SAVE OUR EARTH STORIES

A Collaboration Between Lazear Elementary and Santa Clara University Students



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INTRODUCTION

This book showcases a collaborative effort between Santa Clara University Students and Lazear School Students to tackle issues regarding food waste, water conservation, soil fertility, and our environment.

In the fall of 2018, we, students at Santa Clara University, collaborated with fourth graders at the Lazear School in Oakland, California. Our first projects included infographics, posters that encourage healthy eating habits and advocate new and unique food tips. We also wrote short essays that covered the topics of food waste, water conservation, and soil fertility. Then, in the winter of 2019, we began a collaborative story project. Groups of us and fourth graders worked together through Zoom sessions and brainstorming to creatively compose and develop stories that reflect current environmental issues. We drafted stories that were then sent to the fourth graders, who added their own fun endings.

Through collaborating with the fourth graders, we learned a lot about our own writing styles. In order to incorporate the fourth graders' voice, some of us gave up our own writing freedom. In this writing process we also learned how these important environmental issues affect not only adults, but younger generations as well; thus, it remains important for all to be conscious of our environmental impact. Once we began working with the fourth grade students, we were inspired and moved to see the students embrace these mature topics with such enthusiasm. This is something we were aiming to change with this story project, in hopes that we could help educate a younger generation about food waste, water conservation, soil fertility, and environmental issues.

Thank you to Ms. Kaitlin Friedman, Ms. Julia Tombs, and Ms. Ariel Kennedy and the 4th grade students of Lazear School for all of their wonderful contributions to the creation of this anthology.

Thank you to Professor Claudia McIsaac and Mr. Brian Larkin for making this opportunity possible! We appreciate all of your hard work!

The Game Changer

SC Broncos: Maeve Corbett, Alexander Gonzalez, Teresa Herrera, Jacqueline Marcelino, Jordan Miller, and Stewart Sanchez



As usual, Kiara awoke to her alarm screeching and telling her to get out of bed. She slapped the off button as quickly as possible but she could hear her younger sister Leo rustling in her bed nearby. She slipped out from under her warm covers and quietly got dressed for the day. She crept from the bedroom and padded into the kitchen.

“Morning, mom,” Kiara chirped as she gave her mother a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

“Morning, sweetie,” her mother replied.

Kiara’s mom was already dressed in her scrubs. She works long hours as a nurse to support her four children. As her mom headed out the door on her way to the hospital, Kiara began to make breakfast for her younger siblings.

“Leo, Robert, Mateo!!” Kiara called

As her sleepy siblings stumbled out of their rooms, Kiara made sure that she poured each of them a bowl of cereal. There was never a lot of extra food in the house and the little ones always liked to pour huge bowls of cereal that would always end up going to waste. Kiara knew if she poured all the cereal the box would last a lot longer.

Although it was Kiara’s second week at her new school, she was still really nervous to go back. Kiara wanted to make friends but she was having a hard time. She was nervous that none of the other kids would have anything in common with her. But today was going to be different! Her entire class was going to play basketball during gym class. Basketball was Kiara’s favorite sport. She even decided to wear her favorite Steph Curry jersey to school.

Because Kiara had to make sure her younger siblings got onto their school buses, she often barely made it to homeroom on time. Right before the bell rang, Kiara slid into one of the last remaining desks in the room. Suddenly, she heard someone beside her gasp. Kiara looked to her right and was surprised to see the girl next to her wearing the exact same jersey!

“Oh my gosh! Do you love Steph Curry too?”

“Yes he’s my favorite!” Kiara replied

“Wow that’s so cool! My name’s Alyssa, what’s yours?”

Kiara was so surprised that she found someone at school to talk too, she sat there not saying a word for a minute.

“Uh, do you have a name?” Alyssa asked.

“Oh! It’s Kiara” Kiara did not really know how to talk with other kids very well because she usually spends her time taking care of her siblings or drawing pictures when she has free time.

“Are you going to watch the class basketball game during PE today?” Alyssa asked her.

“Yes I am! I’m excited to-”, the teacher was asking the class to please quiet down so she could start the day, so Kiara just smiled and nodded at her new friend Alyssa.

Kiara had been waiting for this moment since the first day of school! She was too excited to pay attention to the teacher during class and was daydreaming about hanging out with her new friend when the bell rang for lunch. Kiara looked next to her but Alyssa had already gone out of the classroom so she grabbed her backpack and went to sit by herself while she ate her lunch. Today she had just a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a honey bun, but she didn’t want to eat her honey bun because her youngest brother Leo was always still hungry after dinner time and she usually saved her snacks to give to him.

