 years old

Spy Mission is about a girl named Lucy who is a professional snitch. Her job is to kill Nectar, her boss's enemy. While trying to poison Nectar, her cover was blown when Nectar's wife, Sarah, caught her.



Chapter 1 • The Plan

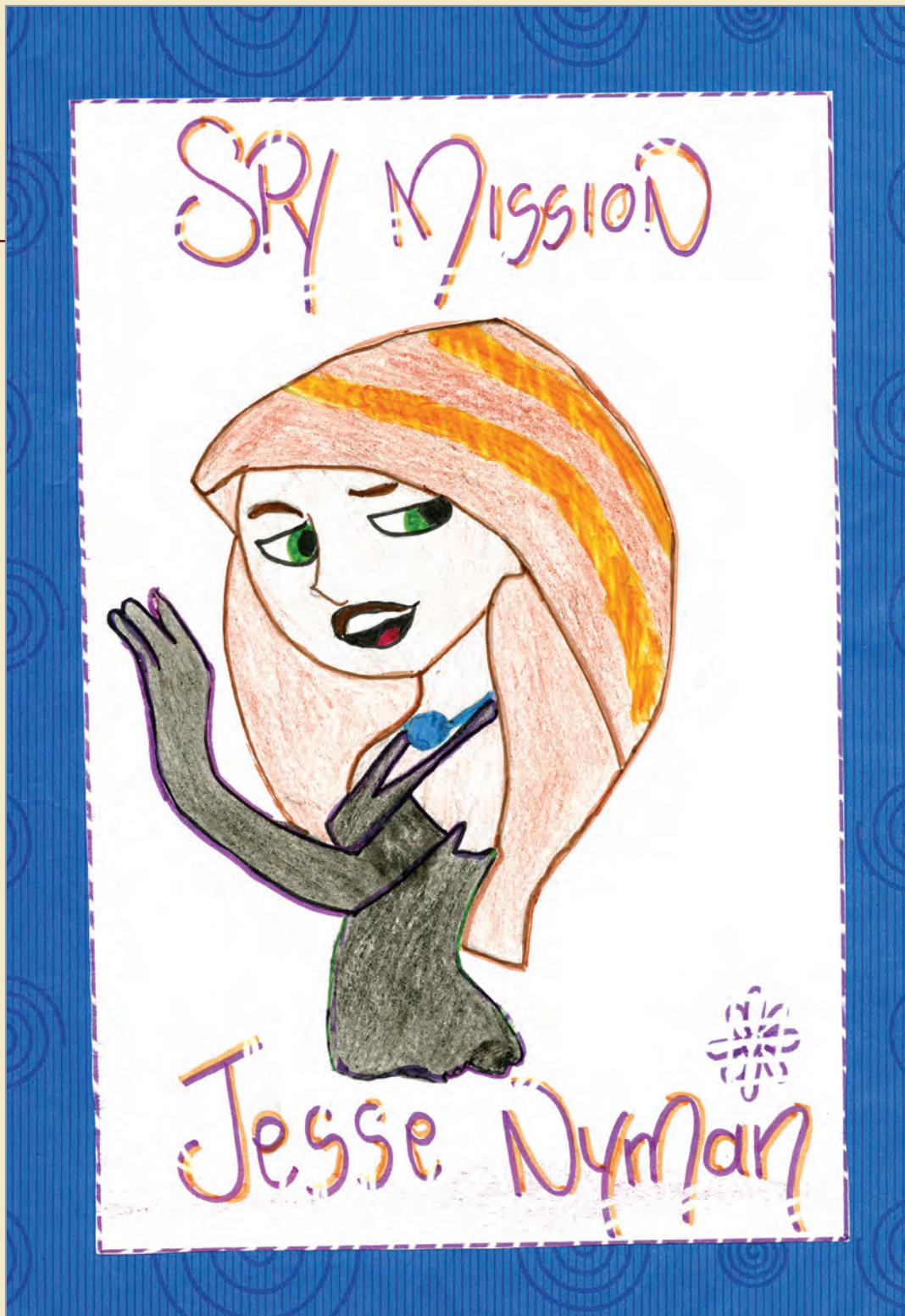
10 June was a cold night. I was in the woods spying on my boss's enemy, talking to my boss through my Bluetooth earpiece: "I am at the door." Knock! Knock! Nectar opened the door. "Good evening, Sir. I am Lucy and I am in desperate need of a place to stay. My car broke down and I have nowhere to go." "Sure," said Nectar. "Please do come in. I will ask my wife to prepare a room for you."

