

Children writing to grow smart

Stories written by
learners for the
2019 Western Cape
Growsmart Story
Writing Competition



Western
Cape
2019
Edition

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to grow smart**



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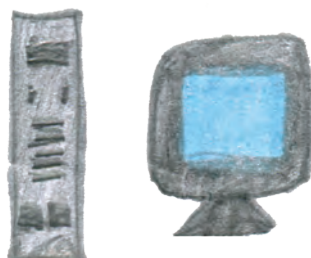
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Contents



- 6 A message from **Growthpoint Properties**
- 9 A message from the **Western Cape Education Department**
- 13 A message from **Via Afrika**
- 15 A message from **Novus Holdings**

- 16 **Jessie Cloete** • Dancing Into Destiny
- 22 **Jayden Willemse** • Coming Out The Closet
- 30 **Tawanda Tongogara** • Liar Liar
- 36 **Keisha Geduld** • Hidden In A Snow Globe
- 46 **Phoebe Williams** • The Stranger With My Face
- 50 **Faithful Hove** • The Dance For Water
- 56 **Cade Arendse** • The Unseen Scars
- 60 **Emihle Mbiyo** • Messages From The Ocean
- 66 **Imaad Stringer** • Tux The Tiny Trendsetter
- 70 **Saskia Petersen** • The Black Pearl Of Life And Death
- 76 **Liza Kayinda Mutoba** • Ubuntu
- 86 **Lee-Yoara Petersen** • Paisley Peck: The Penguin Who Runs The Runway
- 92 **Jezreel Bambo** • Pride Comes To A Fall
- 96 **Lilitha Amanda Gontsana** • The Calling
- 106 **Moegamat Nur Daniels** • Help! Aliens Took My Mom
- 114 **Stasha Williams** • The Tree Of Life
- 118 **Taskeen Abrahams** • My Doppelgänger From Space
- 124 **Tarah Jamie Andrews** • Norman The Wizz



A message from Growthpoint Properties



Stories have been around for as long as humans have been able to communicate. In fact, storytelling is what ties generations to each other and ensures that we stay connected and remembered. This special book has a selection of wonderful stories, written by our very talented Growsmart Story Writers – all of them children. This book is a delightful representation of South African children (and their families and friends) and allows us to delve into their challenges, joys and experiences while growing up.

This year, we received an astounding 334 submissions in the Western Cape and 62 submissions in the Eastern Cape, with the latter made up of 34 stories from Port Elizabeth and 28 stories from Buffalo City, East London.

This 6th edition of *Children Writing to Grow Smart* comprises stories all written by learners in Grades 4 to 6, most of whom





come from previously disadvantaged communities in the Cape Town area and for most of whom, English is not their first language. This book celebrates these young authors (who wrote their stories without any assistance) and reminds us that even the young have important stories and messages to share with the world.

As Growsmart celebrates its 10th year, we are extremely proud to be able to continue to provide a platform for these talented children and continue to encourage them to grow, learn and thrive.

Estienne de Klerk, SA CEO



A message from the Western Cape Education Department

Writing is the painting of the voice – Voltaire

Writing is certainly not frivolously scribbling words out on a page. In a well-written story, every word counts. Every sentence, every paragraph, should mean something. Every word is carefully chosen and purposeful. This takes extensive practice – editing, rewriting, editing, rewriting ...

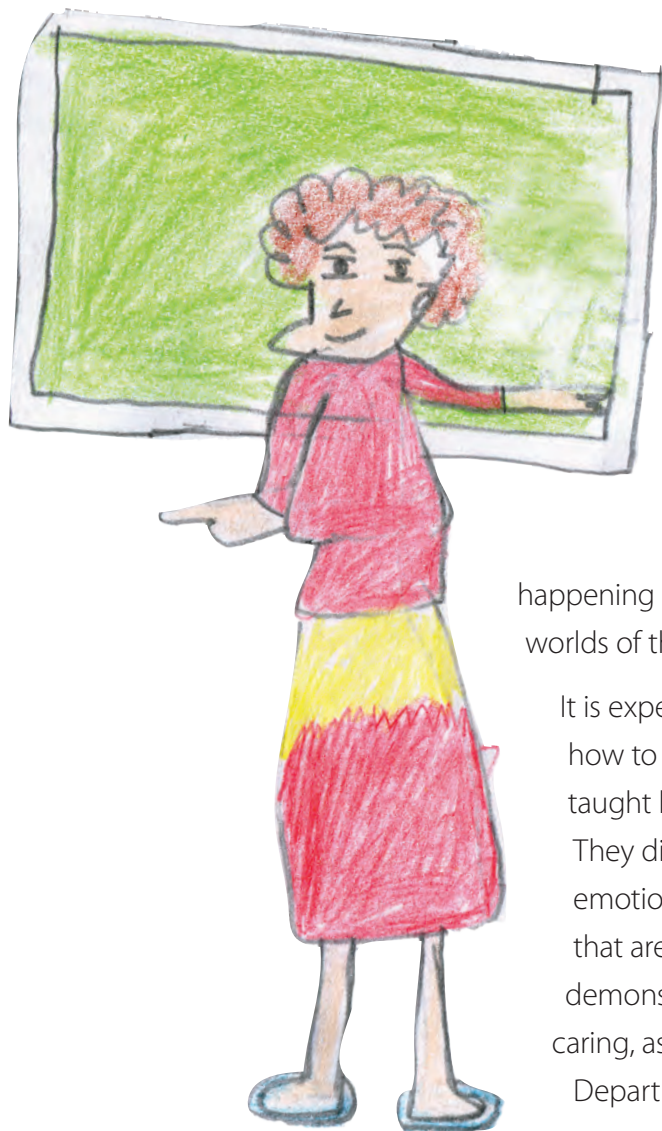
Kenneth Hoskisson states the following: 'Writing stories is an effective means of helping children learn to read, to know about and understand literary devices, and to gain knowledge of grammatical structures they can use in their writing.'

In collaboration with



**Western Cape
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Education





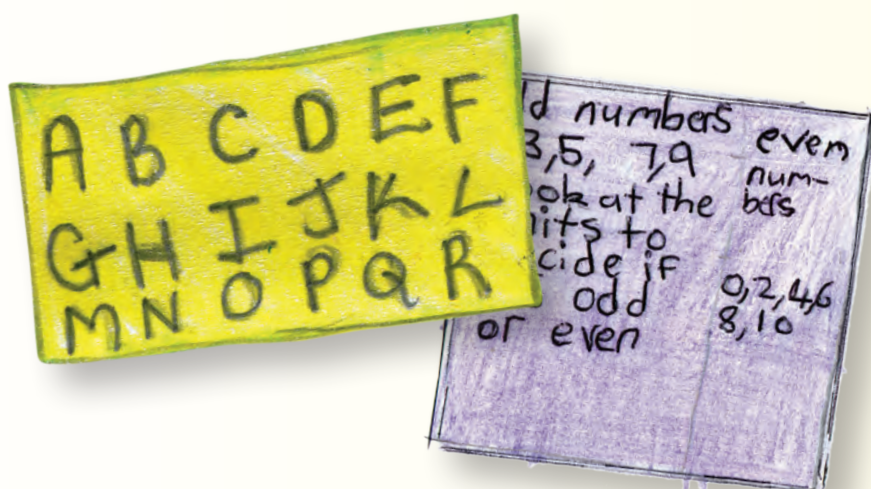
But as much fun as it can be, writing a story can also seem like a challenge to a young person (or an adult!). By familiarizing a learner with how authors create stories and what the different parts of a story are, introducing visual or written prompts that inspire him or her to think of story ideas, and encouraging them to plan before starting to write, you will assist the child to make a complete and creative story.

Writing helps learners understand what is happening in their own world, what is happening in the worlds of those close to them, and what all of it means.

It is expected of Intermediate Phase learners to learn how to write by mastering different skills. They are taught how to grab and hold a reader's attention. They discover how word choice impacts one's emotions as a reader by also inferring the things that are left unsaid. It is in stories that learners can demonstrate values of empathy, respect, tolerance and caring, as promoted by the Western Cape Education Department's Values Driven Learning Vision.

The WCED therefore believes that the basic features of good writing can be taught, extended and refined through expert effort in all classrooms. This collection of stories is testament to that.

On behalf of the Western Cape Education Department, we thank Growthpoint Properties for inviting learners to participate in this creative writing competition. The learners who contributed their stories to this diverse collection come from primary schools across the Cape Metropole. We laud



the schools for taking up the challenge in the process of improving learners' ability to use writing as a way to transfer their thoughts and feelings.

The competition has uncovered a number of outstanding stories from inspiring young writers. The stories as well as the illustrations are diverse and rich. They feature various aspects in the lives of our young learners.

It is our hope that this collection will inspire other learners to write and develop the passion for storytelling and that their teachers will continue to encourage them to use words to communicate their experiences and emotions competently to others.

Dr Peter Beets,

Deputy Director-General:

Curriculum and Assessment Management

Western Cape Education Department



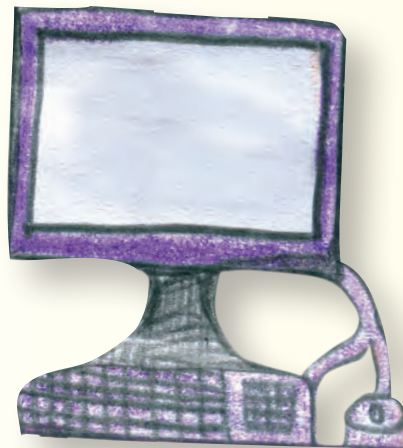


A message from Via Afrika

At Via Afrika, we usually work with educational texts that help teachers and learners 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 calibre.

Christina Watson, CEO





A message from Novus Holdings

Future Foundations, which is the Novus Holdings social investment programme, is firmly rooted in the belief that education is key to sustainable development. The programme aims to empower lives and transform communities by building strong foundations for future growth and development.

The Growsmart Story Writing project shares the same philosophy as Future Foundations as it truly empowers its beneficiaries by giving them a hand up and not a hand-out. For this reason we are honoured to once again be associated with this project with our print division, Novus Print producing this remarkable book and proudly supporting this cause.

We would like to thank Growthpoint Properties for ensuring the continued success of this competition, and mostly for providing an enriching platform to our talented youth, thus encouraging them to learn and grow.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners of the competition. You have done us and South Africa proud.

Peter Metcalfe,

Group Executive: Sales and Marketing

Novus Holdings





Jessie Cloete

Belmor Primary

Grade 5

Age 10



Dancing into Destiny is a moving story about a girl called Hannah, and her crew. They are practising for the biggest dance competition in Cape Town and have their eyes on the prize. Despite the excitement for The Dance Off, the crew face a water challenge. Most of them are backyard dwellers and do not have access to running water. They decide to do a dance with a purpose and before you can say, "One, two, step!" things start to fall into place, like a game of Tetris.

Dancing Into Destiny

Drip, drip, drip ... the water trickled out of the bucket. Like a cautious gymnast walking on a beam, I tried walking into our humble wendy house without spilling another drop. My mom turned her attention away from her favourite soapie and focused on me.

"Hannah, my favourite daughter!" she exclaimed.

"You mean your only daughter," I replied teasingly.

"Thank you for fetching water from your Aunt Sophie."

My mom works as a cleaner at the Day Hospital in Hanover Park and she's always exhausted when she gets home.



"I wish the government would give us access to water. The backyard dwellers need it," my dad said seriously from the tiny bedroom. My dad was a stay-at-home parent due to a work-related injury. That's actually why we stay in a wendy house. My dad cannot walk very well, but he never lets that get him down.

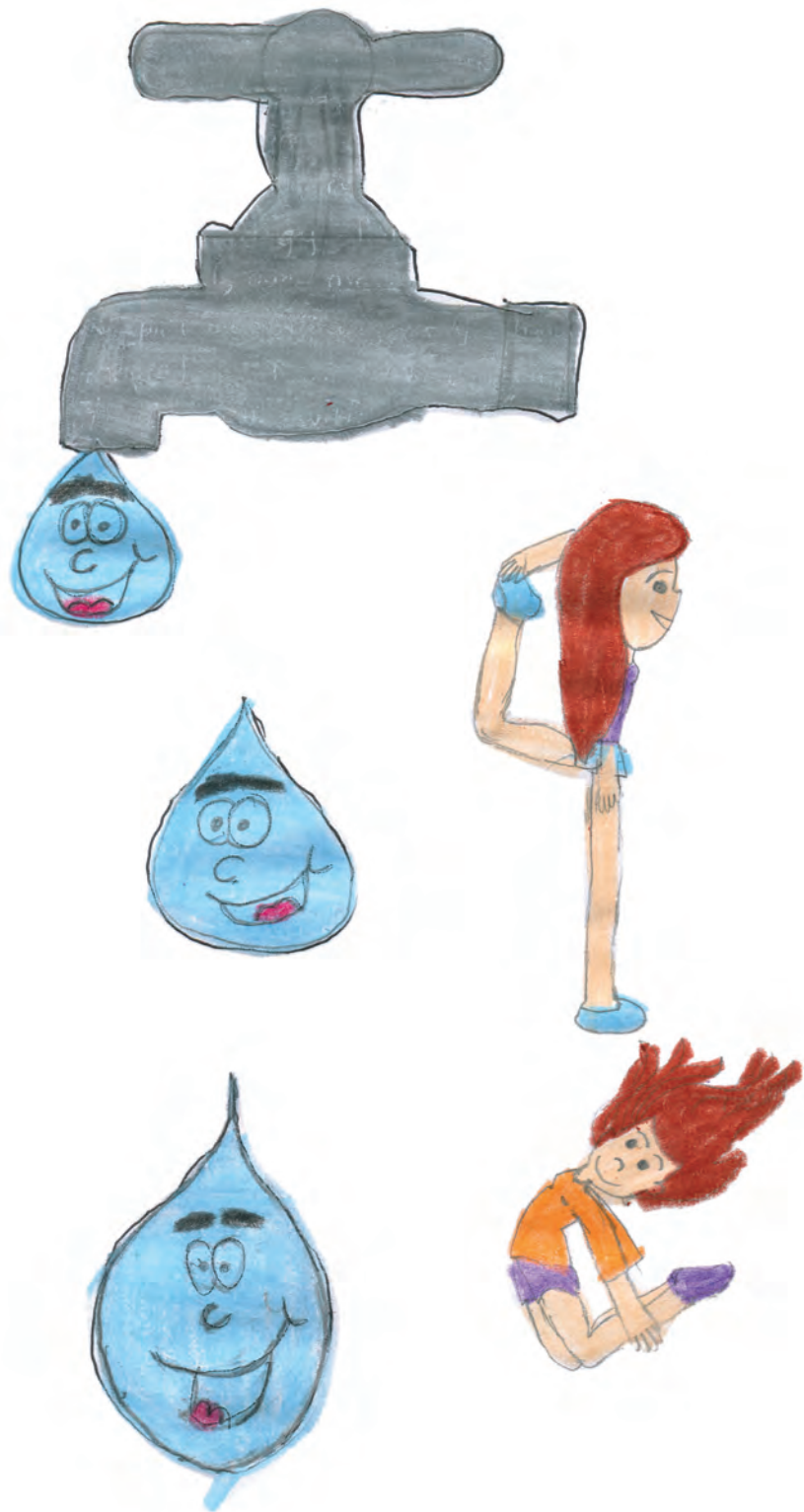
"Hannah, you are going to be the world's best hip hop dancer. You are my daughter after all, and you've got my rhythm. Clearly you didn't get your moves from rhythmless Rebecca over there!" he would always say jokingly.

I live in the colourful community of Hanover Park.

There are small flats, tiny houses and then there's us: the backyard dwellers. We live in the backyards of relatives or friends, and many of us don't have running water. We gather bottles or buckets and fetch water from our landlords. I wish there was something I could do to make people aware of our predicament ...

At the moment I am practising for a dance competition called The Dance Off. Our dance crew attends Belmor Primary School and we are in Grades 5, 6 and 7.





The Dance Off will have a live broadcast; that's besides the ten thousand rand prize and possibilities to pursue a dance career.

"This water situation sucks! I wish there was something we could do about it," Kesia, one of our crew, said sulkily.

Suddenly, a light switch flipped in my head and I had the brightest idea. "Why don't we incorporate our real-life problem into our dance? We could do a dance about water. We could do a dance with a purpose!" I declared boldly.

Everyone started buzzing because many of us faced that challenge. We Googled songs about water excitedly. That was the turning point for our dance crew.

The day of the Dance Off competition finally arrived. We chose a remixed version of *Oceans (Where My Feet May Fail)* by Hillsong, and right from the start, our message resounded. We started off with a picture of a wendy house on an overhead projector. Four of our dancers each took a turn to reveal a board with a simple message:

WE
NEED
WATER
TOO!

Our dance was graceful yet bold, and depicted our dilemma. We won the competition that day!

As we held up our trophy, it was a win for our crew, but also for all those who know what it's like not to have running water. Who knows, maybe those powerful people in the government were watching too?





"Ladies and gentlemen, we don't have it all together, but together we have it all. Let's give a round of applause to the dancers from Belmor Primary School who made us aware of Hanover Park's water predicament," our Ward Councillor, Mr Kellerman, said proudly. The community erupted with applause. Mr Kellerman continued with his speech: "Everyone deserves to have access to running water and today it's Hanover Park's turn!"

You see, not all heroes wear capes,
some wear dancing shoes. ■





Jayden Willemse

Regina Coeli

Primary

Grade 6

Age 11



Coming Out The Closet

As I approach my 16th birthday, I find myself filled with feelings of confusion and anxiety. Although most kids my age wait in anticipation for their 16th birthday to arrive, for me, it is the scariest time of my entire life – because of the secret I'm holding in. I guess it's because once I let it out, I will not be able to take it back.

In order for you to understand what I mean, I probably need to take you all the way back to Grade 6, when I was still young and carefree. I remember being an 11-year-old kid, being labelled as a soft spoken, sensitive boy amongst my girl and

A special thanks to: my editor, Mrs Daniels; my creative inspiration: my mom (Veronica Willemse); my sponsors: Growsmart; and lastly: I would like to thank everyone involved for making this experience so much fun!!