Kiara had been sitting under a big tree she discovered one day where she can see all the other kids at lunch. Most of the time she watched the other kids to see how much food they threw away from their lunches because she didn’t understand why the other kids weren’t always hungry like she was. A lot of them threw away their sandwiches and fruit cups because they had chocolate or snacks they liked more in their lunches. It made Kiara sad to see all that food go in the garbage. She wanted to find a way for it to go to other kids who did not have enough food like herself.

She always noticed a few other kids who only had one or two things in their lunch box also, but they sometimes threw away those things like their friends did and she didn't understand why.

The lunch bell rang and it was time for gym class. Kiara hurried to pick up her trash and went to join her class going into the gymnasium, barely containing her excitement at seeing her new friend Alyssa again. Kiara walked inside and saw Alyssa sitting with a few other girls in the bleachers. She decided that she would go and sit next to her because today was the day she was going to make new friends at school. She walked over towards Alyssa and stood in front of the group of girls and said, "Hi guys!"

Alyssa looked over at her and smiled, "Hey Kiara, why don't you come sit with us to watch the game!"

"Watch the game?" Kiara asked, "I thought we were playing basketball."

Alyssa and her friends giggled, one said, "Only the boys play. We just watch,"

Kiara was confused because she thought everyone was playing, especially Alyssa because she had her Steph Curry jersey on. But she sat down with them anyways because she wanted to feel included. The PE teacher was asking who wanted to play but she put her head down when he passed their group.

"Isn't Alex so cute?", a girl named Lisa asked.

Alyssa gushed, "YES! He's also super good at basketball."

Kiara wasn't good at talking to boys and didn't know what to say, so she turned to watch the basketball game but felt sad she wasn't playing.

Quietly she asked, "Do any of you guys play basketball?"

"Yeah!" chimed the group of girls

Kiara was confused. If they played basketball, why aren't they playing now? At her old school the girls always played basketball with the boys. One of Kiara's favorite parts of her old school was playing point guard with all the other kids, boys and girls. Kiara knew she was good enough to play with all the boys. She stood up and said confidently, "I'm going to play? Who wants to come with me?"

So Kiara told the coach and the coach started laughing "It's only boys!"



Then the boys started laughing and saying she could not play but Kiara did not give up and Kiara pushed the coach and the coach told the principal.

The principal told Kiara, "You can not watch the game and go outside!"

Kiara got so upset. Kiara called Alyssa and they went to the bathroom and Kiara changed into a man using a wig to look like a basketball player. Kiara went to the basketball court and kiara made up a name called Marco, and Marco, AKA Kiara, tried to act like a new student.

Kiara asked the coach if she could be part of the team and he said, "Sure!"

The coach was really happy for having Marco on the team, but then in the middle of the game Kiaras wig FELL OFF!!! Everyone was so surprised and the couch was also very surprised and said, "GET OUT!''

Then everyone started laughing and Kiara ran outside where Alex came and said, "Are you ok?"

Kiara nodded and Alex told her "It's going to be ok."

Alex and Kiara ran back to the coach and she said, “I AM IN THE TEAM, so deal with it!”

Alex said, “This girl was very brave to play basketball on a boys team so you guys better WATCH KIARA PLAY!’’

Then, not one, not two, but everyone started clapping for Kiara and Alex. Kiara felt happy and joyful like she never had before.

The lesson Kiara learned was to always stand up for yourself and never give up, and you can achieve anything.

The Battle for Ebam Land

Ebam: Eva Alvarez, Andrew Cho, Brianna Correa, Neven Kolomejec, Anthony Madrueno, and Moises Mago Morales



Once upon a time in the incredibly beautiful Ebam Land lived a small yet very powerful kingdom. The kingdom was ruled by a queen but she wasn't just any ordinary queen, she was the most beautiful and kind queen anyone had ever seen before. She had beautifully long blonde hair and the brightest, bluest eyes. She even ruled over her kingdom with so much love and compassion that all of her loyal subjects adored her.

The entire land was covered with cotton candy trees and jelly bean roads. The people were all super happy and ate as much candy as they could ever want because they loved the queen so much.

The only thing that the people could not do was to waste food, because the queen claimed that food is special and people need to appreciate it as not every kingdom is lucky enough to have all the food that they could want to eat and all the candy to go along with it too. Her subjects agreed, and everyone made sure that they ate every single last bite of all of their food including the vegetables.

The queen was so happy to see all of her people eating their food that she declared, “We will have great feast parties where everyone will come and bring one dish of their favorite food and share it with the rest of the

kingdom.” These feast parties were the best thing ever, with people eating so much food that they have to be rolled home in wagons, people from other kingdoms even heard about it and word started to spread very, very fast to others.