Wednesday morning, only two hours after I fell asleep, I woke up and had to contact my boss. I knew Nectar's plans as he was discussing them with his bodyguards throughout the night. I emailed my boss from my phone which I had hidden in my left calf boot I was wearing. "The deal is going down tomorrow. Worth R17 000 000. He is the kingpin."

My boss replied: "Kill him. I will take care of the money."

Chapter 2 • The Plot

Wednesday afternoon Nectar's wife Sarah prepared the most awful lunch. "I just lost R17 000 000!" Nectar told his wife as he sat down to eat. "I will find the snitch and kill him."



CHAPTER 28 -

Wednesday afternoon
Sarah prepared the
I just lost Rita
his wife as he
I will find the

I now know
complete my mission

Benny the assassin
as I emailed him
study and Benny
as planned, however
shot him in his
Nectar was run
yards now
I had to get
job was over



JESSE NYMAN

STEENBERG PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE 5

AGE : 9 YEARS

D.O.B : 28 JUNE 2004

I now knew that I had to complete my mission and fast.

Barry, the assassin, arrived late afternoon as I e-mailed him. Nectar went to his study and Barry shot Nectar just as planned, however, Barry missed and shot him in his leg instead.

Nectar was rushed to the hospital. His bodyguards now were more alert than ever. I had to get rid of Nectar as my job was on the line.

Chapter 3 • Pills

I hate the smell of hospitals, but this was my final chance to get rid of Nectar. Sarah asked me to accompany her. I was going to poison him. Sarah casually mentioned over lunch that Nectar was allergic to penicillin and I was going to give him a fatal shot.

Chapter 4 • Pills and Potions

Sarah and I entered Nectar's room. He was in a deep sleep as he was given morphine for the pain after the bullet was removed. I had a syringe filled with penicillin which a contact of mine slipped into my hand as I entered the hospital. Sarah had her head in her hands and Nectar was asleep. Just as I wanted to administer the penicillin into his IV drip, Sarah lifted her head and caught me. It was now 9 pm and 45 minutes ago since my cover was blown. I'd been undercover for seven years. My days of being a snitch are over, and I am on my way to jail.





The jungle chase

Toufee Benjamin

Arcadia Primary

Grade 6

11 years old

Daniel and Ally thought that they would have the time of their lives on their rich holiday, but their trip turns upside down when a storm occurs. Their aeroplane crashes in a scary jungle. Also, their parents were kidnapped. They need to find their parents, but they need to go undercover. Will they survive in the big jungle? Will they find their parents?

Chapter 1 • Going on holiday

"45 minutes ago my cover was blown! They saw us and are chasing us! I'm scared and don't know what to do!" This is how it happened.

One fine morning, in a rich neighbourhood, lived Daniel and Ally. They lived in a huge home with their very successful parents. They grew up with the privilege of luxury and having everything they wanted and needed. One afternoon, their dad, Jerry, came home from work with some good news. He called the family together and said, "We will be going on vacation." They were so excited and jumped up and down. They were going to a resort in Thailand in approximately 3 days. Dad had but another surprise – he booked a private aeroplane just for the family. Daniel and Ally were even more excited, because it would be their first time on an aeroplane.

Daniel and Ally started packing immediately as they heard the news. They called all their friends and family to tell them the news.