Zack McKenzie, a young 16-year-old, takes us the readers through his journey discovering his own self, going through different phases of emotional and confusing feelings.





boy friends. This was mostly because I never played soccer or rugby with the other boys, but rather preferred spending my time with the girls, doing more girly things. I guess I just never had an interest in rough play.

As the years passed by, I found myself drawing further away from the boys and developing a close bond with my best friend Nicky. Nicky and I first met when we started at Greenville High, and the two of us hit it off right away. We then also met Lacy. Nicky, Lacy and I are the best friends, sharing in everything together and we have become inseparable.

Two weeks ago, I got home after an exhausting day at school and the phone rang. It was Nicky. She said she had some





exciting news to tell me. I was excited to hear what she had to say, then she said, "Lacy has a huge crush on you and wants to ask you to be her date to next week's spring dance."

Suddenly I felt the excitement die down and fizzle into a feeling of anxiety. All I could think was: "How could Lacy like me? She's supposed to be my best friend. Do I even feel the same?"

The next week was our school's annual spring dance. Everyone at school was so excited and there I was dreading to have to face Lacy. Most learners enjoy the idea of having a date to the school dance, but to me, dating Lacy was not my idea of fun.

2019 SPRING DANCE

Two weeks ago,
extending my class





Then, by a stroke of luck, Lacy was asked by a Grade 12 learner to be his date, and I was so relieved. Nicky and I then decided to be each other's date at the dance.

At the dance I could feel Lacy staring at me in expectation, as if she was waiting for me to come up to her and ask for a dance. In an attempt to satisfy Nicky, I danced with Lacy on the semi-dark dance floor. In that moment I found myself unknowingly staring at Vince Carter who was on the opposite side of the room.

I could not help but notice how cute he looked in his semi-formal outfit. When I finally realised I was staring at Vince, I found that Vince had begun to notice me staring at him.

That's when I realised that I felt attracted to Vince and that I would rather be on the dance floor dancing with him.

After the dance I could not stop thinking about how I felt about Vince. I questioned myself repeatedly, "Is it right to feel like this about another boy?" ... "AM I GAY?!" The person my father would hate and that the other guys can pick on in the locker rooms in PT class.

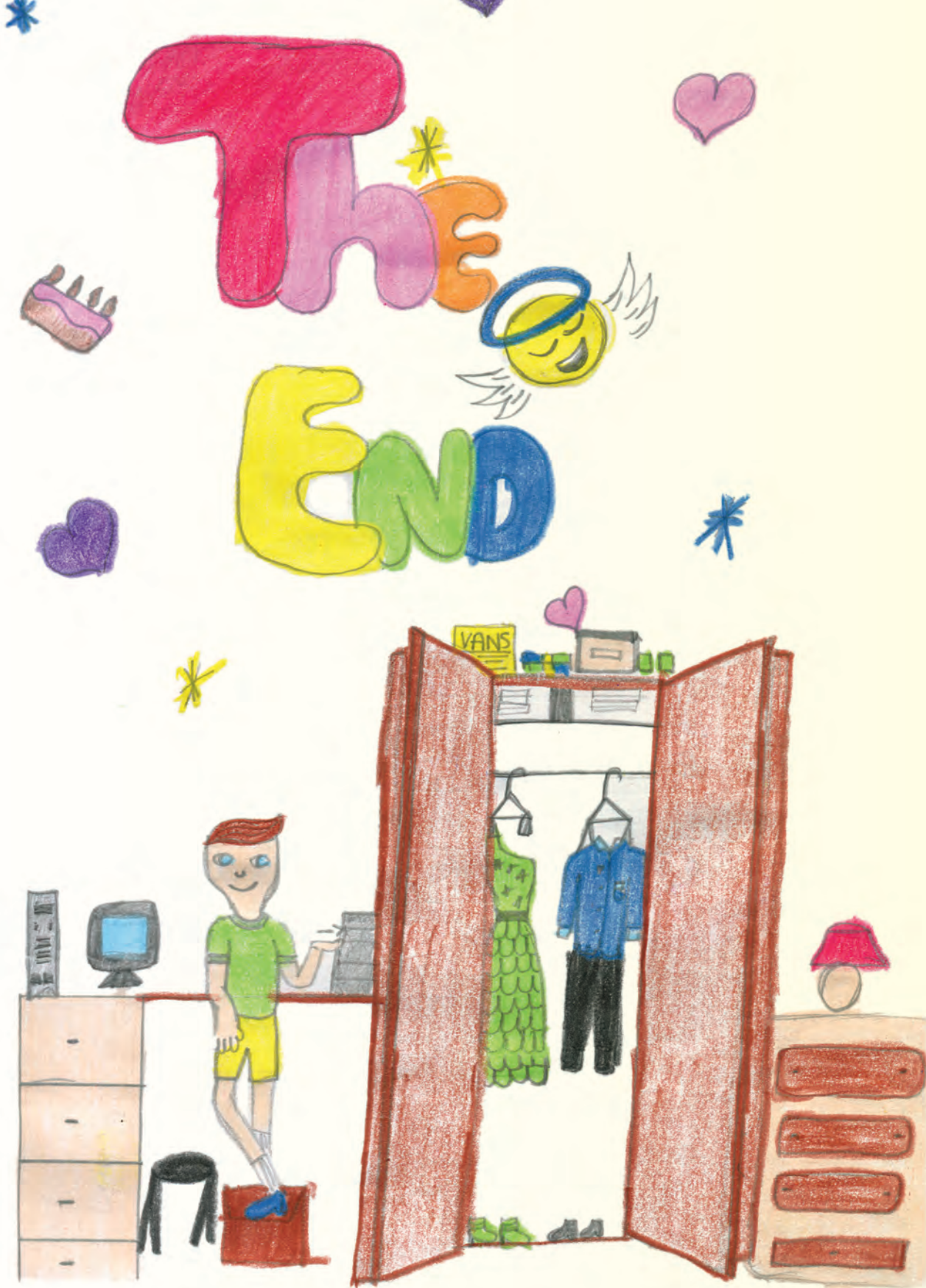
For the past few days after the dance, I have been battling with myself and my feelings. I guess I've come to realise I've been gay, but just never had the ability to understand it.



And now as I approach my 16th birthday, I feel extremely anxious and nervous because I now need to find the courage to come out to my family and friends. My fear of their reaction scares me down to the bone.

I just hope that my family and friends will still love and accept me the same, and if I'm lucky, that Vince might realise that he is gay too. ■







Tawanda Tongogara

Thomas Wildschutt
Senior Primary
Grade 5
Age 11

Tyson wants to impress the Iconic Gamers. He tells a lie ...

Liar Liar

On a Sunny Wednesday in Zimbabwe, at Chikumbiro Primary School, Tyson sees his friend Trevor excitedly talking to the Iconic Gamers about the cool games that they have.

The Iconic Gamers is a group of intelligent boys who are very good at online battles, playing on Xbox, PlayStation and even Nintendo. They make Tyson feel intimidated and really shy, but he so much wants to be part of the group, because they are awesome.

Tyson walks slowly to the group and he greets them, "Hi guys!"



Trevor, the leader, says, "Hi guys, this is Tyson. We were just talking about Fifa19, Mario and some other cool games."

Tyson responds quickly, "Yeah, I've got those games and Mortal Kombat. It's really cool playing it on my PS4."

Tyson hears amazed voices, "Cool dude! Wow! Awesome . . ." Just then the bell rings.

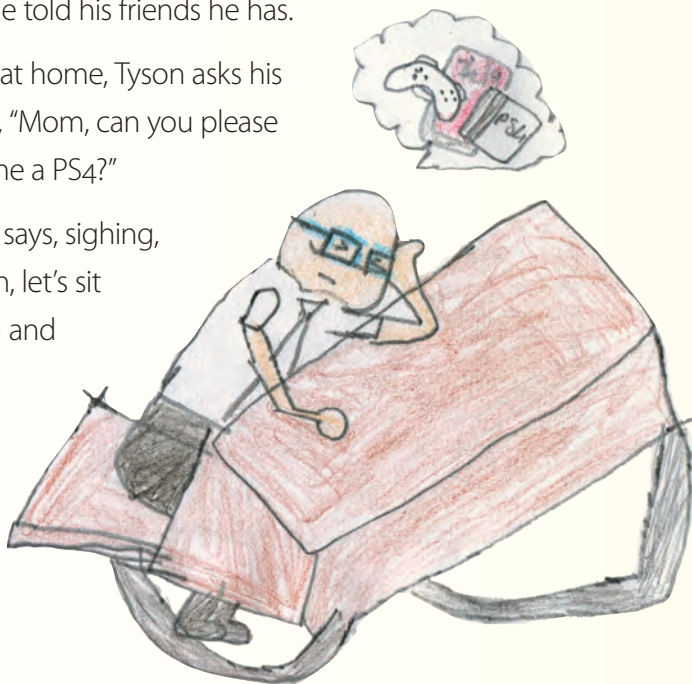
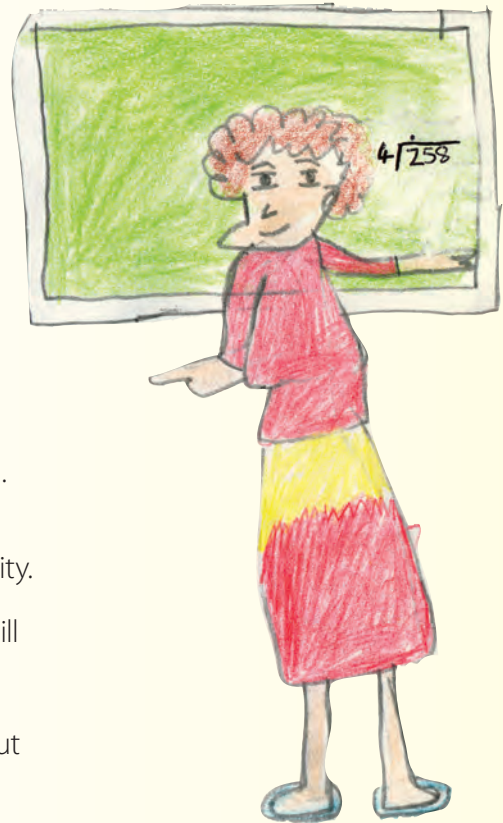
In class the teacher, Mrs Malinda, is explaining the long division method, but Tyson is not listening. He is panicking. What if the Iconic Gamers find out he was lying? This is a nightmare! His teacher's loud voice brings him back to reality.

"Tyson, you're not paying attention! You better listen or I will inform your parents."

Tyson whispers, "I'm sorry Mrs Malinda." He tries to listen but all he can think of is the imaginary PS4 that he told his friends he has.

Later, at home, Tyson asks his mom, "Mom, can you please buy me a PS4?"

Mom says, sighing, "Tyson, let's sit down and talk."





"But Mom ..." protests Tyson. He sits down.

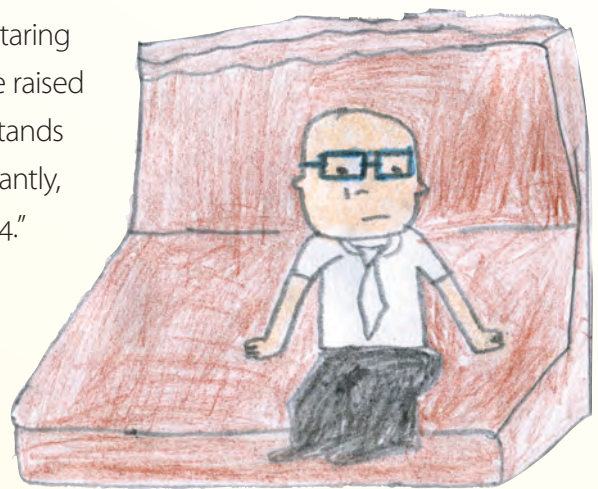
"We don't have money, you know this. But when we do have money, I promise I will buy you that PS4."

Just then there is a knock on the door. Mom opens the door. It is Trevor. Tyson is shocked. He can't even get up.

Trevor says smiling, "Hi Tyson, can I play Fifa19 on your PS4?"

Tyson's mom looks confused and is staring at Tyson with one raised eyebrow. Tyson stands up and says hesitantly, "I don't have a PS4."

"You don't have a PS4! You liar!" Trevor walks away angrily.



Tyson sits down in despair. He whispers, "I'm sorry that I lied Mom."

His mother says, "It's okay. At least you came out with the truth."

The next morning at school Tyson is feeling scared and ashamed. He feels even worse when he sees the Icons approaching him.



They are shouting simultaneously, "Liar. You fake! Liar, liar pants on fire! Oh, hail the king of PS4, hahahakkk!!! "

Trevor interrupts, "Hold up guys, let's give him a chance to speak."



Tyson says remorsefully, "I'm sorry guys, please forgive me, I beg you."

Trevor replies, "You've apologised, so I forgive you, my friend."

Trevor looks at the others and says, "Guys, we are the ones that started bragging about our games. I don't even have a PS4. Let's forgive and forget."

One member of the group says, "I'm not going to forgive this liar!!" He walks away.



There is a moment of silence. Then one by one they say, "I forgive you."

Trevor says, "It doesn't pay to lie, because the truth always comes out. Chest bump!"

The group members jump up, chests touching. ■





**Keisha
Geduld**

Balvenie Primary
Grade 5
Age 11



Hidden In A Snow Globe

The first day of school is always challenging for Kylie, one of the school's hard-working learners. Not only is she going to a new grade and class, but a brand new teacher is going to be her class teacher. She does not know what to expect. If it was going to be one of the school's existing staff members, she could have coped, because she somehow knows them. She has anxiety about this and fears that it might not be a good year for her. She is surprised by the uniqueness of Miss Snow and, just like the rest of the class, she is fascinated by Miss Snow's amazing snow globe. Once she meets her new teacher, she is taken into a hidden world of amazing learning that she had never experienced before.

Chapter 1

It was the first day of the new school year.

Although Kylie was one of the brightest and most hard-working learners in the school, she still had anxiety about new happenings. A new grade meant new rules, new ways of doing things and maybe some new friends too. A brand new teacher was going to come to their class and this was scary. The other teachers they had known for years, but new teachers are always scary.

I hope that she is not nasty. Or maybe it is a 'he'. I hope that she or he does not shout or make us write down many notes for hours and hours or keep us inside for detention during breaks just because one child did not behave, thought Kylie.

Miss Snow



The bell rang for the start of the day. As always on the first day, everything was clean and shiny. When they entered the new classroom, there she stood in front of the class. Never ever in her life had Kylie seen such a bright looking teacher. She was the most colourful teacher in the world. Even her hair was bright orange. Some children started to giggle and whisper but each was immediately stopped by her stare. It was as if Miss Snow was looking right through each one of them.

"I am Miss Snow and I shall be your teacher for this year," she said with a beautiful and friendly smile. "I have three rules:

- Love yourself enough to take care of yourself.
- Respect is a two-way street.
- Don't be afraid of going slowly, but never stand still."

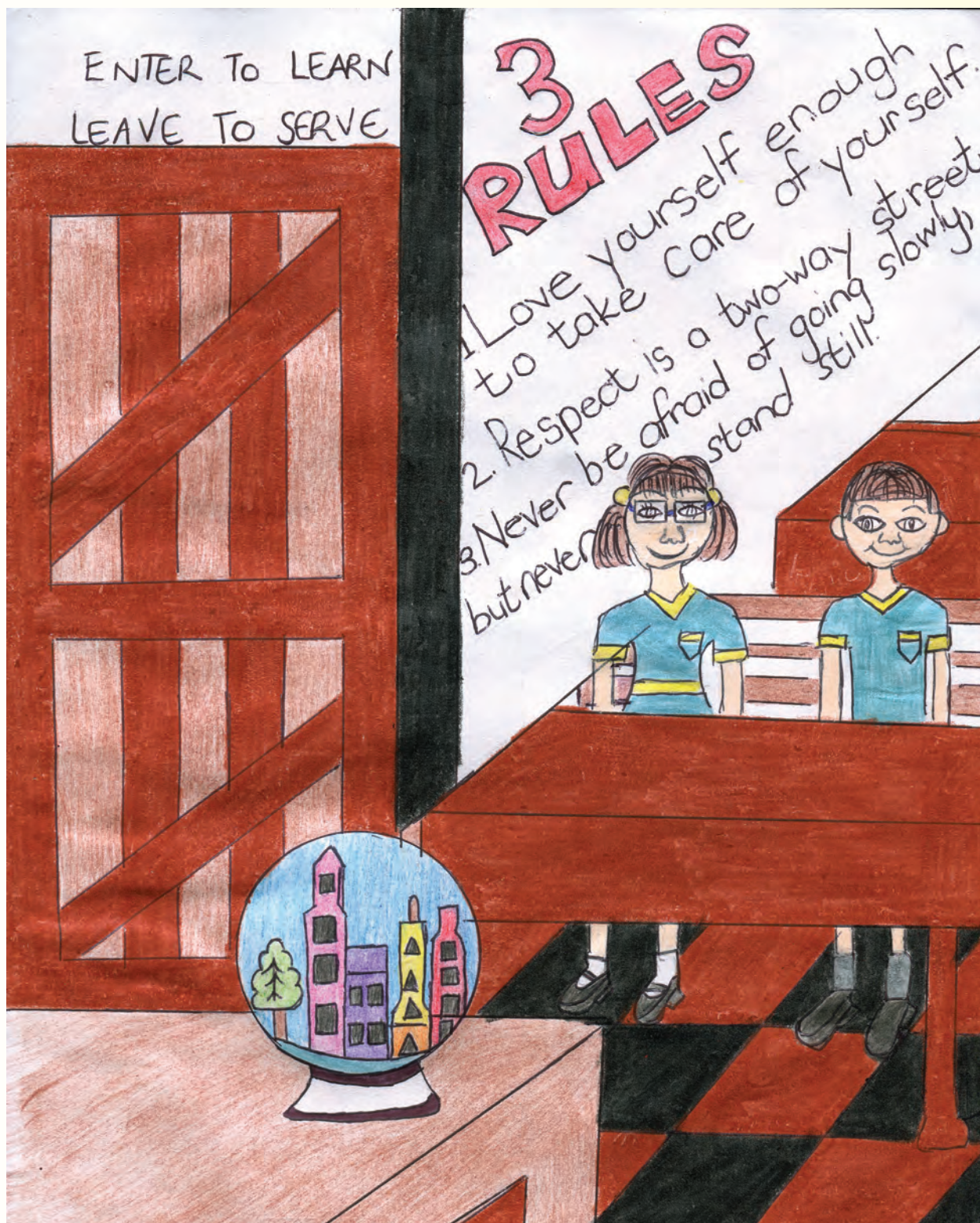
The children looked at one another in disbelief. Three very strange rules. Well, a strange teacher, Kylie thought.