Another kingdom, called the kingdom of One Biters, were a group of talking dogs that walked on two legs and would only take one bite of their food before they threw it away, turning every single kingdom they went to into a trash land. What they enjoyed doing was going around from kingdom to kingdom and wasting everyone's food so that they would be the only kingdom left in the entire world.



One night, the One Biters attacked Ebam trapping the queen and putting her in jail, forcing all the people to give up all of their food and candy. As the One Biters began to destroy the entire kingdom, not only were they taking one bite of everyone's food and throwing it away, wasting almost all of it, but they also were turning the beautiful candy kingdom into a giant pile of trash. Cotton candy from the trees fell and all of the jelly beans began to crack and break.

The Queen's hair even began to turn white and her eyes looked a little less brighter and a little less bluer. All of her loyal subjects knew something had to happen and the queen had to be saved in order for their entire kingdom to return to its former beauty. They tried to figure out what to do and how to save the kingdom until someone said the name of the only man for the job, “Sir Jeff Lit, it has to be.”

Sir Jeff was not just any knight, he was the bravest and strongest night anyone had ever seen. He was famous for slaying the giant dragon that almost took the queen when she was just a little baby, saving her life and the fate of the kingdom.

The people knew that they had to go to him to get help because he was the only man for the job and the only one who knew how to beat the One Biters and save the queen. The only problem was Sir Jeff didn't live in the kingdom anymore because he was busy starting his own sustainable farm between near the Fruitvale BART station in order to give all the good kids at the Cesar Chavez Library fresh fruits and vegetables for reading! He made sure to plant tomatoes, watermelon, carrots, and strawberries and to water them all the time.

As the townspeople got there they asked Sir Jeff, “Can you please help us, Ebam land is under attack by the One Biters!”

Sir Jeff wasn’t quite sure if he was going to help, “I’m getting to be pretty old now,” he said, but when he realized that he was the only person that people believed could do it, he grabbed his sword and shield, got on his horse, and bolted straight for Ebam Land. Sir Jeff knew he had to save the queen first, and once he was able to save her, the rest of the kingdom would be able to come together and fight back to beat the One Biters.

Before he could do anything, he had to go get his sidekick Kiara, a small and shy 10 year old girl that Sir Jeff met at the Library one day while delivering fruits and vegetables, who quickly became his best friend and partner in saving food. Once the two were united, they readied for battle and prepared to save their queen and rescue their kingdom.

Then Jeff Lit got Kiara and they headed for Ebam Land. Meanwhile, the One Biters took the queen! And Jeff Lit and Kiara got to Ebam Land and they didn't find the queen!

They knew where the One Biters hide out so they headed there. Once they got there, the One Biters were about to brainwash the queen and make her into a One Biter. Just then, Jeff Lit accidentally tripped on a rock and bumped into the brainwash button! OoOoH NoOoO! He brainwashed the queen!

Jeff Lit got up and threw the rock at the brainwash button. Wham! He unhypnotized the queen!

The queen, Jeff Lit, and Kiara started throwing gummy rocks at the One Biters. The rocks hit the heads of the One Biters and it turned them into fun dip sticks. When all of the One Biters were turned into fun dip sticks, all of the candy began to grow back throughout Ebam Land and the colors began to reappear. They let out a sigh of relief. Thank goodness, the queen is alive and safe!

OKAY KIDS, DON'T BE ONE BITERS! THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED FOOD OUT THERE!

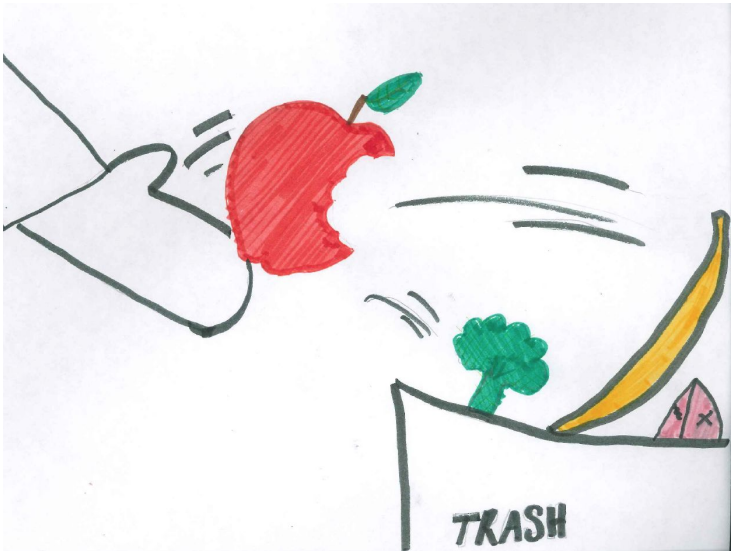


Save it,
Taste it,

Don't Waste it!