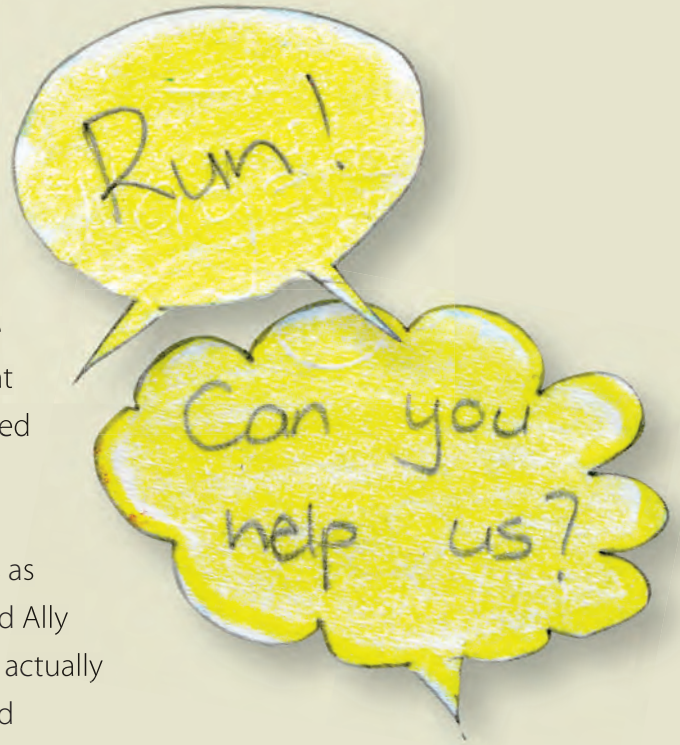
Chapter 2 • Flight

The day of departure has come for the family. Daniel and Ally got dressed quickly to go to the airport. When they arrived at the airport, they saw different sizes and colours of aeroplanes. Dad showed them the aeroplane they would be flying in. They excitedly climbed the steps to get onto the aeroplane. It looked so awesome inside and they sat down into their comfortable seats. They then buckled up as the engine started.

There was a thrill that went through their stomachs as the aeroplane lifted off into the air. When Daniel and Ally looked out of the window, they saw that they were actually in the air. They could see all the different houses and mountains from up there. The view was really beautiful.

Everything was good and everyone was happy until dark clouds approached the aeroplane. Everyone became very scared and started panicking. It looked like they were flying into a storm. The aeroplane started making weird sounds and started shaking uncontrollably. The aeroplane swirled and was going to crash! There was a huge “bang” and the aeroplane crashed. There was a lot of smoke. The family had a few minor injuries as they got out of the crashed aeroplane.

As the smoke cleared, the family had an idea of where they were. They were stranded in a dark jungle with lots of wild animals. They were really frightened to hear the roars and scary sounds of the dangerous animals. Their cell phones were broken and they didn’t know where to find help.



Chapter 3 • In the jungle

The family decided to take a walk into the jungle to find help or to find a way out of there. They walked really far and were tired and thirsty. They finally saw a flowing river with clear water and the most beautiful waterfall. They went nearer and drank from the river's clear blue water. There was what seemed to look like village right next to the river. Some of the villagers saw them and alerted the other villagers. All of a sudden they started chasing them with anger. They didn't speak the same language, so they couldn't communicate.

Daniel and Ally ran as fast as they could. Their mother and father struggled to run faster and the villagers caught up with them. Daniel and Ally were already deep in the jungle when they realised that their parents were missing. Ally exclaimed, "Where are Mom and Dad? They are gone!" They couldn't see anything as they were surrounded by trees.

What they didn't know was that the villagers kidnapped their parents and took them back to the village. Daniel and Ally were really scared. They were all alone in the deep, dark jungle. They were running through the jungle, looking for help, when they saw a village boy. They weren't sure if they should approach him for help or if he would just take them too.