Miss Snow asked Kylie to sit in front next to Ben. Then she saw it. It attracted her attention like a magnet. On the teacher's table was a beautiful city inside a snow globe. Kylie was fascinated with cities, especially New York City. She had heard and read so much about it.

All the children were looking at the snow globe. A glowing light was constantly around the snow globe, like a halo on an angel's head. There was a soft ringing sound. The class went silent. Then the children stared at one another with surprise.

"Ouch!" Kylie screamed as Ben knocked her arm with his elbow to show his amazement.

Everyone turned to face the chalkboard, eagerly awaiting what was going to happen next.



When Miss Snow started teaching them a Maths lesson on the chalkboard, everyone focused on her. Even Isabella, who always struggled with Mathematics and who was always distracted in class, was focused on Miss Snow. 'Little Bella', as teachers called her, because of her petite size, always needed extra help as she took longer to understand Mathematical concepts.

Kylie stared at Miss Snow. She was like a fairy princess. The children were glued.

When the bell rang for break, they lined up. When Kylie passed the snow globe, her curiosity made her reach out, wanting to touch it. It was so beautiful, but as she tried to reach out to it, she couldn't. This made Kylie even more curious. She had to find out what the story was behind this mysterious snow globe.

One day Kylie raised her hand out of curiosity. "Miss Snow, we really want to know about the city in your snow globe."

Miss Snow replied: "Well, this snow globe is very special to me. It has special powers, but it can only do special things provided you are truthful and respectful."

"What city is in your snow globe, Miss Snow?" asked Ben.

"There are many cities hidden in there, Ben. This snow globe can take you to any city in the world", she said.

"WOW!" said all the children simultaneously.

"However, it will only allow *me* to touch it," said Miss Snow.

"Aha," whispered Kylie to herself.



Chapter 2

Weeks went by. They looked forward to every day, especially to seeing Miss Snow's outfits. She dressed in the most unusual, but beautiful dresses. Kylie loved every moment of school. The lessons were interesting and very different. There was magic in each lesson. The children loved writing tests and even Isabella got 90% for her first test. Everyone congratulated her. She gave a bashful smile.

Then one day, Miss Snow came to class very angry. Miss Snow looked disappointed. Kylie wondered what had made Miss Snow so angry.

"Children!" she said in a loud voice. Everyone sat up except for Ben and Isabella. They kept their heads lowered. "Someone has taken the Mathematics test and answers from my table. I am very disappointed."

Miss Snow handed out worksheets. No-one in the class dared to speak or look around. There was an awkward silence. Kylie did not like this. She did not like trouble. During the period Kylie felt a piece of paper hitting her head. It was folded. She looked up and saw Isabella waving at her while Miss Snow was writing on the chalkboard.

"I'm so sorry." She lipread what little Bella had said and opened the note. It read 'I stole the test from the table, as well as the first test. I wanted to help Bella. From Ben.' Kylie was shocked.

Kylie thought that they had to win back Miss Snow's trust as the class was not the same anymore. After school, she got the whole class together to talk about what to do. All Miss Snow wanted was for them to obey those three rules and they did not.



Chapter 3

The next day it was assembly. The Principal announced that there were some learners who wished to speak. Kylie went on stage and made a speech about how much teachers must be appreciated and supported. Then Ben and Isabella went up. The Principal lowered the microphone as Ben and Isabella stepped forward to speak.

Then in front of everyone Ben said, "Miss Snow, I deeply apologise for disrespecting you. I am sorry for stealing the test and answers."

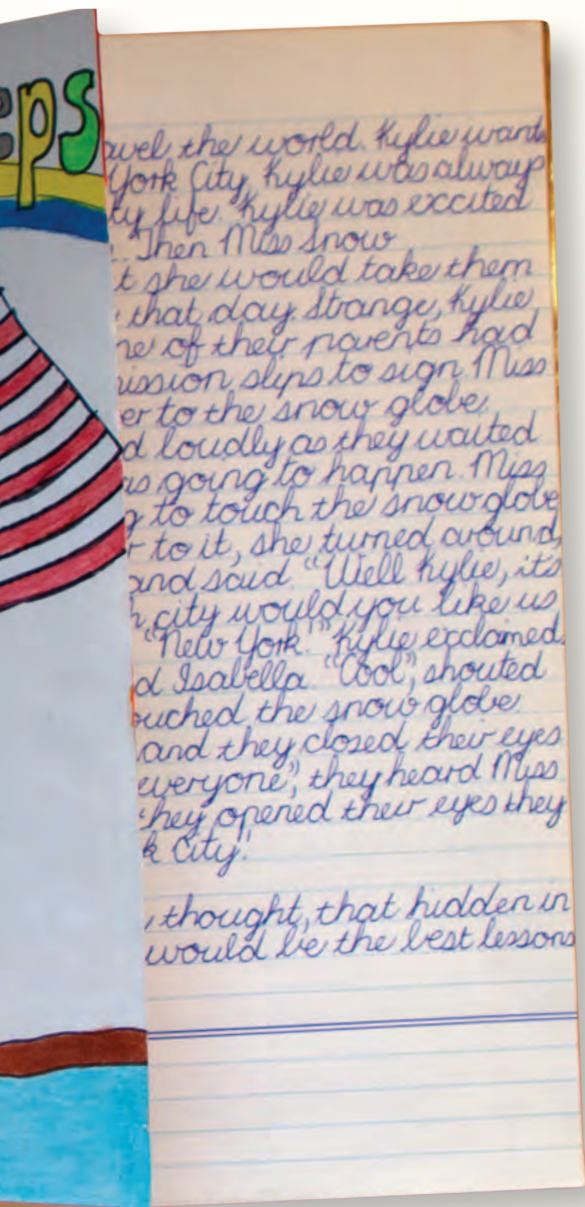
Then Isabella stepped forward. She cried as she spoke in a squeaky voice. "Miss Snow, I only wanted you to be proud of me. I am sorry for cheating on my test. I shall never do it again."

The next morning Miss Snow was her old self again. She smiled and she glowed just like her snow globe.

It was Geography period and the class learned about cities as types of settlements. Geography was Kylie's favourite subject.







One day she would like to travel the world. Kylie wanted to work in New York City and was always fascinated by city life. Kylie was excited about the lesson.

Chapter 4

Then Miss Snow announced that she would take them on an excursion that day. Strange, Kylie thought, as none of their parents had been given permission slips to sign. Miss Snow walked over to the snow globe. Everyone breathed loudly as they waited to see what was going to happen. Miss Snow was going to touch the snow globe. As she got closer to it, she turned around, looked at Kylie and said, "Well Kylie, it's your call. Which city would you like us to visit today?"

"New York!" Kylie exclaimed.

"Wow!" exclaimed Isabella.

"Cool!" shouted Ben.

Miss Snow touched the snow globe. Their hair raised and they closed their eyes. "Open your eyes everyone," they heard Miss Snow say. When they opened their eyes, they were in New York City!

Who would have thought, that hidden in her snow globe, would be the best lesson in the world? ■



Phoebe Williams

Montague Drive
Primary
Grade 6
Age 11



The Stranger With My Face

Chapter 1

My parents and I just moved into a new neighbourhood and I was totally freaked out. This meant that I had to not only live in a new house but get to know the neighbourhood, make new friends and start at a brand new school in the middle of the year. Who wouldn't be freaked out?

I hardly settled into my new surroundings when it was time to go to school. I was super freaked out and nervous to say the least.

On the day school reopened for the third term, things were absolutely crazy. My parents were running late for some reason which meant they could only drop me off, not come in with me. I got dressed in the wrong uniform and had to change and I couldn't find my school bag. I was totally freaked out by the time we arrived at school. Mom told me to report to the office with my transfer paper and someone would show me where to go. They were expecting me. Everything felt so strange as I got out of the car, but nothing would prepare me for the strange events that unfolded that day.

Chapter 2

When Mom dropped me at the gate, everybody was so welcoming, greeting me politely, some kids giving me a high

Moving to a new town and starting at a new school is already unsettling – but also being late on your first day makes things worse. It turns out to be the worst day of this young girl's life. From the moment she arrives at her new school, she is confronted with dirty looks and scolded by teachers, the school secretary and even the Principal. She is blamed for things that she has no clue about. The day just seems to get worse as time drags on ...

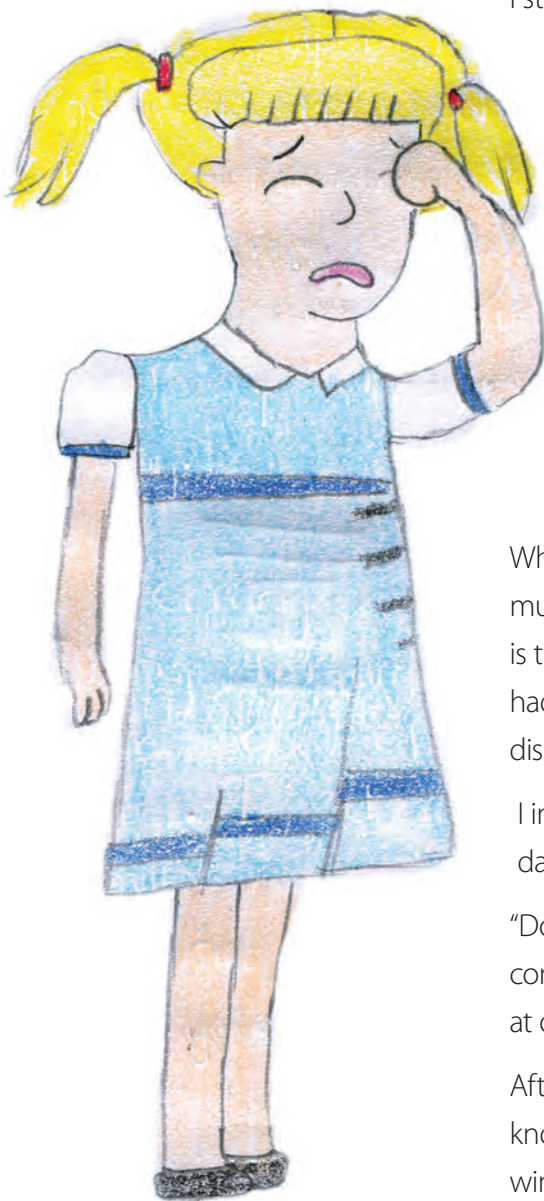


five and I even got a few hugs. I thought to myself that this was going to be an awesome school because the kids were super friendly.

A few of the girls even commented that they loved my new hairstyle. How did they know that I just recently cut my hair? I thought it to be strange after a while but continued smiling, and proceeded up the walkway, towards the office building.

Then the strangest thing happened. A man came walking towards me, who I later discovered was one of the senior teachers at the school. I decided to ask him for assistance but was met with a stern warning:

"Angela, what are you doing on this side of campus when your classes are way on north campus? This is a new term and we don't have time for your nonsense. Get to class!"



I started to explain that I wasn't this Angela girl he was referring to and that I was new to the school, but this only made him angrier. "Don't you back chat me missy. March straight down to the Principal's office at once!"

He grabbed me by the arm, marched me to the office, said something to the secretary and just left me there. The secretary peered through her office window and just shook her head like she was disgusted by something. I noticed that other people walking past had the same reaction. I was reconsidering the 'awesome school' thing.

When I was sent into the Principal's office, his reaction wasn't much better. He lashed out at me, screaming: "Angela, this is the last straw. You need to find another school. We've had enough of your rudeness, disrupting classes and disrespecting teachers."

I interjected saying, "But Sir, my name is Anna. It's my first day here."

"Don't you but me. Do you think I'm a fool? I know you have come in here pretending to be someone else. Leave my sight at once and get to class immediately!"

After him chucking me out of his office, I realised that I didn't know where my class was. I knocked on the secretary's office window and handed her the envelope with my transfer paper. She took one look at me and threw the envelope on the desk. "Finally, transfer papers. Off you go."

I left her office crying and went to think and freshen up, before going back to sort the mess out.

Chapter 3

I was hardly in the toilets when someone came bursting in. Once again, I was marched down to the office. It turned out the infamous Angela had been smoking and guess who they thought I was?

While the Principal was screaming at me, the secretary came charging in: "There has been a mistake. Her name is Anna. She is a transfer in; this is her first day."

"Then where is Angela? Send for her immediately!" said the Principal.

"I already sent for her, but she is not in class," said the secretary.

What happened next blew my mind. A girl walked in. I almost fainted! She looked like me – we were almost identical. We could be twins. Everybody stood there staring at us and we stood staring at each other.

That was the day I met my doppelgänger, the girl causing all this trouble ... for looking like me. ■





Faithful Hove

Weltevreden Valley
Core Primary

Grade 6

Age 13



The Dance For Water

Chapter 1

Once upon a time there was a village covered with trees, with water and beautiful houses and huts. It was Qunu, a village that was far away. The villagers loved and respected each other. Then there was Granny Walter. Granny Walter was short and had small eyes. She walked with a stick because she couldn't walk normally. She was the oldest in the village. Granny believed in and valued water, and so did the people.

Every June 16 the people went to the river nearby to worship water and dance for it. They believed that the water brought happiness, bright future and more. One cold June 16 Granny Walter woke up very early and called out, "People of my village. Mothers and fathers, wake up and let us go to the river."

The people and their children followed Granny carrying their food, drinks and other things. When they got there, Granny Walter said, "Mom, please appreciate the food with love and many more and may you grant us luck and happiness."

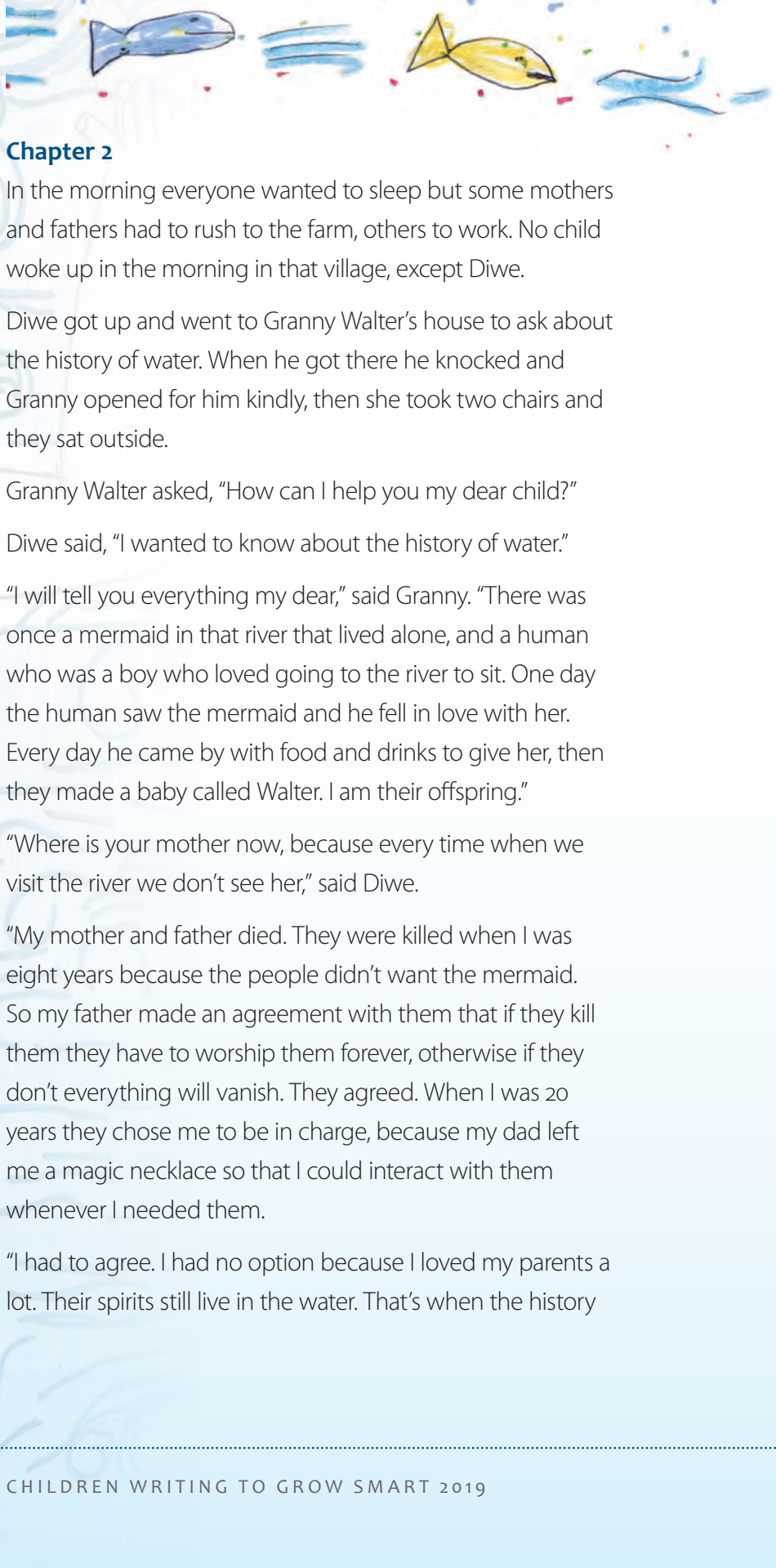
She started crying and her tears dropped in the water then waves started coming in and washed Granny Walter's face. Only Granny knew what that meant.