Charlie Close, Anna Morrissey, Vivian Shao, and Dean Wilson

When you think of food waste, you may think of the broccoli on your dinner plate that went cold or the extra hot dog you weren't hungry enough to eat. Food waste is actually a very large problem in our world today. Scientists estimate* that 40% of the food made ends up in a landfill. That's 133 billion pounds of food that is wasted! Food waste is not only from not finishing our dinner plates. There are many other ways food is wasted before it ends up on your dinner plate. For example, a potato could fall off the truck before it leaves the farm it was grown on. Sometimes tractors will recover perfectly ripe fruit. Or a worker at the grocery store will throw away an ugly orange. The ugly fruit means that it has not been processed with harmful chemicals! Next time you're at the grocery store, try to find the ugliest orange on the shelf. It might not seem like one potato or orange will have a large impact* on the environment, but this adds up.



Food waste is incredibly bad for the environment. Whenever food is wasted on the farm (which happens very often), that is also a waste of fertilizer, chemicals, and water. It is also a big waste of space that could have been used to grow crops. Wasted foods means that the soil erosion from the harmful chemicals was wasted, as well as all of the water that the farm needs to grow the food.

It is important to reduce* food waste as much as we can to help the environment. Food waste that ends up in landfills produces a large amount of methane which is a bad gas for the environment.

Sometimes farmers plant way way way too many crops. One crop that they plant too much is corn. This can be bad.Think about this: if you like corn, you would enjoy eating one corn. But if there was a whole room filled with corn, you would not like it as much. Planting too much corn can also be bad for America because Americans do not want a lot of corn either.

To contribute to the prevention of food waste, you can start by doing small things at home! One of the main things you can do is shop smart at grocery stores, buying only enough food you'd think you can eat. We can all reduce waste together by not buying food in bulk which may save money for your family but some of the food goes bad and just goes to waste anyways. When actually serving food, only serve yourself a portion size you can finish. If you do happen to have unfinished food, store leftovers properly and make an effort to eat them later. Going further, you and your family can start a compost* bin for the food you are thinking about throwing out. When you are done with your banana peel or other used food scraps, you can put them in your compost bin and it can be used as a fertilizer for your backyard. This way you can grow fruits and vegetables for your family to enjoy!

Definitions:
Estimate - To judge the value, number, or quantity
Impact - Having a strong effect on someone or something
Reduce - Make smaller or less in amount, degree, or size
Compost - Decayed organic material used as a plant fertilizer

Save the World… One Drop At a Time!

Emily Bachar, Julia Bewkes, Alex Furukawa, and Robert Salazar

Why is this important?

All around the world, people are struggling to find clean water, even here in the United States. We can't keep using water the way we currently are, or lakes and rivers all across the country could disappear within the next decade. For example, one of the biggest rivers in our country, the Colorado River, is starting to run dry. This shows that we need to start conserving our water or the whole country will experience a drought. That's where you guys come in!

How water is wasted in agriculture

Did you know that agriculture (farming) accounts for approximately 80% of America's water use? Unfortunately, the majority of the water we use on our farms is wasted because of **inefficient** irrigation systems. (Irrigation is the name of the system we use to get water to all of the plants on our farms.) Currently, we lose 60% of our water during the irrigation process. There are many ways farmers can fix this problem, such as adding organic **fertilizer** to the soil to help the plants grow faster and absorb the water more **efficiently**. Another way farmers could fix this problem is installing drip lines. This is a different form of irrigation than the system the majority of farms currently use. Drip lines send water directly to the roots of the plants. This would make irrigation way less wasteful and it would be beneficial for the plants since plants get water through their roots. While you guys may not have control over irrigation systems in America, there are many ways you can help reduce water waste in your daily life!



How water is wasted in daily life

Lots of things that we do every day without thinking twice about it are actually a huge waste of water. Although these acts may seem small, a great deal of water could actually be saved if we adjust the way that we use water.

One way that water is wasted greatly in the United States is through household activities such as showers, doing laundry and flushing the toilet. The average shower is 8 minutes long and uses approximately 17.2 gallons per minute… that's enough to fill a small pool! Showers can be a huge waste of water and Americans need to be much more conscious about how our relaxing showers are wasting huge amounts of water.