He saw them and started talking to them. Daniel and Ally were surprised to hear him speak their language. The village boy said, "The villagers took your parents. They thought that your family wanted to cause harm." Daniel said, "We won't do something like that. Our aeroplane just crashed here and we were looking for help." The village boy said that the villagers wouldn't believe that. The village boy said that they would have to rescue their parents without the villagers seeing. They would have to go undercover.

Chapter 4 • Cover is blown

The village boy showed Daniel and Ally where to go. They went to the village and saw their mom and dad tied up to a chair. Their parents looked terrified. Daniel and Ally made up a quick plan. They climbed up a nearby tree to try and see a way in without the guards knowing.

Unfortunately, their plan failed and the guards saw them. Once again they were being chased deep into the jungle. Then Daniel shouted, “45 minutes ago my cover was blown! They saw us and are chasing us! I’m scared and don’t know what to do!” By surprise, the villagers caught them. They tried running away, but those villagers were too strong. Daniel and Ally were taken back to the village. They were put next to their parents. They tried explaining that they did nothing wrong, but the villagers couldn’t understand them. Luckily, the village boy came and helped the family. He explained to the villagers that it was all a misunderstanding. At last, the villagers understood and freed the family. Then another huge problem occurred. How will the family get back home? There was no type of transportation. They were stranded there forever!

Then Daniel heard a voice shouting out, “Daniel, wake up! You are late for school!” It looks like Daniel’s jungle adventure was only a dream! Even though it was a dream to him, it would still remain a “jungle chase”!





The old man – memorable experience

Sabeehah Mullins

Talfalah Primary

Grade 6

11 years old

This is an inspiring story about how one must never give up hope in yourself or others. John Hendricks commits heinous crimes, but while doing his time he becomes a changed man who can face the world with pride and dignity.

Chapter 1

Once upon a time there was an old man called John Hendricks who stayed alone in an old house. He was 41 years old. He used to think that he was the man that had the most power and was the richest. He was powerfully built.

The old man used to go to town to buy groceries. He had no family, no wife, no kids, no grandchildren. He had only himself to take care of.

One day after he had done his shopping, he drove to a school and waited for school to dismiss. He started to bribe the girls with sweets to get them into the car. They all ran away. Finally a ten-year-old girl got into the car. He then drove off with her to a quiet road.

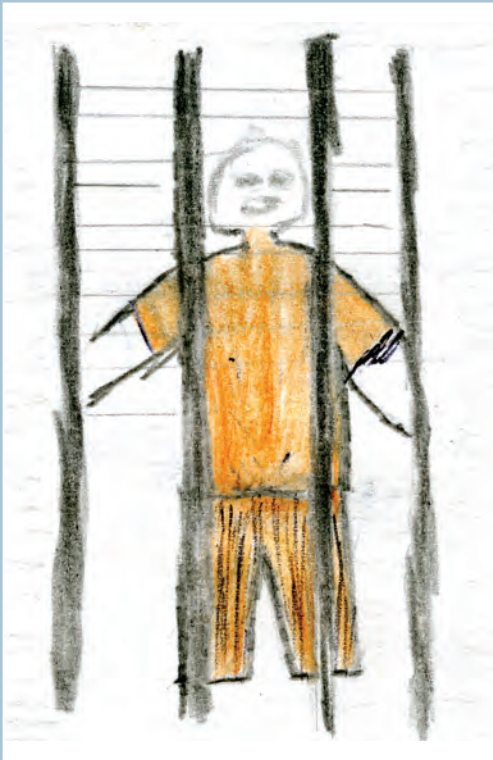
When he came to a stop the girl put up a fight and managed to get the door open and run for her life. Luckily the girl could identify her abuser and could tell the police who the person was that kidnapped her. The old man was sent to jail for four months.

The four months he spent in prison were rough. The four months flew by and he was set free. Despite that, the first

Author: Sabeegah
Mullins

Title: The old man-
Memorable
Experience





thing he did when he was set free was to try to kill another girl.