After she finished the people started pouring cool drinks, then they poured beer and ate food like fruit and meat. After that they celebrated until the morning.

This story is about an old grandmother whose parents had been killed because her mother was a mermaid. She started to feel sick but a boy named Diwe helped her to recover. She gave him a necklace and taught him how to connect with the water. Will Diwe handle the pressure? The lesson of this story is not to waste water and to just believe in it, because it does more in your life than you expect.







Chapter 2

In the morning everyone wanted to sleep but some mothers and fathers had to rush to the farm, others to work. No child woke up in the morning in that village, except Diwe.

Diwe got up and went to Granny Walter's house to ask about the history of water. When he got there he knocked and Granny opened for him kindly, then she took two chairs and they sat outside.

Granny Walter asked, "How can I help you my dear child?"

Diwe said, "I wanted to know about the history of water."

"I will tell you everything my dear," said Granny. "There was once a mermaid in that river that lived alone, and a human who was a boy who loved going to the river to sit. One day the human saw the mermaid and he fell in love with her. Every day he came by with food and drinks to give her, then they made a baby called Walter. I am their offspring."

"Where is your mother now, because every time when we visit the river we don't see her," said Diwe.

"My mother and father died. They were killed when I was eight years because the people didn't want the mermaid. So my father made an agreement with them that if they kill them they have to worship them forever, otherwise if they don't everything will vanish. They agreed. When I was 20 years they chose me to be in charge, because my dad left me a magic necklace so that I could interact with them whenever I needed them.

"I had to agree. I had no option because I loved my parents a lot. Their spirits still live in the water. That's when the history



started. You know no-one has ever asked me about my life. Thank you son," she said, smiling.

"You're welcome. I love asking questions a lot," said Diwe.

"That's my good boy," she said. Granny saw that it was late then Diwe went home and told his mother what he did for the day. She was happy for her son. Then he went to sleep after eating his supper.

Chapter 3

The next day in the morning Diwe went to Granny's house and he found that she was sick and could not walk. Diwe went and called out for the people to tell them about the bad news.

One man from the villagers said, "I have a brother who is a healer and he is going to heal her, I promise." Then the man called his brother and he came quickly and started doing his job.

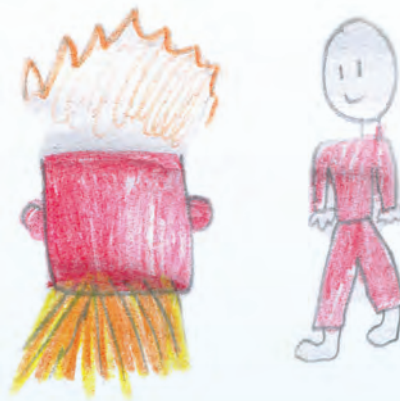
They waited and waited, and after a while the healer came out and said, "Granny Walter will be fine but she needs someone to stay with her."

"I will!" shouted Diwe.

"Are you sure?" asked his mother.

"Yes Mom." Then Diwe went home to fetch his clothes that he needed and went to Granny's house. He stayed there for the whole week till she was fine.

One morning Granny Walter woke up and started walking, then she opened her wardrobe and took out a necklace and gave it to Diwe.





"This is the Necklace of Water. To have the power of water, magic and love you have to understand how it works. When I am dead you will have to rule the village. The water and you have to understand and connect so it can love you and worship you as you worship it. Let's go," she said, walking out of the gate.

Diwe kept quiet and followed Granny. They went to the river nearby where they used to worship water then she showed him how to connect with the water. She closed her eyes and focused.

They practised for the whole day. Then later that day Granny told Diwe that he must go to the river by himself and do what she told him to do. Then Diwe went and spent the whole day at the river. He felt the connection between himself and water. He could experience the joy of going under the water and the beauty of the water when it danced.

Every day he would tell Granny what happened by the river. Granny would smile.

Chapter 4

One day when he came back from the river, he went to Granny's house. He found out that she was dead. The villagers had to accept the fact that she was called by the ancestors. The people buried Granny and they mourned for the whole year.

The next year Diwe announced that before Granny died she asked him to be the Ruler of the Water but then the people wanted evidence. They all went to the river nearby and Diwe asked, "What do you want me to do?"



They said, "Since Granny died, we have been experiencing drought, our animals are dying and our crops are not growing. We want rain."

Then Diwe stepped inside the water with the necklace around his neck and closed his eyes and also kept his mouth shut. After a while it started to rain.

The villagers gathered and it was announced that Diwe was the chief of the village. Then he started to help people.

One day he thought of putting Granny's picture at the gate, so he did that. When the people passed the gate they used to say, "Walter," and smiled as they passed.

A few years later, Diwe got married to a beautiful girl called Lukholo. They had beautiful, curious and knowledgeable children. Diwe passed on the history of water to them. ■





Cade Arendse

Montagu Drive
Primary
Grade 5
Age 10



The Unseen Scars is a story of a girl dealing with the loss of her loved ones, an emotionally absent father and the life of an only girl growing up in a boy's world. She is left with some scarring after a fatal accident in which her brother dies, but it's the emotional scars, the unseen ones, that end up hurting her the most.

The Unseen Scars

Growing up on the Cape Flats you are bound to be left with scars. Not all scars show. Not all wounds heal. Sometimes you can't see the pain someone feels. It is sometimes the unseen scars that hurt the most.

The story of my scar is one of physical and emotional pain.

On a daily basis we are faced with a lot of obstacles in these streets of Mitchells Plain, like drug abuse, gangsterism, teenage pregnancy and many more. It is really a case of fighting for survival. Oh! And how we fight the good fight every single day.

Growing up with four brothers, being the youngest child and only girl, didn't help me much. My brothers loved and cared for me but sometimes they would forget that I was a girl – not that I couldn't fend for myself. Although my brothers were older than me, they included me in everything they did. They were my everything.

You see my mom passed away while giving birth to me, which left my dad with a new-born baby and four boys to raise. With no clue how to raise a girl, he stuck to what he knew and raised me like a boy. I was the toughest girl in the neighbourhood; no-one messed with me and if they did my brothers would sort them out. All seemed fine from the outside but inside I was actually a lonely little girl because other girls avoided me, the tomboy.

My father and brothers were great, but a girl needs her mother. There are just things you can't discuss with males, so you figure things out for yourself.





My eldest brother was my favourite as he was really more like a dad to me. My dad was emotionally not available to us after my mom passed.

I remember how excited I was when he bought his first car as it meant that we could go more places ... how I would hate that same car a few months later.

He would take me everywhere with him. The front seat was my place to sit and nobody else dared sit there. We really had great times in that car, playing the music loud and singing at the top of our voices. The only time my brother and I were apart was when he had to work.

Then one dreadful night my entire world was shattered ... my brother lost his life. We came from McDonald's when a drunk driver jumped a red robot and hit us head-on.



I woke up in hospital with only cuts and bruises ... my brother however wasn't so lucky ... he was gone. I would later hear that he died on impact.

Years have passed now and life has gone on but the pain is still fresh. People often ask me about the scar on my cheek and it is a constant reminder of my loss. My face can be fixed, I got used to the scar, but my big brother can never be replaced. He would never see me go to my matric ball, see me graduate, get married and one day be a mother myself.

Your heart is broken and scarred. You carry around a pain so deep, which no-one sees or knows, yet you smile and carry on.

It is the emotional scars that leave me crying at night and not the physical one... the unseen scars hurt more. ■



**Emihle
Mbiyo**

Talfalah Primary
Grade 6
Age 12



Messages From The Ocean

Oceanside Primary School is the best school in town. It hosts many interschool games because it has the best sporting facilities. The kids who attend are go-getters, smart and well ... sort of ... the coolest kids in town. But Ariana was different.

Ariana was smart, and short for 12 years of age, but what made her more invisible was her shy and quiet personality. She never participated in class, even though she knew the answers. She was what you would say “silently” intelligent. She never had any friends and never spoke to anyone unless she had to. She was so shy, in fact, she would not even tell her teacher or mother that she was being bullied.

One day Ariana and her mom were off to the beach. Ariana’s mom was busy setting up while Ariana looked out at the waves crashing against the shoreline. Suddenly she saw something green and sparkly in the distance.

“Hey Mom! I’ll be back real quick. Just going for a walk.”

“Okay, no problem,” replied her mom, not even noticing what had caught Ariana’s attention.

She went over to have a closer look at the green, sparkly thing. She cleared away some sand and pulled at it. Out came a bottle, but there was a string attached to it. She pulled at it and out came five more bottles dangling on a string.

Ariana was a shy 12 year old girl. Life at a school for go-getters wasn’t really her ‘scene’. Walking along the shoreline (the beach was her and her mom’s Sunday tradition) she came across buried green things. They were green bottles numbered 1 to 6 ... messages from afar, she thought. But her thoughts were wrong. Do you dare to continue?

The strange thing about the bottles is that they were plain and had stickers numbered 1 to 6. She tried to open bottle number 6, but it wouldn't open. She then decided to rather start at number 1. Maybe the order mattered. It opened so easily there wasn't even a struggle.

In the bottle Ariana found a note. It dared her to do something! She was dared to ask her classmates which colour they liked best. If she didn't she was going to be followed by bad luck! Ariana hated bad luck.

As soon as she got to school the next day she reluctantly went and asked her classmates their favourite colour.

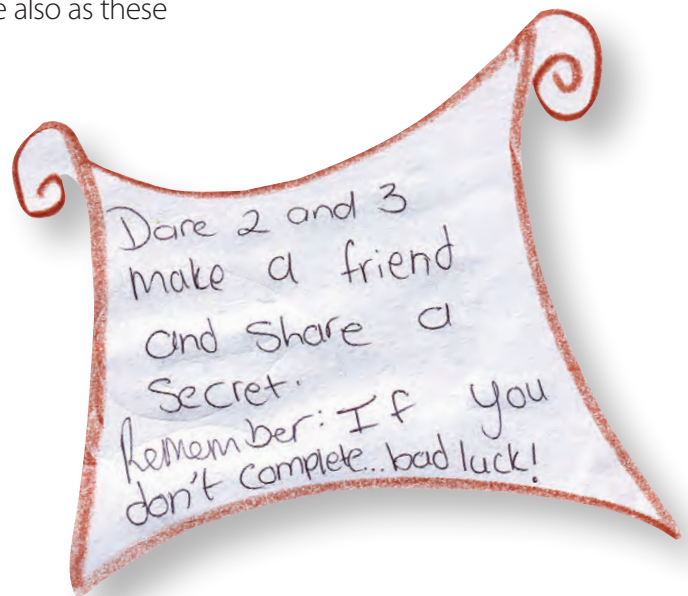
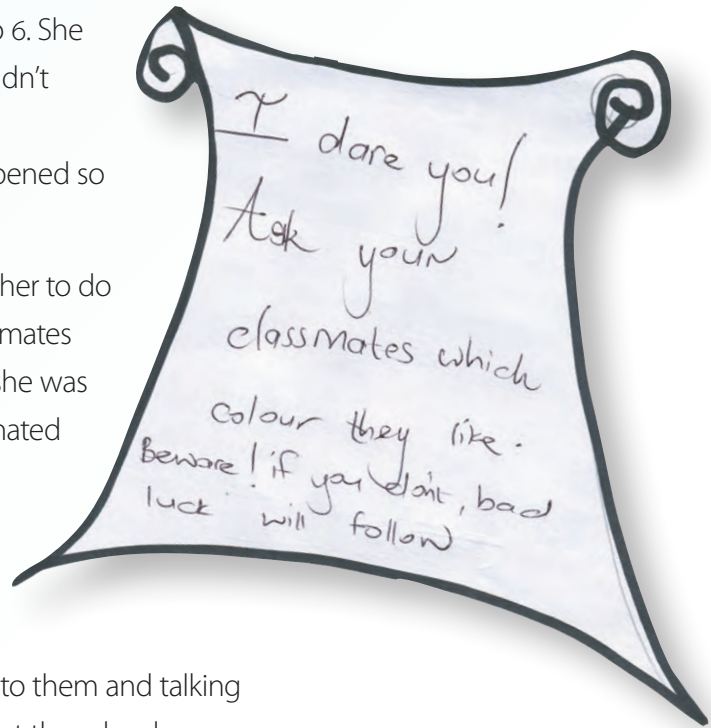
They were shocked to see her coming up to them and talking to them for the first time. Most of the kids at the school replied that their favourite colour was red. Red was Ariana's favourite colour too.

Later she went home and opened the second bottle and the note instructed her to open the third bottle also as these messages were linked.

The dare read ...

"Dares 2 and 3. You are dared to make a friend and share a secret with him or her. Remember bad luck follows to those who don't complete the dare."

Ariana gave a heavy sigh. She dreaded having to go back to school the next day. But the next day she made friends with a classmate that sat





next to her and the girl's name was Gabriela. Gabriela was nice, understanding, loving and intelligent. What Ariana loved about Gabriela is that they had a lot in common so they quickly became best friends.

They even shared their secrets. Ariana told Gabriela that she was being bullied. Gabriela wanted Ariana to tell a teacher, but she refused.

Gabriela did not really notice her friend's shy character or her fear of disappearing as a result of the dares because Ariana didn't even take a minute to open the fourth bottle, she was so excited.

In the fourth bottle the note instructed her to speak to a grown-up about what kept worrying her. The bullying came to mind immediately! She told her teacher she was being bullied. Her teacher was very surprised to see Ariana speaking to her for the first time ever.

Then she told her mom.

"Why didn't you tell me about the bullying! Ariana, we need to solve this before it happens to more children," her mom

said. Ariana told her mother she had been too scared to stand up to the bullying, but somehow she felt more brave now.

"Don't worry, I feel I need to make things right," said her mom.

It was time to open the fifth bottle. The note told her to make the bully stop bullying other children! Just my luck. This is not what I planned to do, she thought ... and make him, her or them a friend.

"Oh no, here we go again ... urgh."

The next day she walked up to the bully and told her to stop bullying. "It doesn't mean that because you are taller than me, you can rule me. I think you owe me an apology."



The bully apologised. Ariana wanted to know why she bullied her. The bully replied, "Because I don't have friends and you only notice me when I threaten you."

"Well, maybe if you spoke to me in a nice tone we could be friends," said Ariana.

Gabriela now came closer and put out her hand for a friendly handshake. "Truce?" she asked.

"Truce," replied the bully.

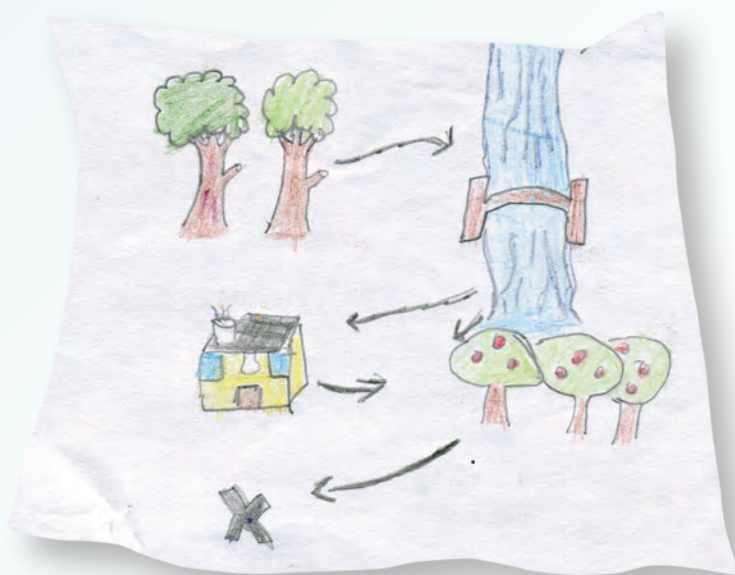
"Hey! We don't even know your name! What is your name?"

"I'm Sharpay," she said.

"Cool name," replied Ariana.

It was time to open the sixth bottle. Inside was a map, which lead her to the end of the dark forest to bottles seven, eight, nine and ten! They had letters of encouragement and inspirational words.

Map



Bottle seven had the sentence, 'Always be brave!'

Bottle eight had the sentence, 'Always speak out!'

Bottle nine had the sentence, 'When saying something, say it loud!'

The last bottle, bottle 10, had the most meaningful message that read as follows:

Dear Reader

You completed all your attempts so you will have to know that you did a good job. Always remember to be yourself. Don't be shy to be yourself because you might find people who have many things in common with you. Congrats on completing these attempts. After reading this letter don't destroy these bottles. Pass them on to someone. These bottles of dares and messages could help someone else just like they helped you.

Ariana and her friends went back to the beach to bury the bottles in a shallow spot close to the shoreline. They made sure to leave just a bit of one bottle sticking out to spark an interest in someone else. ■





**Imaad
Stringer**

Belmor Primary

Grade 4

Age 9



Tux The Tiny Trendsetter



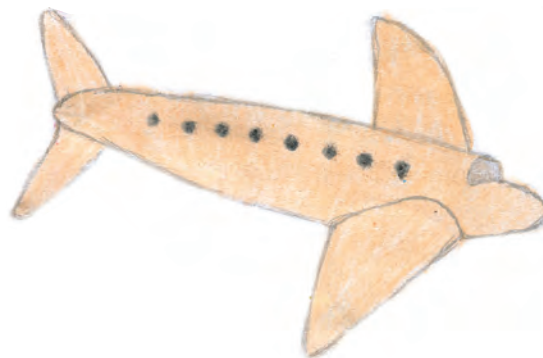
Tux the penguin lived in an extremely cold place called Antarctica. Tux was an adorable penguin with a fun-loving personality and he loved to waddle in the water. He enjoyed diving and going underwater to look for fish. He especially loved sliding around on the ice, pretending that he was on a photoshoot. Tux was black, white, short and wobbly, but always wanted to be a famous model. He knew that he didn't fit the criteria because he wasn't tall, thin or graceful.