Most people take the ability to wash our clothes quickly and easily for granted, however the reality is that doing laundry is a huge waste of water. Each load of laundry takes 45 gallons of water! We need to be much more careful about how much we wash our clothes and realize that each load takes a lot of water from the earth's resources.

How you can help

There are many simple things you can do to save water in your daily life! When you brush your teeth in the morning, make sure to have the water off while brushing, and only on while washing it all down. In the bathroom is if it's yellow, it's mellow. If it's brown, flush it down. When you take a shower, it's nice to sit there for a while sometimes, but try to keep it under 5 minutes if possible. Taking a shower is more water efficient than a bath. Small things like this can make a huge difference!

In certain parts of the world, such as Africa, some people are doing their best to save water by not brushing their teeth in the shower. Brushing your teeth in the shower actually wastes so much water! Just brush your teeth at the sink before you go to bed! Also, do not leave the water running when you brush your teeth! This also wastes water!

Definitions:

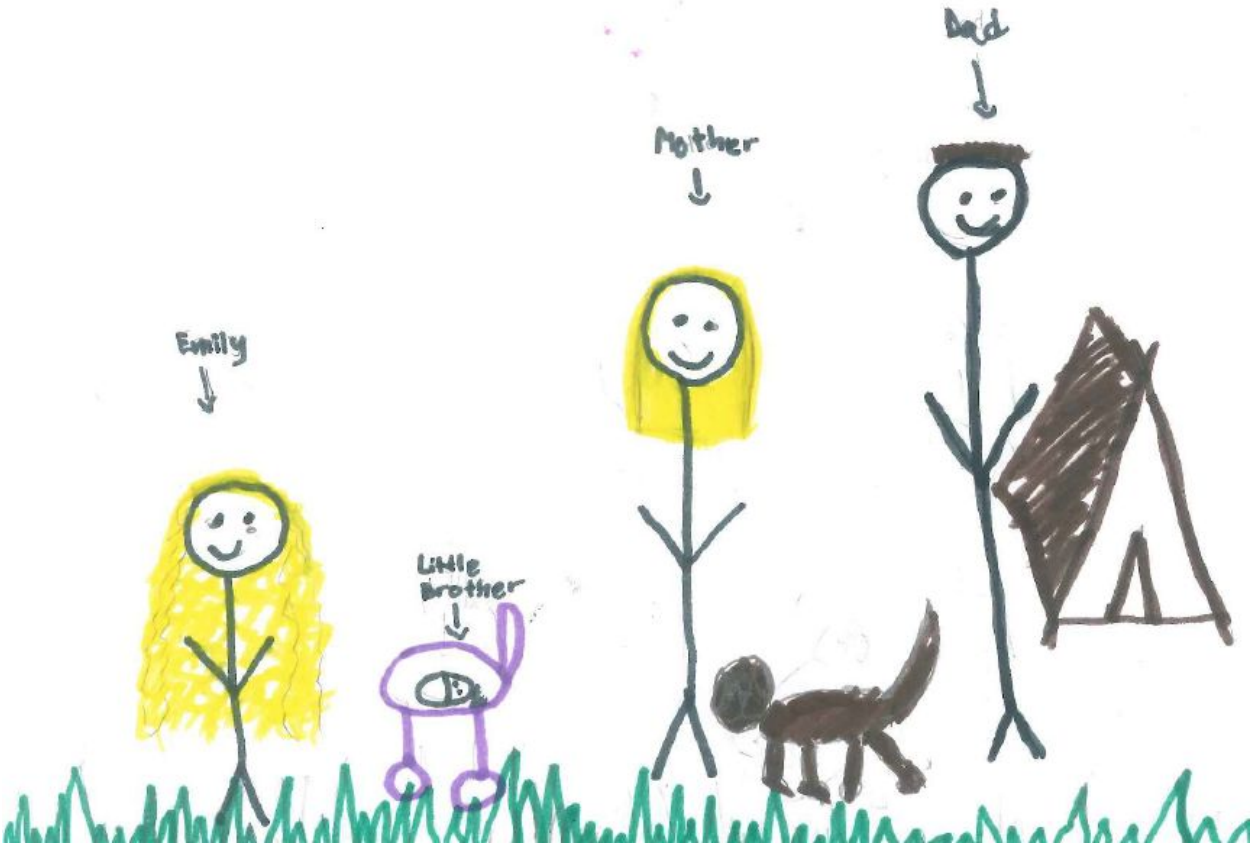
Inefficient - Not the best and quickest way to do something
Fertilizer - Chemicals mixed together that make plants grow better in soil
Efficiently - The quickest and most direct way to get something done

The Golden Rose

Up Hi: Nathan Castro, Lauren Forman, Regina Howson, Annaliese Nguyen, Erik Sanchez, Karma Servellon, Yash Tanna



Emily Rose had never been camping before. She never wanted to be out in nature for a really long time because she was afraid that her beautiful long blond hair would get knotted, and that she wouldn't be able to have all of her riches in the woods. However, as her family was always more eager to try new things, Emily was not. So, although she wasn't happy about it, all of the Servellon's were taking a camping trip this weekend. "Emily was quite the drama queen, so she didn't go without a few tantrums, but her family was persistent and she eventually surrendered.