The victim was eight years old and he killed her in cold blood. Her body was dumped in a lake. After her body had been found the police examined it for DNA evidence. A piece of hair was found between her fingers. That evidence led them to the old man.

After appearing in court he was sentenced to five years in prison. These five years were the worst years of his life. He was abused by his inmates after they found out what he had done.

Chapter 2

After two years in prison he started to change his attitude. He started to help out in the library, helping in the kitchen and so on. He saw life from a different perspective. After three years the inmates started to look at him differently. They started to respect him.

On the 5th of June 1979, John Hendricks was set free after spending five years in prison. When he stepped out of prison he was amazed to see that so many things in the outside world had changed.

Having no family, he was all alone and had to start from scratch. For weeks he was job hunting. As positive as he was, the outcome was always 'No'. He was not put down by this response. He continued to keep his head high.



One day he took a stroll down to the park. While he was taking a rest on a bench under a tree he lifted his head and his last way out was staring him right in his face. It was the town's library. As he entered through the door there was a note saying that they were looking for a librarian. This was a new start for Hendricks, the loveliest old man he had ever been.

This man became my best friend.



Young and lost!

Chanelle de Kock
Bellville South Primary
Grade 6
12 years old

The day started as usual, a normal school day, going through the motions of their daily routine. But so quickly, the joy can turn into fear.

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- 2 Terror awaits
- 3 Truth or die
- 4 A brighter day
- 5 My mom

Chapter 1 • Back to school

As she got out of bed she heard birds singing and she saw the sun shining beautifully bright. Shannon knew it would all change to chaos. She got ready for school after a long vacation.

She walked to school with her bigger sister, Lizelle. As soon as they got there, Lizelle started yapping about some boy.

Shannon said, "Here we go again," rolling her eyes.

Lizelle said, "I like him but he is so messy."

The bell rang. Shannon sighed, "Saved by the bell."

She walked to class. They prayed and sat down. They got their first break and enjoyed it. They went inside and waited for the last bell to ring.

Chapter 2 • Terror awaits

When school was out they usually ran home to watch television, but today they could not. She saw her sister running towards her. Lizelle was scared and confused.



She wanted to cry. Shannon wanted to laugh, but then... she heard a gun firing. Her younger brother ran ahead and was safe. Shannon and Lizelle were in the middle of chaos. Everywhere they looked they saw fire and children protesting. It was awful. Policemen were riding tanks, holding guns and firing.

Lizelle ran with Shannon in her arms into a stranger's house. The woman knew what was happening outside. She said her name was Serena Anderson and she gave them a place to hide. They got out after the first tank left.



Chapter 3 • Truth or die

Another policeman came and started asking questions like if they lived there and what school they attended. He left and Lizelle started to cry. They had no money to go home and the bus already left. Mrs Anderson gave them some money for a taxi. They got home and I think you know what happened next. Their mom was furious and wanted to explode. They told her what had happened and she wanted to cry. She was so ashamed of herself for shouting at them.

Chapter 4 • A brighter day

Shannon was in class hoping today would be different. After school she waited for her sister. When she got there they caught the bus home. They ate, washed and went to bed. Before Shannon went to sleep, to her surprise Lizelle came to give her a goodnight kiss and said, "Today was a brighter day." She went back to her room and they fell asleep.

Chapter 5 • My mom

I'm proud to call Shannon my mom. I love her so much and although we have some difficulties, we're living a fantastic life together.

One last piece of advice: if you ever consider writing about your mom. Don't, because there are three words you'll hear for the rest of the year, or even your life: "WHAT ABOUT DAD?"

Take my advice!!!



This book is not for sale.



Children writing to grow smart

This collection of stories represents a sample of the stories written by learners across the Cape Town Metropole for the Growsmart writing competition.

Growsmart is a CSI initiative by Growthpoint Properties Ltd.

The book's design showcases the writers' voices through layout and careful use of their illustrations.

These stories share the hopes, dreams and experiences of a diverse group of young people.



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