However, it was his dream.

Tux dreamt of owning an elegant suit, but Antarctica didn't have any swanky clothing stores.

One day, an aeroplane appeared out of thin air and landed near Tux's home. "Curiosity doesn't just kill cats you know Tux," his mom always chastised, because Tux was as curious as

Tux The Tiny Trendsetter is an enchanting tale about a wobbly little penguin with a big dream. For as long as Tux could remember, he wanted to be a model. He knew that he didn't quite fit the criteria, but he was not one to downsize his dream. One day, an aeroplane lands in his hometown and curiosity causes Tux to sneak in. Within seconds, Tux finds himself en route to New York city: the world's fashion capital. Could his dream become a reality after all?



TUX The Tiny Trend Setter

Topic: Tell the tall tale of a high-fashion penguin who goes shopping for a tuxedo and gets into the modelling industry





they came. He snuck on the plane just to catch a glimpse and within seconds, the aeroplane ascended.

The radio screeched and the captain spoke formally: "Ladies and gentlemen, we apologize for the emergency landing. We are now en route to New York." Tux smiled brightly! He wasn't afraid because New York was the world's fashion capital. Maybe he'd find a suit after all.

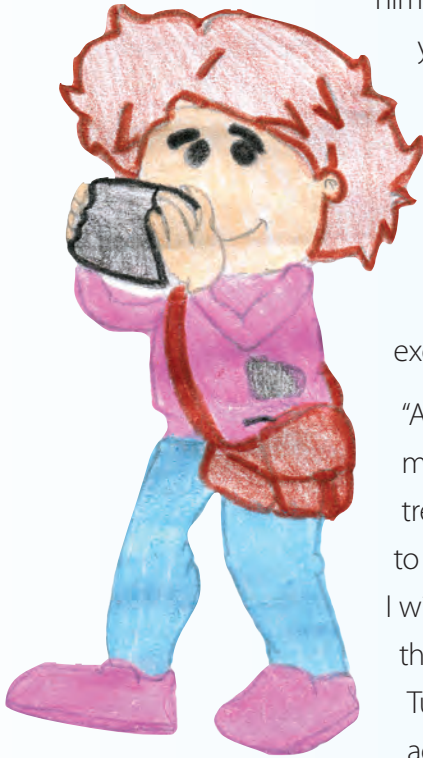
Suddenly, Tux realized that the aeroplane was landing and as everyone was disembarking, he jumped out eagerly. A lady wearing star-shaped sunglasses and a sequined coat spotted Tux and approached him immediately. She was fascinated by his black and white look.

"My, my, my! I have been to many fashion shows, but your suit is so unique!" she exclaimed, in a foreign accent. Tux's excitement soared.

She then continued excitedly and asked him if he wanted to become famous. Tux never even hesitated and said yes immediately.

That's how it all began.

"Lights, camera and action!" was the last thing Tux heard before the cameras started clicking. He found



himself on a set minutes after saying yes to the mysterious lady and he was loving every moment of being in the spotlight.

Suddenly she stopped the shoot, grabbed Tux and jumped into a limousine with great excitement.

"An awesome idea just floated into my mind Tux. Your suit is unique, trendy and revolutionary. I am going to design a suit and name it after you. I will call it the Tuxedo. What do you think?" she asked enthusiastically.

Tux clapped his flippers avidly and agreed with the idea wholeheartedly.

"A suit named after me, an ordinary penguin! My penguin pals will be so happy!"

The Tuxedo was designed and Tux modelled his unique and natural outfit at fashion shows worldwide. People fell in love with the design and Tux became an ambassador for penguins and people everywhere. He was proof that you could look different, not fit the criteria and still waddle confidently in the direction of your dreams. ■



Saskia Petersen

Spineview Primary
Grade 6
Age 11



The Black Pearl Of Life And Death

Once long ago lived the world's greatest gemstone, The Black Pearl of Life and Death. This powerful gemstone had the power to control everything, and to create and destroy anything or anyone who laid their eyes on it. It's believed that no living being has ever seen the Pearl and lived, because of its great power.

A young and brave warrior name Reah set out on a quest to bring the Black Pearl to save her village from war. The journey was long, but she appreciated all the beauty in nature. She was destined to bring the gemstone home and win the war for her village people.

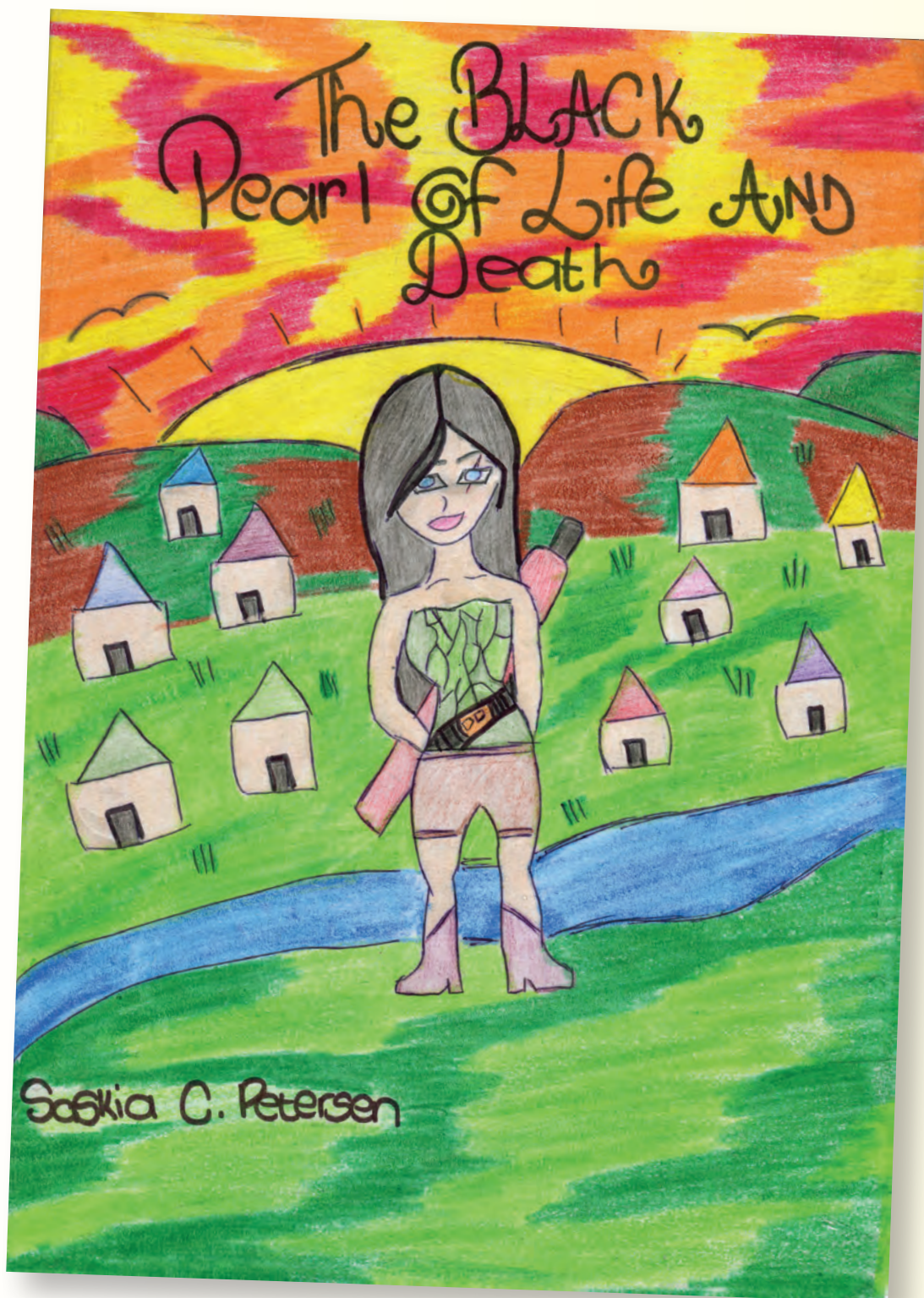
Bravely she travelled to recover the gem to save her village from destruction. She was overwhelmed with emotions. Reah was surprised to see no traps or evil trying to attack her.

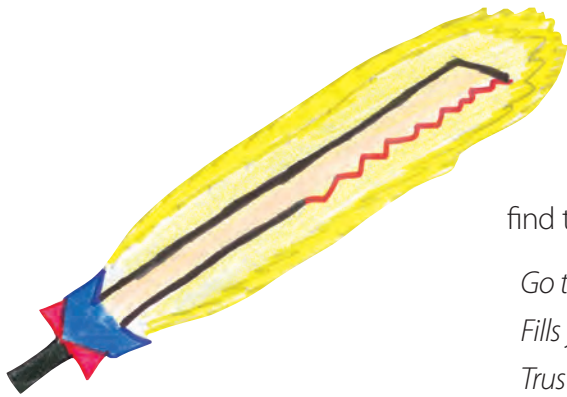
Join Reah as she attempts to get back the world's greatest gemstone – The Black Pearl of Life and Death – to save her village! Read about her fight with monsters and learn what happened to the creator!



That is, until a nine-metre-tall snake, pack of four wolves and a pride of giant lions began to attack her. Reah quickly jumped out of the way. She knew she would die if she stood there any longer. She hid in the bushes in an attempt to find her opponents' weaknesses.

Reah noticed that the animals were under a spell. It was then that the snake began to attack her from behind. She took out her Zampakto (a special sword) and stabbed





the snake. The animal then attacked her with poisonous venom. With her last little strength, she cast a spell to bring it back to normal.

In return for saving it, the snake told Reah a riddle to find the Black Pearl:

*Go to the place that drives you insane,
Fills you with undeniable pain.
Trust me it's worth the gain,
for you'll get to the place you seek.
But when you get there don't take a peek!*

Reah thanked them and was soon on her journey. Reah thought to herself 'undeniable pain?' It must be The Cavern of Undeniable Pain!

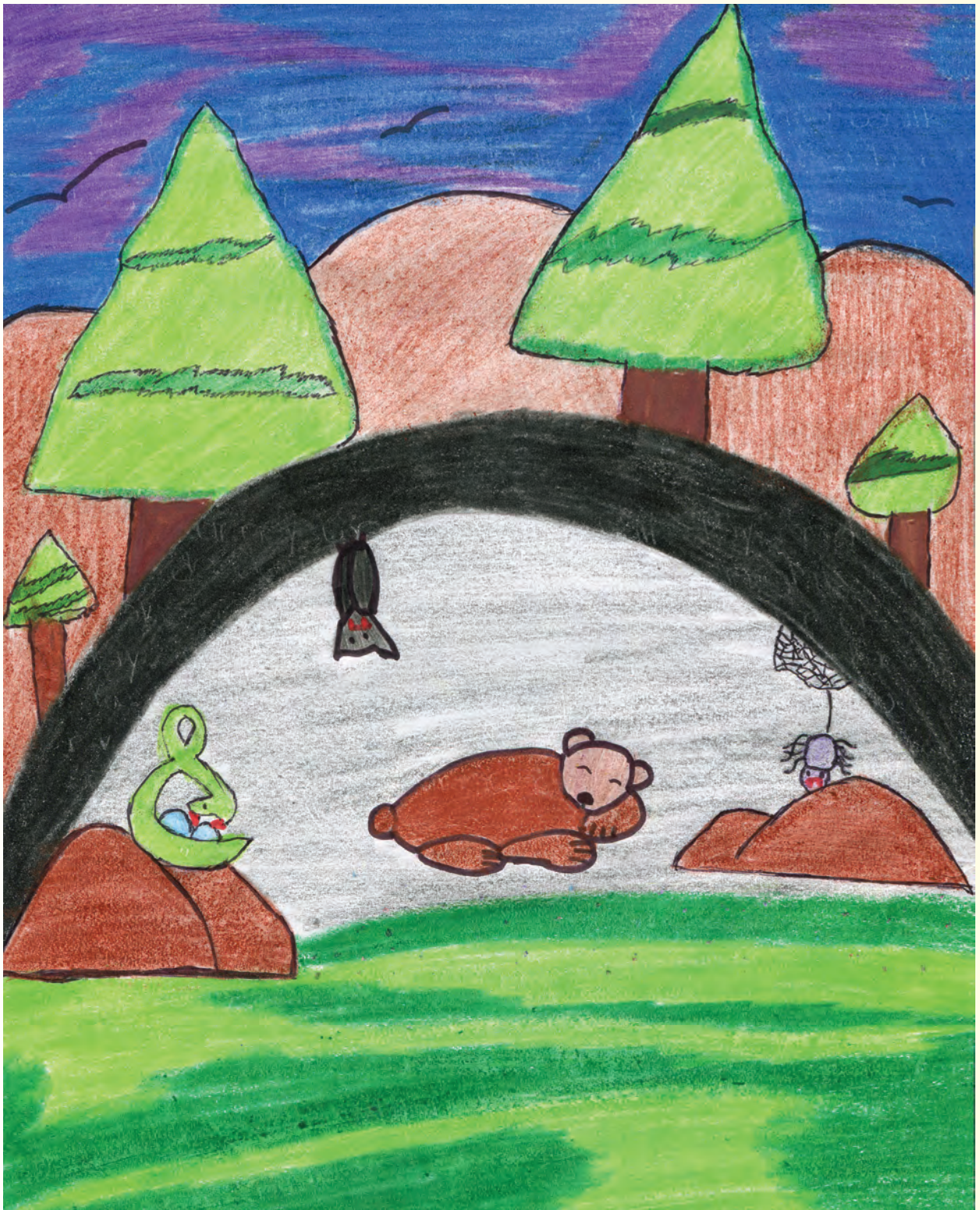
She set off as soon as possible, for she had no time to waste. She saw the damage the Pearl had done on the animals and wanted to stop it from happening to anything else.

She got there and finally saw why it's called that cavern. She used soft young reeds as a blindfold to cover her eyes. She used her other senses to guide her. She was close to the end of the cavern, and when she removed her blindfold, she saw a horrendous, mummified skeleton.

She turned and began to run away. Suddenly the mummy attacked her with spiders. Reah used her sword and cut the spiders and the mummy in half.

She carried on with her journey. Reah continued to think about the riddle. "The next part must be The River of Azarath!" she exclaimed.

The journey would be a full day on foot so she decided to rest for the night. She woke up, refreshed and ready for the



day ahead. The journey took her places she had never seen before. She saw rivers made of snakes, trees of strange colours and lions that breathe fire!

Finally, Reah was at the River of Azarath. She felt tired and her body still ached. Suddenly Reah felt the earth shake below her feet. Then she saw a massive demon. This demon was known as the Protector of the Black Pearl. Now, it's destined to stop anyone who dared to come its way.

The demon began to attack her, but she fought back using powerful spells, yet only made a few brutal wounds. This was a death sentence for Reah if she couldn't win!

Reah had to use her village's most sacred and powerful technique. She took her sword, she said the spell, lightning



struck her sword, then she slashed the demon. She defeated the demon! Reah healed her wounds and carried on.

As one of the giant lions had told her, she came to a golden brick with carved writing. Reah covered her eyes with reeds again, for she knew she'll either be controlled or destroyed. She used her hands to feel the words.

Reah removed the blindfold and saw The Black Pearl. There were no words to describe it.

As Reah stepped closer, she found there was a forcefield protecting it. Must Reah read the writing aloud in order to win for her village, or be controlled under The Black Pearl's power?

It had these words: The cavern of the Pearl awaits you, prepare for despair, prepare for fight!

Reah had a plan. She'll say them aloud, grab the gem and replace it with the blindfold. Her plan went accordingly ... but somehow the cavern was suddenly on the verge of collapse!

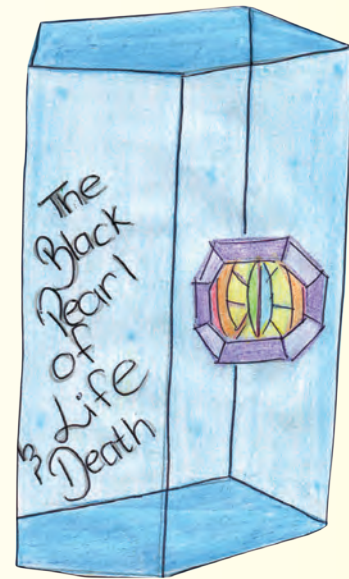
Reah hurried and made it out safely.

She returned to her village and gave the elders the gemstone. The gem mutated the animals into monsters and they began to attack the foreign country. They were soon winning the war!

The elders cast a spell which changed the animals back to normal.

Reah was crowned queen and known as a hero!

The Pearl was hidden away for all eternity. ■





**Liza Kayinda
Mutoba**

St Agnes Primary
Grade 6
Age 12



Ubuntu

Chapter 1

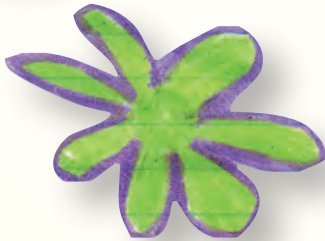
"Ubuntu, ubuntu, what does ubuntu mean to me?" I asked myself. I've been day dreaming for the past two weeks since our mistress, Ms Langa, asked the class what ubuntu means to us. The whole class gave an answer except for me.

The bell rang. It was interval. My friend Mainelle came and asked me what ubuntu means to me, yet, I didn't have an answer for her.

"Well, well, well, I see you haven't got the answer yet. It's because you don't know what ubuntu means. Ha, ha, ha!" laughed Judith.







Judith is, I mean, *used to be*, my friend, but we broke up because she used to boss me around and I realised that she is rude and nasty.

Anyway, Ms Langa again kept on asking me what ubuntu meant to me that day, but I did not answer her.

As I entered class the next day, the first question my mistress asked: "Have you found out what ubuntu means to you?"

I kept quiet for a moment, then a knock came on the door. My young, mischievous brother had come to deliver a message. I was so glad that I did a rejoicing dance, but as I was doing my rejoicing dance Judith came.