"This will be an amazing experience!" exclaimed her mother, "who knows what cool treasures you'll find in the forest." So, off they went, all packed

into their family car, with a tent tied to the roof, held snug with many ropes. After what felt to Emily like hours and hours and hours of driving, they arrived at the park that they would be camping at for the rest of the weekend. Emily was already pouting as her family got out of the car to stretch their legs after their journey. She continued to pout as they unpacked their car. And she didn't even stop pouting when her family laughed and struggled together as they put up their tent. The only thing that turned the drama queens mood around was the lucky arrival of her friend Tito at the very same park! As it turns out, Tito's family LOVED to go camping, and did it almost every weekend!

Emily was shocked; "How do you like doing this?? Wouldn't you rather be in your comfortable bed Tito?"

Tito was more surprised at her question. "How can you not love being in nature, Emily? There are so many pretty rivers and cool trees and sneaky animals to watch! And if we don't spend time in nature, how will we understand it? How else will we protect it from pollution!

Once Tito and Emily's families had finished setting up their camping areas, they decided to go on a walk in the forest together. After tying up their hiking boots nice and snug, the two families set out on their adventure into the misty and mysterious forest. They twisted around tree stumps covered in overgrown moss, ducked carefully under falled trees with vines draping

comfortably along the trunks and gazed at the birds nesting in the treetops. However, their amazement was cut short and replaced with excitement.

“Do you hear that!” Tito said excitedly to the group. “I hear a river!” And as he said that the group fell silent, listening carefully for the rich rush of water. Following the sound, they continued on their adventure. But when they came to the river, what they hoped would be a flourishing and beautiful sight turned out to be quite a sad one. The water that should have been crystal blue was polluted and dirty, carrying piles of trash downstream.“I’ve never seen anything like this,” Tito whispered in disbelief. “We have to find a solution immediately!”

And so a new adventure began. Leaving their family behind, Tito and Emily Rose set off to find something—anything!—that could help turn the river back to its clean state. Running through the trees and crawling under bushes, Tito and Emily had no idea what was waiting right before them. In a hedge just a couple of steps ahead stood one of the most powerful flowers in the world

“I always thought it was a myth,” Tito said in wonder. “I’ve heard its can that can do anything you wish for.” With this new discovery at hand, Tito and Emily rushed back to the campsite to alert their families of the rose that could clean the polluted river. But as they wandered through the mystic forest, they couldn’t find their way back. Every tall green tree started looked like the last, and they found themselves lost and alone. Scared, Tito and

Emily scrambled to return to the Golden Rose in hopes of using their one wish to go back home.



It was up to them to brave the cold dark night on their own and save the rose to clean the polluted water, or to use their one wish to return safely back to their families… they started hearing weird noises around them!And then they started getting terrifying to leave the Golden Rose because it was their only hope. They also remembered that they were supposed to stay there until the camper leaders sends them home which was only 3 weeks but it only had been 1 day.

‘What should we do Tito’, worried Emily?

‘I have an idea Emily,’ surprised Tito!
“WHAT TITO!!!”’said Emily

“EMILY we should clean the ocean/river/water because it looks like trash and it doesn’t look like a river at all! ,’’ exclaimed Tito.’’

“Tito great IDEA lets start getting things out of the river and see if it will turn back into a river,’’said Emily

Soon they both walked to the river and started cleaning the river. So soon the river looked sparkly clean and actually looked like a river. So they decided to walk home and they finally got home and their parents came that night fast asleep.

“Tito , that was a rough night ,’’ Emily excitedly said.

“Indeed it was emily “said Tito .

“I'm going to sleep now Tito,’’ said Emily.

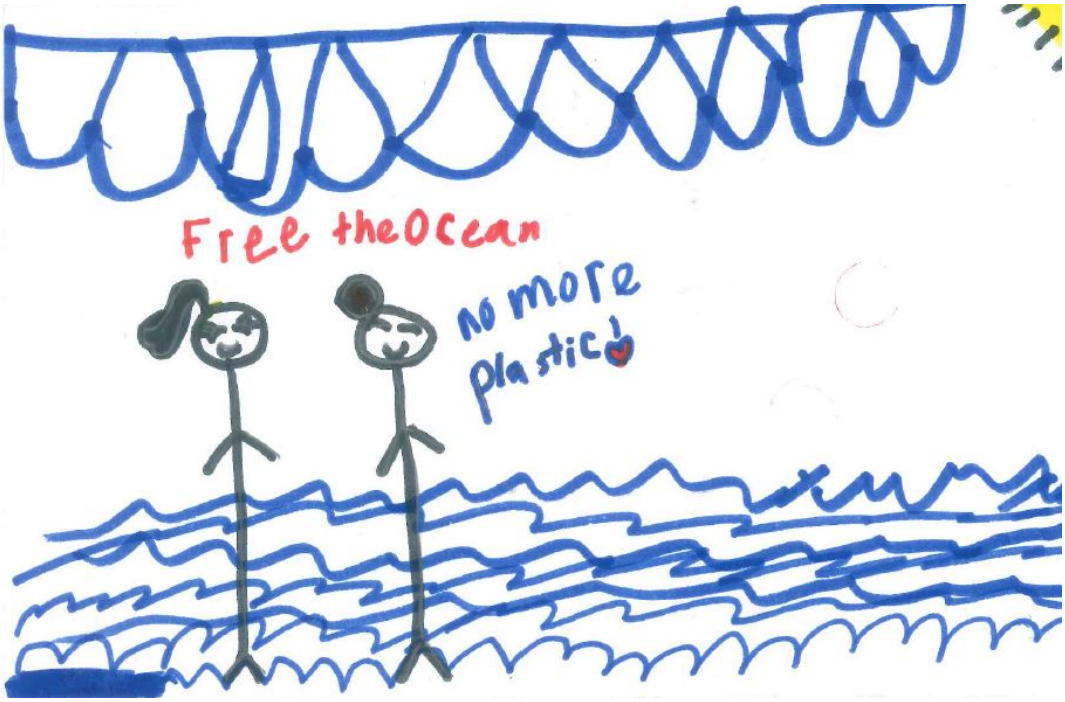
“Me too, good night ‘’, said Tito.

Tito was so happy they solved what they needed to solve! So our characters were feeling thankful for being safe and now Emily sees that the world is not scary, it’s fun to play, and not everything is about being rich and wealthy it’s about loving nature and your friends.

The Story Of Two Friends

Wildcats: Lyla Ann Espinoza, Lauren Forman, Regina Howson, Jennifer Milagros, Katherine Naranjo, Carlos Salinas, and Yash Tanna

It is a beautiful day at Sandy Beach. The warm water snatches Amy Roses' attention and she quickly ties her short black hair into a ponytail and meets her elementary school friends at the shore. As she wades into the ocean with her friends, Jazmine and Jake, a smart kid with a great sense of humor, a very troubling site catches her eye: there is a drifting bundle of trash less than 20 feet away from the shore! She and her friends swam to the nearest trash pile and look at all the junk food wrappers and discarded water bottles that grouped together. They wonder, "How did so much trash get here? Nobody litters at the beach."



Amy hears a dog, her favorite animal, bark in the distance and she snaps her head towards the sound, noticing that one of her other classmates, Kate, was also at the beach! As she walks towards Kate, she realizes how so much trash ended up in the ocean. Kate is eating Jack in the Box near the shore, but instead of putting the trash into a garbage bag, she was just tossing it! This disturbed Amy. She hates it when plastic and other trash appears in the ocean. It pollutes the water and hurts all those innocent ocean animals. Also, as she learned in class, this water ends up coming back to humans and hurting their own drinking water, making it a very bad situation for everyone.

Amy walks towards Kate and introduces herself, “Hey! I’m Amy Rose from your class at Lazear Elementary School!” Kate looks at her, sniffs, and simply looks away. Amy is shocked by Kate’s coldness and wonders what she had done.

“Well anyways, I noticed that you weren’t collecting your trash in a garbage bag but just throwing it into the ocean. I was hoping that you could put it in the bag instead. The ocean animals would really appreciate less trash to swim through.”

“Why do you even care, it’s my stuff I can do what I want with it,” Kate replies. “Besides, no animals are getting hurt. The ocean is huge, they have plenty of space even with our trash there.”

This makes Amy even angrier because our trash does affect those ocean

animals. “The animals do get hurt!!” she exclaims. More calmly she adds, “What's your favorite sea animal, Kate?”

“I guess I like sea turtles,” Kate smirks back as she gets ready to toss the rest.