"I see you haven't found out the meaning yet. I bet you won't even find out what ubuntu means to you," said Judith impolitely.

"Don't be like this to her. Just because she did not answer Ms Langa does not mean she hasn't found the meaning yet," exclaimed Mainelle.

"So has she found the meaning, because it doesn't look like she did," replied Judith.

Judith is just so mean. I can't stand it anymore. I have had enough of this "ubuntu" thing. I am dissatisfied.

I told Ms Langa that I don't know what ubuntu means to me and I don't care. She was so disappointed. The look on her face showed that she expected more. It is true she did expect more of me. She told me that she is going to call my parents because maybe I will answer them.

Ms Langa walked away to her table. So did I, to my table. I just sat down and quietly did my work.

Column Method

8 May

Example 1: 57 256 + 26 434

TTh Th H T U

0 000 + 7000 + 200 + 50 + 6

0 000 + 6000 + 400 + 30 + 4

0 000 + 13000 + 600 + 80 + 10

0 000 + 10 000 + 3000 + 600 + 80

Ex
15
2
8



Captain

Judith

Lisa

Chapter 2

The bell rang. I was so thrilled it was home time. I decided to walk home as fast as I could. I had no need to worry because my young brother uses transport to go home. I walked as fast as I could home and when I arrived, I was so surprised.

The question popped out of my parents' mouths. And I remembered, that Ms Langa called my parents and told them that I am not being myself currently, since she enquired what ubuntu means to me. She asked my parents to ask me.

"Darling, Ms Langa asked you what ubuntu means to you, but you haven't answered her. Maybe you could tell *us* what ubuntu means to you. We would be glad to hear," said Mom.

"Yah! Surely you could give us an answer, dear," said Dad.

"I don't know what ubuntu means, I don't know!" I said. I knew that they would be despondent, so I left without reasoning.

Chapter 3

I was so surprised! I left my parents in the living room without reasoning with them. That is when I decided not to go to school. I locked myself in my room hoping no-one will disturb me.

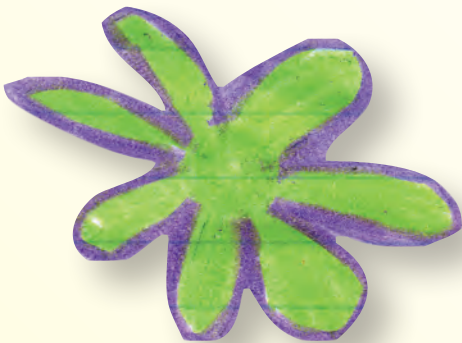
I ... WAS ... WRONG!

Early morning my mom came knocking on the door, "Darling it's time to go. Hurry up, you're going to be late!"

"I'm not going to school, Mom," I responded.

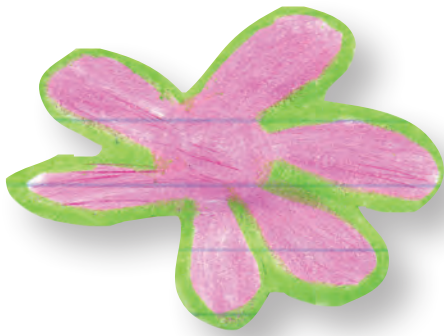
Then my dad came. "Are you ready?" he interrogated.

Instead of me responding to my dad, my mom responded, "She said that she's not going to school today ..."





Do you
know what
ubuntu means
to you



"For the entire week, maybe month!" I interrupted.

Suddenly they shouted together, "WHAT!?"

"Come on darling. Is this all about the ubuntu thing?" asked my mom.

"No," I said.

"Then why did you lock yourself in your room?" asked my dad.

I responded, "I don't feel like going to school. Just . . . just leave me alone."

"But darling . . ."

"Just please go," I said.

"Ok," Mom said.

Chapter 4

Why can't anyone understand? I don't want to, or feel like, going to school. I just want to be alone and have some peace and quiet. I still need to get rid of my mischievous brother. My brother is so mischievous, when you just look at him, you can already predict that he's up to something. Anyway, as I was thinking of plans, on how to get rid of my mischievous brother, he came knocking on the door.

Brother: "Sis, can you open the door. You have a visitor."

Lisa: "Who?"

Brother: "Mainelle"

Lisa: "Tell her that I am not here."

Brother: "But she's here by the door, Sis."

Lisa: "Oh, okay."



Chapter 5

What have I done? What a shameful disgrace! I've just destroyed my friendship, kind of ... or not ... maybe.

"Lisa! Please open the door. I know it's all about the ubuntu thing. I have come to help you," Mainelle requested. "I won't go until you open the door," Mainelle kept on saying.

I couldn't help it – the more she spoke, the more hopeless I got. I had to open the door, so I opened it with great surprise. She came and hugged me as if something bad had happened.

"Oh, I missed you so bad!"

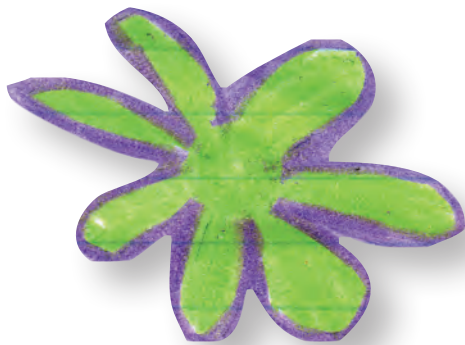
"Me too," I replied.

"So, have you found out what ubuntu means to you?"

"No, I haven't found out what ubuntu means to me yet, and that is why I locked myself in my room."

"Really! Lisa how could you, and miss class? You've got nerves girl," said Mainelle, shocked.

"Yah, isn't it. What you going to do? Tell on me?"



"Um, as a matter of fact, NO!"

"Anyway, Mainelle you said you are here to help me."

"Oh, yes, but I am hungry. Could you at least share some ginger bread?" asked Mainelle.

I was also hungry, but I had to share. I don't want to be known as Lisa the greedy, egotistic, ungenerous, self-interested one. I am interested in myself, but in another way. Anyway, so I shared. We were both hungry like a lion. So, what's the use of eating by myself, if we were both hungry? So, I shared my ginger bread with her, and we ate and enjoyed together.

Chapter 6

At last we were done eating.

"Lisa, where did you buy this ginger bread? It's so mouth-watering," Mainelle asked.

"I did not buy it. My mom baked it."

"Cool! I can ask your mom to give me the ginger bread recipe for it is 'finger lickin' good'."

"If we had to share and eat this recipe with the community, it will positively bring the presence of the spirit of ubuntu in our midst," said Mainelle.

"Ubuntu, ubuntu?" I was thinking of what Mainelle said. "Aha!" I exclaimed. "I now know what ubuntu means to me. If ubuntu means contributing and helping others, then to me, it means helping, sharing and contributing with the community and our environment."

"Yoh! Lisa, you have truly got what ubuntu means to you!" shouted Mainelle in joy.

"Yes, I did it!" I said proudly.

Chapter 7

I was so happy that I decided to go to school. I told my parents that I am not staying in my room and that I have decided to go to school. They were so happy and gave me a hug.

The next day came and I had to prepare myself. I was done so I went to school and when I arrived and entered class, suddenly everybody kept quiet for a moment then everybody shouted, "You back!"

Then Ms Langa questioned me: "Have you found out what ubuntu means to you? I hope you have good news."

"Surely, I do. I found out what ubuntu means to me Ms Langa!"

"Now tell us," Ms Langa said.

Everybody was so eager to hear.

"To me ubuntu means helping, sharing, learning and contributing with the community and our environment!"

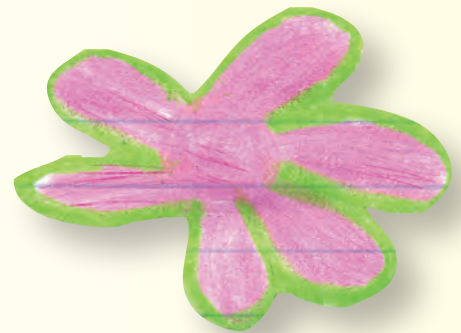
"Bravo Lisa, bravo. I am so proud of you. I knew you could do it!"

"Thank you," I said.

Everybody applauded for me like never before.

Even Judith who is often rude to me, applauded.

I am so happy that everything is back to normal, the way I expected it to be when I returned, and I'm glad it's a grateful and happy day, spending time with my classmates again. ■





**Lee-Yoara
Petersen**

Belmor Primary
Grade 6
Age 12



Paisley Peck: The Penguin Who Runs The Runway

"Paisley! Paisley Peck! Are you even listening to me?"
my mom shrieked.

I put down my latest copy of *Flappy Feet Fashion Magazine* and headed to the kitchen. "Yes, Mom, I am listening. Here I am at your service," I said obediently, doing a little curtsy.

Mom lightened up and reminded me to pick up my brother's suit for his matric ball tomorrow. "Paisley, its Parker's big day tomorrow. Don't let the runway run away with you okay?" Mom playfully said.

"I won't Mom! Off you go Nurse Peck! Your shift is starting," I joked as Mom pecked me on the cheek and headed to work.

As I entered Deep Sea Suit Hire, the trendiest suit shop around, I noticed a sophisticated swordfish wearing a striking red dress.



Paisley Peck is an underwater fashionista known for always putting her best flipper forward. She dreamt of becoming a supermodel before she could even swim. Her mom instructs her to collect her brother's matric ball suit at Deep Sea Suit Hire. There she meets a striking swordfish named Coraline Shore who offers her an opportunity of a lifetime. *Paisley Peck: The Penguin Who Runs the Runway* is a captivating story that captures your attention until the last page.



"Paisley Peck! I assume you're here to collect Parker's suit for tomorrow?" Delphine, the dolphin and store assistant said.

"I sure am! I am the fashionista of the family and I have to make sure that Parker looks fly!" I said jokingly.

Delphine flicked her eyes over me and exclaimed: "Girl, you're the fashionista of this town! Enjoy dressing him for the matric ball."

I took the suit and waved goodbye to Delphine.

"Paisley! Hold on for a minute please," an unfamiliar voice called. It was the swordfish in the striking red dress. "I couldn't help but notice your awesome fashion sense." I blushed at her compliment but before I could say thank you, she continued.

"I'd like to offer you an opportunity of a lifetime. My name is Coraline Shore and I am a model scout for *Marina Mode Magazine*. Have you ever heard of it?"

My mind was reeling! "*Marina Mode Magazine* is only my favourite fashion magazine of all time!" I exclaimed excitedly.

"I would like you to be the face of our new fashion line for children. You can be a trendsetter!"

My thoughts were gushing around and my words were wobbly. "I would have to ask my parents first, but this is a dream come true!"

So off we swam to Rehydrate Hospital. My mom was bandaging a clown fish named Splish-Splash, who had somehow hurt his fin.

"Paisley, is everything okay?" my mom asked quizzically.

"Mom, this is Coraline Shore and she has asked me to be the face of a fashion line for *Marina Mode Magazine*. I'm





not kidding! Please! Pretty please, say yes!" my words came tumbling out of my mouth.

Before my mom could say anything, Mrs Shore spoke up: "Your daughter is truly exceptional. She's a natural and she could be a pioneer for penguins everywhere."

My mom responded slowly: "Mrs Shore, my daughter has been dreaming about an opportunity like this before she could even swim. She lives and breathes fashion. However, I have to speak to her father first. Why don't you pop around to her brother's matric ball send-off at our home tomorrow?"

Mrs Shore gave a dazzling smile and agreed. We gave her our address and she waved goodbye.



My dad is a manager at Drip-Dry Car Wash and when he came home from work, I told him about Mrs Shore's offer. I could not wait for my mom's shift to end!

Finally, it was D-day. My mom and I were exhausted after decorating the house and preparing the snacks for Parker's matric ball send-off. Parker looked so handsome in his tuxedo. So far, everything was going swimmingly well. We ushered my brother into the car and celebration floated like bubbles in the air.

Mrs Shore and my parents chatted in the kitchen and, after what felt like eternity, they came into the lounge with poker faces.

My heart sank ...

Mrs Shore cleared her throat and started speaking: "Ladies and gentlemen, your hands and mine for Paisley Peck, a penguin destined to run the runway! This is the new face of *Marina Mode's* clothing line for children. Here's to you, young lady! "

Everyone cheered and congratulated me. I was elated! I could see my name on the cover of every fashion magazine: 'Paisley Peck raises the tide!' ■





**Jezreel
Bambo**

Bergsig Primary

Grade 5

Age 10



Pride Comes To A Fall

Deep in a dark forest lived an eagle who had laid two eggs in her nest. On the other side of the forest lived a very boastful snake.

He was very popular, and all the female snakes giggled or smiled at him when he slithered past them. The other male snakes did not like him because he always bragged about how handsome, strong and clever he was, and how all the female snakes blushed when he slithered past them.

He also bullied small snakes and took their prey from them. He laughed when they squirmed in his presence then he placed them in a constricted grip to show he was powerful.

This story is about a snake who always bragged about how handsome, clever and strong he was. Until one day he went to steal an eagle's eggs. The eagle took flight and wrapped her claws around his body, high up in the blue sky. She opened her claws and the snake dropped to earth. The other snakes saw this event from a distance and this story was the story that the male snakes will never forget – especially the boastful snakes.



One day the snake heard a few other snakes talking about how they were going to steal the eagle's eggs. The boastful snake came towards them laughing and said, "You are too weak to defeat an eagle. Only snakes like me are able to defeat eagles. Let me show you how it's done."

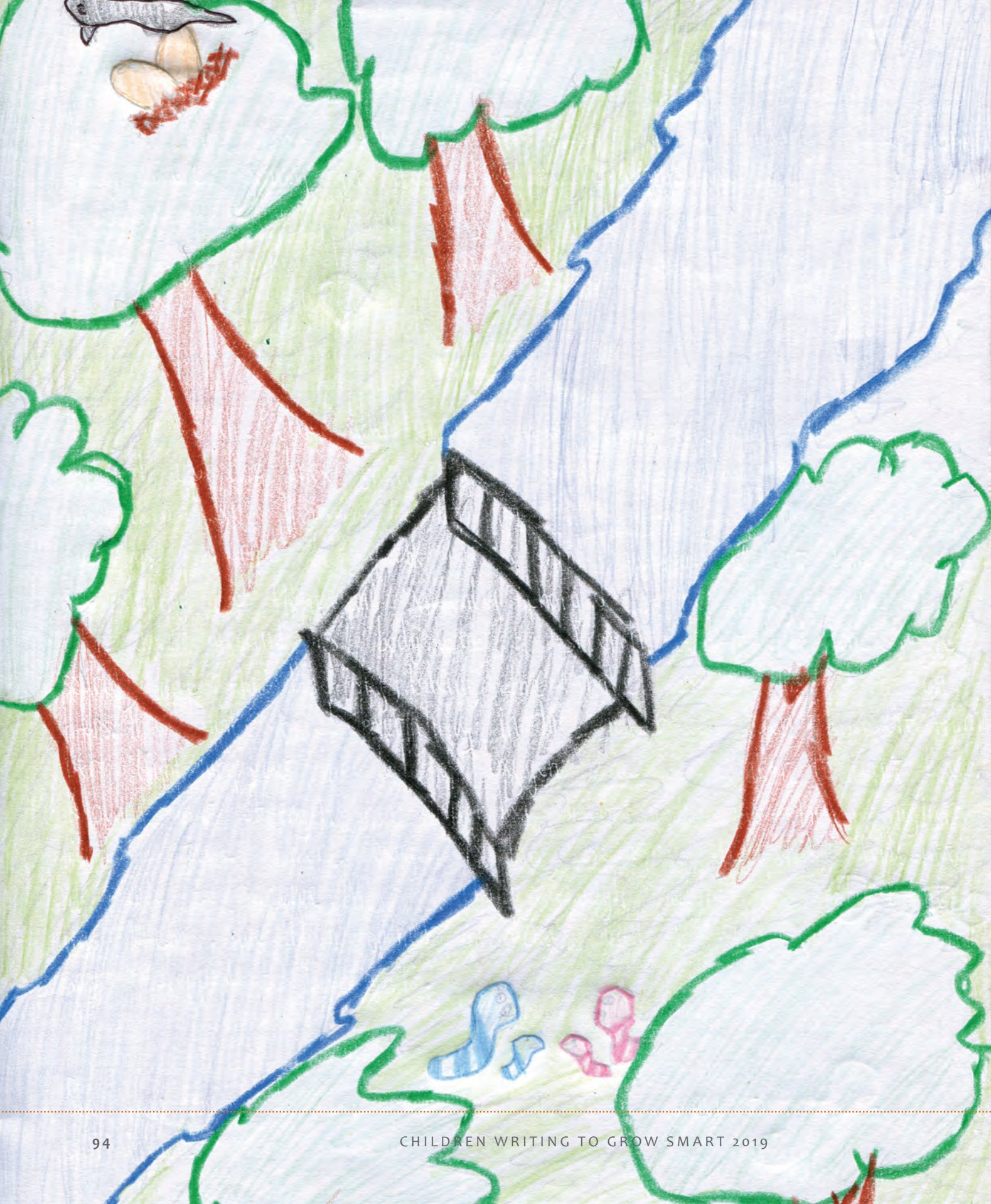
He went to the other side of the forest where the eagle lived. He slithered up the tree, trying to spot if the mother eagle was there. He did not see her, so he kept on slithering. He stood up straight over the eggs, preparing to gobble them.

The mother eagle saw him without him noticing. She swiftly took flight and violently charged onto the snake, clamping her talon claws around his body. With the strength of her wide wings, she soared into the blue sky, taking the snake out of his habitat into hers.

The snake tried everything in his power to loosen himself from her tight grip, but the lack of oxygen made him weaker to fight back. Knowing her strength, and using her habitat, which is flying higher into a zone where oxygen is less, she knew the snake would not be able to survive. After reaching enough height, she noticed he was lifeless. She then opened her claws and the black and red scaled snake dropped to the earth.

She flew back to her nest, excited with relief that her eggs were still intact.

The other male snakes watched the whole episode from a distance. They were shocked at what they were witnessing. After a while, when they could not see the mother eagle, they quickly slithered to check if he was still alive.



They hurried back to their home area without speaking a word to each other. When they reached their home, the news spread like wild fire of the death of the boastful snake.

This story of the boastful snake became a lesson for the snake community, especially if there were boastful snakes among them. The moral of the story is: 'Pride comes to a fall'.

All the snakes were fearful to go to the other side of the forest where the eagle lived. The wise eagle and her eaglets were living in peace.

Another moral of the story is: The violent will take it by force. ■



**Lilitha
Amanda
Gontsana**

St Mary's Primary
Grade 6
Age 12



The Calling

Chapter 1: Moving Away

There was a girl, her name was Isipho. She was living with her grandmother in a small village called Emacubeni near Lady Frere. Her mother and father were married but Isipho's mother had died when Isipho was very young, so she went to stay with her granny. She enjoyed living with her granny because her granny gave her everything she wanted. Her granny was working as a domestic worker.

After two years her granny died, and her father took her to stay with him. Her father was married to another woman. They had a beautiful home, but when Isipho arrived there, she just turned into a monster, it felt like she didn't have a place there anymore.

Chapter 2: Settling In

Isipho did not want to leave her old school and her friends behind, but she had no choice. Her father lived in a big neighbourhood where everybody knew nobody. Isipho went to a new science and maths school. Isipho was struggling with those subjects so her father wanted his child to learn more about them. Isipho wondered how she would get new friends.

Isipho and her stepmother, Nokwanda, didn't get along very well. Nokwanda and Isipho were always fighting but Isipho's



father, Siya, always chose Isipho's side because she was still a child.

Nokwanda was afraid that Siya would leave her and go with his money.

Chapter 3: Medicine

Nokwanda decided to go to a healer. She wanted to kill Isipho because she was jealous of Isipho and her father's love. She was sure that Siya would leave her and not love her anymore. The healer said that she should blow some pink dust on Isipho's face while she is asleep, then all her problems will be solved.

After dinner they all went to sleep. Nokwanda woke up and did what the healer told her to do.

In the morning Isipho woke up as usual. Nokwanda was amazed and she was very upset.

Isipho's dad asked, "Why do you have pink dust on your face?"

"I don't know," said Isipho.

Chapter 4: Failed

In the afternoon Nokwanda rushed to the healer. She got there shouting, "Why didn't it work?"

"Calm down," said the healer. "It is because this child is very unique from others. Her great grandmother gave her a powerful necklace. So you must make sure you get that! I will give you a knife which you are going to use when you kill her."

At last, Isipho had a friend named Amanda. Isipho and her friend were resting in the park and talking about school stuff. They saw a green snake in front of them and it didn't do





anything. Children in the park ran. Isipho's father went to see what was going on. When he arrived in the park, the snake ran away and they wondered why it ran when it saw her dad. They went to their homes.

Chapter 5: The Real Calling

About 5 o'clock in the morning, Friday, Isipho was dreaming and her father woke her. She told her dad what she was dreaming about. She said, "I was dreaming about me and Amanda in the bush. We saw a snake which was behind us, and you woke me."

"Don't worry my child it was just a dream. Everything will be fine. Go back to sleep."

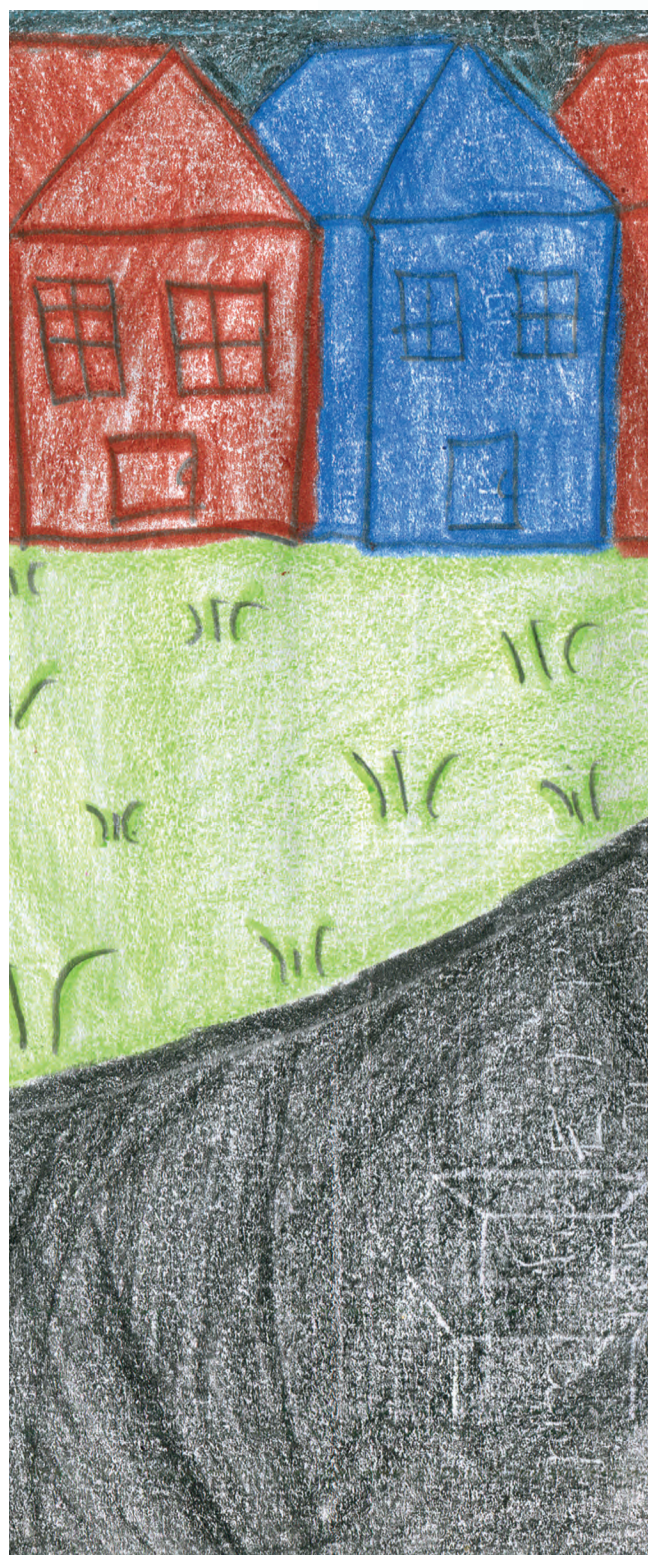
She went back to sleep. After just a few minutes, she got up and walked while sleeping. The door was not locked and she was out of the house but her parents didn't know that because they were sleeping. She walked and passed the park and walked until she sat on a big rock in the bush.

Chapter 6: Lost in the Bush

In the morning at about 6 o'clock her father checked for her in her room. He didn't see her. He shouted at his wife to wake up and search for his child. Nokwanda was so happy that she had disappeared she said, "Don't worry. Maybe she went to her friend."

Siya replied, "Not without telling me. She won't do that."

While Isipho was sitting in the bush, another healer was passing through the river nearby. She said to Isipho, "Your ancestors chose you to be the next healer. So please, for your safety, you need to start practising to be the next healer so







that you can connect with your ancestors. If not, you will be in great danger!"

Isipho's father and stepmother were looking for her. They went to her friend's home. They asked if they didn't see her. They kept searching.

Chapter 7: The Enemies

They were already in the bush searching for Isipho. Siya saw Isipho sitting on the rock. He ran to her and he said, "Are you fine my child?"

She replied, "Yes I am fine. I just wanna go home."

They went back home but Nokwanda wished that Isipho was gone for ever.

At about 10 o'clock in the morning, her dad had to go to work and Isipho wasn't going to school that day. She had to stay with Nokwanda. Nokwanda was planning to kill Isipho.

Nokwanda made a delicious meal for them. Isipho was amazed. They ate, but Isipho knew that she was up to something.

Chapter 8: Happy Day for Isipho

After eating, Isipho went to her room to study. While Isipho was studying, Nokwanda was behind the door. Bad luck for Nokwanda and good luck for Isipho – Siya always uses his phone to work and without his phone there is no work. He had left his phone home, so he had to rush back.

When he arrived home, he looked right in the window and saw that Nokwanda was going to kill his child! He borrowed a phone from his neighbour to call the police.

The police arrived. They got in the house while Nokwanda was saying to Isipho, "Now I am going to kill you and your father and take all of your father's money."

The police went in and arrested Nokwanda.

Chapter 9: Calling Accepted

After Nokwanda was arrested, Isipho told her father that there was a grandmother who told her that she has been chosen to be the next healer. Her father was amazed because in his family no-one had been a healer before.

Her father said, "It's fine. You must pack your clothes."

Isipho asked, "Why do I need to pack my clothes?"

"I know someone who has been training many people to be healers."

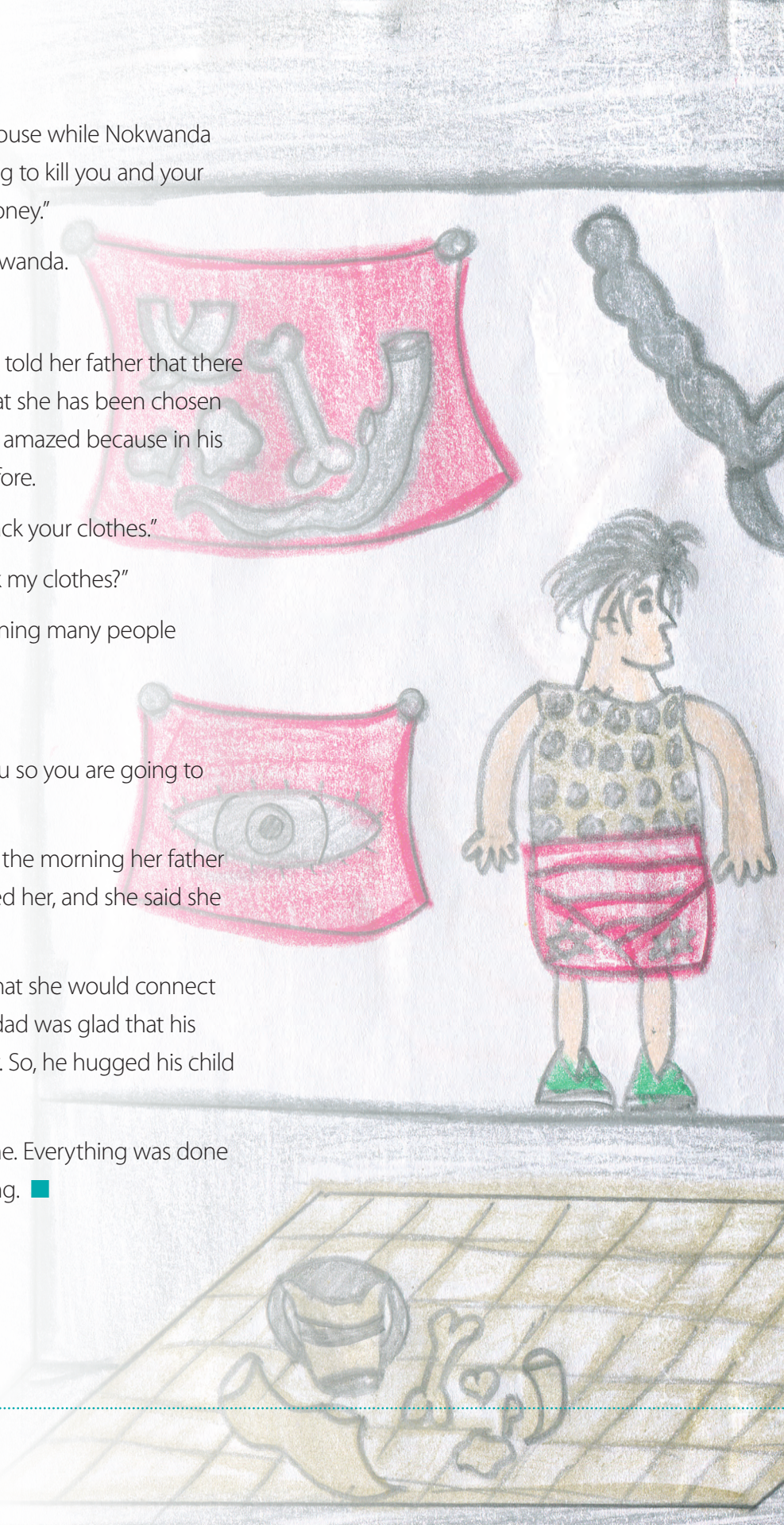
"So what?" Isipho asked.

Siya replied, "I will pay her to train you so you are going to stay there for about six months."

They ate dinner and slept. Sunday in the morning her father took her to that healer. She welcomed her, and she said she must stay there for six months.

Isipho was both scared and happy that she would connect with her ancestors and be safe. Her dad was glad that his child would be relieved from danger. So, he hugged his child and went back home.

After six months she went back home. Everything was done well, and she continued with studying. ■







**Moegamat
Nur Daniels**

Factreton Primary

Grade 6

Age 12



Help! Aliens Took My Mom

James likes to walk to school alone. He is not a loner though, he just enjoys the peace and quiet of his morning walk to school. Being 12 years old though, with all the homework and chores, James needs his 'me time'.

Anyway, back to the story. So, James is walking to school, minding his business when all of a sudden there comes a crack in the sky. James looks up and sees what can only be described as a spaceship, whirring above him.

Yes, you read that right, a spaceship!

James holds in a screech, looks around and sees that everyone has noticed the spaceship too. It's pure chaos: trees, tyres and televisions crack, screech and crackle. The spaceship too disturbs the entire neighbourhood.

"Hey James!" shouts Ella, James' neighbour. "I think that spaceship just took your mom."

James' mouth fell to the ground.

"No, it did not!" he shouts to her, while frantically running back home. His shoes pound against the concrete pavement.

"Mommy!" he screams while hitting his fist against the front door. His father had gone to work already, only his mother was home still. Fighting back tears, James balls up his fists.

"Time to figure this out."

To my Mom

Thanks for helping
me with everything
especially my beautiful,
fun and crazy story,
Mom. I will make you
proud Mom ... so don't
worry so much.

What happens when
you mix a few aliens
with some good food?
Mayhem and mischief!







"So, the two of you are telling me that a spaceship sucked your mom out of our kitchen into the sky?" James' dad asks Ella and James in their spacious lounge.

"Dad I swear ... ask Ella. She saw the aliens too!"

James' dad rubs his head. His son had called him in a panic, and he raced home immediately. Where could his wife be? It could not possibly be an alien invasion could it?

"Okay Ella, let me hear it."

Ella's eyes sparkle and shine like diamonds as she describes how the sky cracked and a spaceship came into her view. She peered out the kitchen window to look at the shining silver spaceship hovering above James' yard. James' mom was making chocolate chip cookies and Ella could smell the amazing aroma from the yard.

"It took your mom a second to see what was outside her kitchen, James," Ella says seriously. "These two slimy, green aliens jump out the spaceship and walk through the back door. I'm looking through my window like, woah! Luckily, I can see everything through my windows so like a front row seat, you know what I mean ... so—"

"Ella! Get to the point," James interrupts. "We need to get my mom."

Ella nods frantically. "Yes, okay, so they snatch your mom and those amazing cookies. But get this. Before they leave, they make her fetch all her recipes in that book of hers, you know the one J?"



This part of the story is what confuses everyone. Why would they make James' mom take her recipes? James mom was the best cook in the neighbourhood, but could the aliens know that, and why would that even matter? All these questions float around the air as Ella, James and his dad try to figure the mystery out.

Suddenly there is a flash in the sky, and a loud crack! All three run outside into the yard and look up. To their surprise, it's the same spaceship! The doors open and a slimy green alien jumps out.

"Told you!" smirks Ella.

His voice booms across the yard, "Come with me immediately if you want to see your mother and wife again!"

All three do not have to be told twice as they scramble into the spaceship.

"So, you are telling me you want my mom to stay on your planet to cook for your species?!" exclaims James.

The alien nods, "Exactly."

James looks over to his mom, who they were reunited with shortly after arriving on the alien's planet, Xena.

"That would never work. My mom has a lot of stuff she takes care of, including me!"

The aliens scoff. "You're of no importance to us. We just want her amazing food. We could smell it all the way on our planet some nights."

"She could teach you how to cook!" Ella proclaims.

James nods in agreement, "Yes, that's it."



James' dad and mom look at each other and then their son, and their eyes gleam with pride. He was being such a brave, clever boy, with the idea of being self-sufficient and the aliens listened to every word James' mom spoke as she explained her recipes.

Arriving home in the spaceship James won't let go of his mom.

"Baby, I'm okay now."

"I know, but I never want to lose you again. Now can we make cookies?"

James' mom laughs. "Of course my little alien!"

Up in the sky a planet of aliens ate chicken curry for the very first time after following a recipe! Hey – I never said this would be a normal story! ■







Stasha Williams

Mimosa Primary

Grade 6

Age 11



The Tree Of Life

There was once a brother and sister who lived with their mother at the edge of a very dense forest.

Jacobus loved his sister very much. More so because she was in constant pain because of a condition she was born with, named osteogenesis imperfecta. Its common name is brittle bone disease. This caused her to be wheelchair bound.

In all their years of growing up their mother warned them not ever to enter the forest as there was a superstitious belief of demons roaming about inside.

Sabrina was born with an illness that kept her wheelchair bound. She had a loving brother, Jacobus. Against their mother's wishes the children entered a forest. It turned out to be life changing for them.



A Saturday morning arrived when their mother had to attend to an urgent matter. It was as if Jacobus read his sister Sabrina's mind. "Now is our chance to go into the forest," he said. She agreed but got hesitant when he put her into the electric wheelchair. He assured her that no harm will come to her.

He went outside and she followed him. There was no footpath and they decided to enter from the right. The trees were very dense together which blocked the sunshine from coming through.

Jacobus had to lift the overhanging branches for the wheelchair to pass. Very soon they lost direction because it was hard to see. Sabrina got fearful as she suddenly remembered her mother's warning.

After what seemed like an hour or two, they saw a faint light in the distance. They hurried towards it. What their eyes beheld, almost made Sabrina fall out of the wheelchair. A beautiful, almost indescribable, tree stood before them. It had rainbow coloured leaves which glistened like a mirror reflection. In astonishment the two stared at the tree. It was something they could not even imagine before.

Then by some strange force they got pulled towards the tree. Sabrina clung to her brother as everything around them lit up. The branches that were down suddenly lifted and stretched out to the sky. Sabrina let out a gasp in shock.

Suddenly the branches enfolded Sabrina. She was completely covered. Jacobus scrambled forward and tried to pull the branches off her. A strange tingling went through him as he touched the leaves. He shouted for Sabrina.

The branches lifted again. Everything was covered in a glow. He ran forward to grab the wheelchair. Instead, Sabrina got up and shakily walked towards him!

Jacobus was speechless because he knew she could not walk. Even the belt of a car seat caused her shoulder to dislodge. Everyone was careful to hug her because of the fear of damaging a rib.

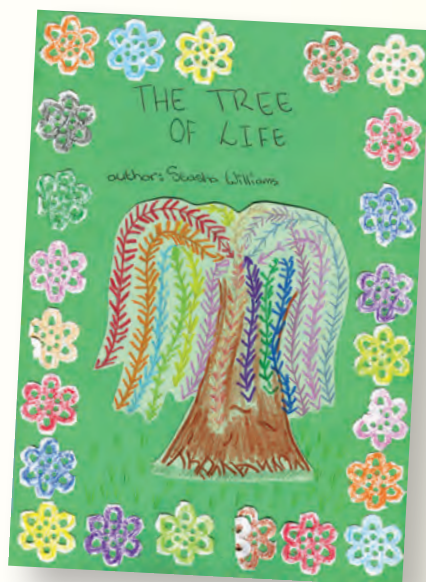
Suddenly she started jumping up and down in excitement and happiness. "I am healed!" she shouted. She explained that a very warm feeling spread through her body and she could feel strength flowing through her body, and she could walk again.



Looking back at the tree they saw the glow of the tree fading. They realised the time and turned to go home. Now to explain it all to their mother, who fainted when she saw them coming on. When she came to, they excitedly told her what happened. They grabbed her hands to go and show her where. Unbelievably, they could not find any sign of the tree.

It was a miracle indeed. Sabrina smiled to herself as she picked up one of the shiny leaves laying in the grass. It will be her keepsake of The Tree of Life. Arriving back at home their mother closed the door and drew the curtains so that no-one could look in. She had to pull herself together to explain this miracle.

When it became known everyone flocked to their home bringing gifts. Sabrina matured into a great woman and wrote a book on The Tree Of Life. ■





**Taskeen
Abrahams**

Bridgeville Primary
Grade 4
Age 10



My Doppelgänger From Space

On a cold, frosty night I woke up, because I heard a squeaking, strange noise coming from outside my bedroom window. I nervously got out of my warm bed, and took three slow steps towards my bedroom window.

I thought I'd seen an enormous spaceship. Unsure, I decided to close my eyes and count until 10 before opening: 1, 2, 3 ...10. It was gone!

The next morning, I woke up and got dressed for school. While I was having breakfast I thought about what had happened the night before. Was I dreaming? Did I really see an alien spaceship?

No way! I must have a screw loose, I thought.

That morning, I was very late for school. By the time I got to school I knew that I was in trouble. The class burst out into the kind of laughter that would frighten the dead.

"Good evening Taskeen. Thank you for joining us," said my teacher. I quickly took my seat. I had suffered enough embarrassment to last the whole of my fourth grade. Could this day get any worse?

After first break I went to the bathroom to go and get dressed for Physical Education. I arrived at the soccer field. The soccer players were running towards me at top speed. They lifted me up high in the sky. I wondered what was going on.

After hearing a strange, squeaking noise in the middle of a frosty night Taskeen decided to bravely get out of her warm bed and looked out of her bedroom window. To her surprise she saw an enormous spaceship. The next day Taskeen was very late for school. The class burst out laughing as her teacher welcomed her. Suddenly some confusion happened on the soccer field. Taskeen and her friend Kelly decided to investigate and their findings will leave you in disbelief.





Suddenly a girl shouted out loudly, "Congratulations Taskeen! You scored two excellent goals in the soccer match."

Soccer match? I hate soccer! I could never have scored two excellent goals at a soccer match. I was not on the soccer field. It was so strange! I thought. I was so confused.

Then I saw a girl running off the soccer field. She had this weird mark on her head. I noticed that soon after I saw the spaceship, she appeared at school. It's a coincidence, I thought.



The next day I went straight to my friend and told her everything. "What if she is an alien?" Kelly asked.

"Don't be silly," I said. Then I asked her if she would help me investigate whether the new girl is somehow connected to the spaceship.

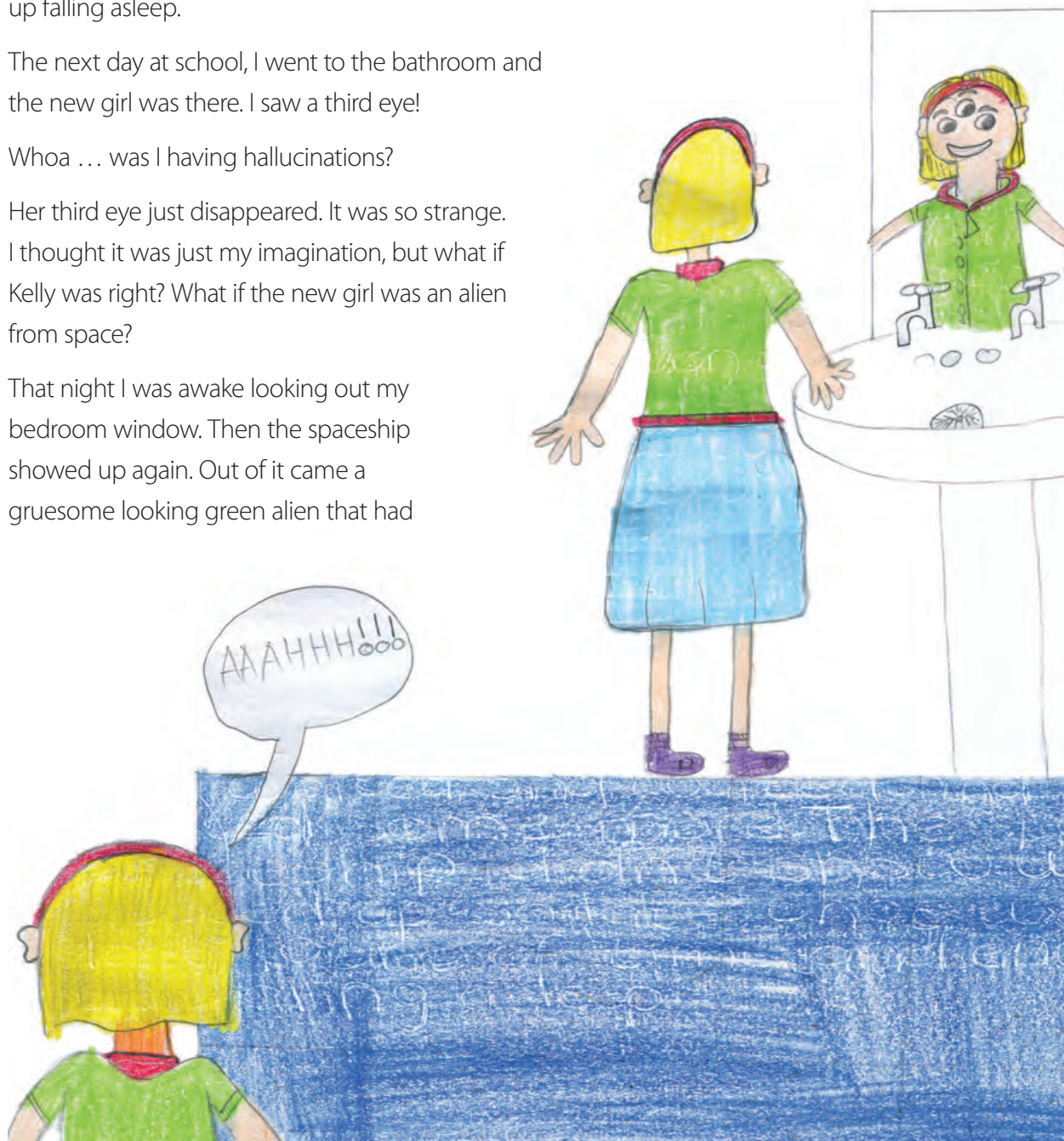
Immediately after sunset, my friend showed up. We stayed up all night waiting to see the spaceship again. We waited and waited and waited some more. The spaceship didn't show. We stayed up so late that we lost count of time and ended up falling asleep.

The next day at school, I went to the bathroom and the new girl was there. I saw a third eye!

Whoa ... was I having hallucinations?

Her third eye just disappeared. It was so strange. I thought it was just my imagination, but what if Kelly was right? What if the new girl was an alien from space?

That night I was awake looking out my bedroom window. Then the spaceship showed up again. Out of it came a gruesome looking green alien that had





three large, yellow eyes. Suddenly the new girl at school appeared out of nowhere.

"She ... she ... she *is* an alien!" I said, frightened. My body went numb as I realised that she could disguise herself as me! My doppelgänger from space. ■



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Norman The Wizz

Once upon a time there was a wizard called Norman The Wizz. Everyday a child would come visit the wizard and ask for one thing they always wanted. They would ask for candy and toys.

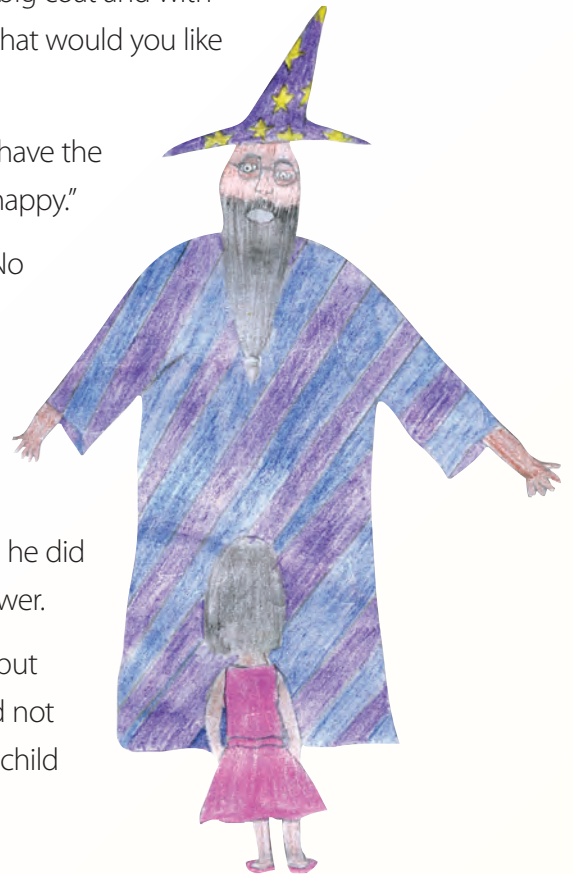
One day there was a special girl named Tarryn. She was a kind, loving girl who wore a cute dress and cute, tiny shoes.

Norman The Wizz in his big coat and with his long beard asked, "What would you like little girl?"

Tarryn replied, "I wish to have the power to make people happy."

Norman was surprised. No child had ever asked for something like this but there was a problem. Norman The Wizz could not make this wish come true because he did not have that kind of power.

Tarryn was heartbroken but Norman The Wizz would not accept the fact that one child



out of all the children who had ever visited him could not have a wish come true. He told Tarryn that she should come back the next day.

Norman The Wizz searched high and low to see what potion could give the little girl her wish.

The next day the girl came back but still he could not give her what she wanted. So, she had to go home and come back every day, and every day when she came back Norman The Wizz did not have anything.

Until one day he was looking in his book of potions and found a potion recipe which would give anyone powers, but he had to go on a journey to get all the ingredients.

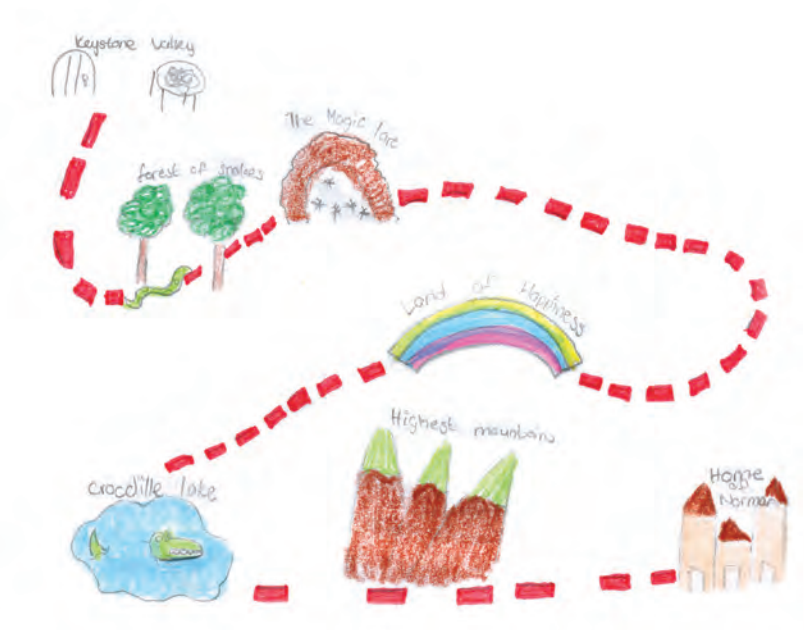
The next day when Tarryn came back he told her that he had a way to give her those powers and that they had to go on an adventure to get the ingredients. Tarryn was so happy that she would get those powers but curious at where they were going.

Tarryn asked, "Where are we going?"

Norman replied, "I'm not sure but I can check on the map."

Norman The Wizz checked in the book of potions to get the map that would lead them to the ingredients. "The first place we shall go to is The Land of Happiness," Norman said. "Where we shall get The Flower of Joy, which only those of true happiness can pick."

Tarryn was so excited as they went on their way. They climbed the tallest mountains and crossed Crocodile Lake and made it to The Land of Happiness. It was a beautiful place to be and with magical creatures like unicorns.



They were looking for The Flower of Joy and eventually they found the flower. The wizard tried to pick the flower, but he could not. He struggled for a while until he realised that only those of true happiness could pick it. So, at that moment the wizard turned to Tarryn and said, "You must pick this flower."

The little girl was surprised that she had to pick it, and excited. She picked the flower like it was the easiest thing ever. Tarryn was so proud of herself.

They checked the map and the second place they had to go to was The Magic Lore. Norman said, "We shall get a peacock's feather at The Magic Lore." This was where a wizard had to do his best magic spells and the one who won would get something in return.

So, they made their way to The Magic Lore but they had some challenges along the way. They made it through it all and made it safely. Norman won all the rounds and the last

round Norman found out he was going to go up against a witch, not a wizard. This was a tuff round but still the wizard was too good.

So, Norman The Wizz asked for a peacock's feather and went on to the next place.

Norman checked the map and the next place was The Keystone Valley, where they would get the most rare ingredient on earth: dragon scales.

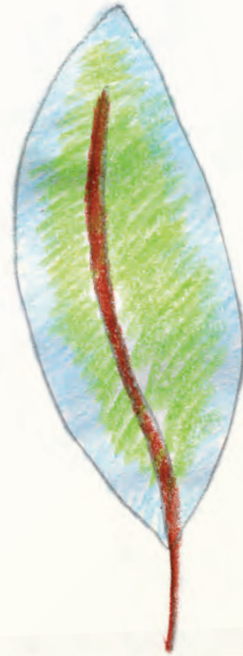
Keystone Valley wasn't far from The Magic Lore but on the way there you would have to go through The Forest of Snakes. Tarryn was terrified but the wizard promised she would never get bitten by a snake and that he would protect her.

So, they walked half way through the forest without seeing or hearing any snakes – but then Norman stepped on a stick and they saw a snake come out of nowhere. Tarryn was ready to scream and run as fast as she could but Norman gave her a huge hug and told her that he would handle it.

Then Norman cast a spell for the snake to go away, and it worked, and from there Norman and Tarryn were careful about where they stepped. They made it out alive to Keystone Valley.

So, now they had to find the correct key for the door but there were 200 different keys. They were showed the correct key, but you were only allowed to look at it for four seconds. The wizard did not have the best memory, but Tarryn was able to find it on her first try.

When they opened the door there was this lady named Tiffany who said, "Only the one who does the work is able to go in."



Peacock
feather



Forest of snakes

DRAGON



Scales

Both of them knew it was Tarryn, but Tarryn did not want to go in alone. Tiffany said she wouldn't be going in alone, she would be with her. That didn't make any difference because she would be with a complete stranger, but Tarryn was willing to go in and get the dragon scales.

She ran in and got the scales before the doors could even close. So finally, she had all the ingredients.

They left and when Norman got home, he immediately started on the potion. When he was done, he put the potion in a cup and Tarryn drank it. She knew it would taste disgusting, but she also knew that it would be worth it.

She immediately gave Norman The Wizz a hug after drinking the potion. She thanked him more than a million times for giving her the gift of making people happy.

This made Norman smile ... and feel happy! That's when he knew the potion worked and he had given it to the right person.

Ever since that day Tarryn has been putting smiles on everyone's faces, spreading happiness all around! ■



Children writing to grow smart

This collection represents a sample of the stories written by learners across the Cape Town Metropole for the Growsmart Story Writing Competition. Growsmart is a CSI initiative by Growthpoint Properties.

These stories share the creativity, experiences, hopes and dreams of a diverse group of young people. The book's design showcases the writers' voices through layout and careful use of their illustrations.



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book is
not for
sale.**