“Well guess what. Sea turtles are harmed by the trash we throw away! They often have difficulty breathing and sometimes the plastic even wraps around their body causing them pain,” Amy says angrily before storming away and rejoining Jake and Jazmine.

Kate thinks about what Amy says and signs, “I don’t have much choice. My mom and I don’t have too many places to throw our trash away.” She tosses her trash at the shore and walks away, trying to find shelter before the sunsets.

The next day, school starts again. “Kate and Amy, you guys will be working together on our next project, Pollution and the Ocean,” Ms. Friedman says much to the groaning from Amy and Kate. They eye each other up and slowly get out of their seats, reluctant to talk with one another after yesterday’s events.

Amy talks first, “See I told you that pollution and the ocean are connected!” Kate rolls her eye and simply says, “Let's get this over with.” They start to



search articles on the internet about pollution, writing out all the different facts of what they find. However, in the back of Kate's mind, she feels sad. She knows that pollution was bad, but she didn't have a choice! No one had ever taught her where to put her trash as her parents died long ago and she lived in nearby shelters. Amy smugly looks at Kate waving all the research in her face when she notices that Kate was... sad. Amy wonders what happened, Kate was being snarky but she suddenly changed. Amy puts her hand on Kate's shoulder and asks, "Are you okay?"

Kate looks at her and sighs. "The truth is, I do feel bad for polluting the ocean anywhere I am. But, I don't have too many places to throw my stuff away! I've been been living on my own for a long time," then Kate and I got quiet. "I do care about the water! It's not my fault that my parents taught me like that when I was little!"

I wondered how I could show Kate that littering is bad for the ocean and the environment. When I came home I talked with my mom about it and I asked her, "Why is Kate really mean to the environment?!"

''Honey'' she said, "Just give Kate time."

"Fine," I said in a sassy voice. I stomped to my bed with all my might. I couldn't believe I needed to give her another chance. The next morning, I thought, "I can get her a therapist!" When I went to the beach later that day,

I saw a paper about how to get a therapist, but as I was getting into the water, I saw Kate—as usual—throwing trash.

She saw me and came running saying, “Sorry!’’

Then I yelled, “REALLY! I JUST—hi—SAW YOU THROWING TRASH!!!” I apologized right away and told her that I would get her a therapist so that she could talk about her feelings.

Kate said, “Thank you. I really need someone to talk to.”

I said, “After that, promise to stop throwing trash.”

I stuck my finger out and Kate crossed her finger on mine and said, “PROMISE!”

That day Kate and I learned valuable lessons. For Kate, she shouldn’t throw trash and she should be nice. For me, I need to always give people a chance because they can change, it just takes time. Now Kate and I are best friends.

The End!!


#BFF'S

Where's The Cheese?

The Wolves: Gabi Bennett, Joshua De La Rosa, Zion Godrey, Kareem Nune, Anna Morrissey, and Robert Salazar

My name is Tim. I am 10 years old and my a twin sister, Charlie, and I love pizza. Our favorite place is Roberto's Pizza. Every friday we get to visit Roberto and eat a big slice of cheese pizza. Roberto's Pizza has the best cheese in the whole entire world.

Today is Friday. My mom said we could go to Roberto's Pizza. When we arrive I jump out of the car and sprint to get in line. I could smell the cheese pizza from down the street! When I walk in, the line goes all the way to the back, but I am ready to wait. After 20 minutes I am finally in front of the line with my order ready in my head "may I have one big slice of cheese pizza please?" I ask Roberto and hold out my $2.40 (I have the price memorized by now).

"I'm sorry, Tim," he said "but we're all out of cheese pizza, we only have hawaiian pizza. Is that okay?"

I didn't know what hawaiian pizza was, but I've never not liked a pizza I got at Roberto's. I sit down at the table with my mom and Charlie and wait patiently for this mysterious pizza. When the waiter put the pizza in front of me I was confused, they accidentally put fruit on it!

I laughed and told the waiter “I think you made a mistake, there’s fruit on this pizza”, but the waiter insisted that it was supposed to be like that.

I looked uneasily at my mom, “try it” she said “I love Hawaiian pizza”. Besides the pineapple, it looked like pizza. It had cheese and sauce and all. It smelt like pizza, Roberto’s classic cheese smell reassured me. I closed my eyes and took a bite, confident that it would taste just like Roberto’s classic cheese pizza.



What in tarnation? This combination of too sweet just did not taste good. I spit it out. “Yikes,” I said. “This is too sweet for me.” I asked my mom if she would buy me another slice of the regular cheese pizza. She said yes, and gracefully bit into the yucky pineapple pizza. I waited in line again, and when it was my turn to order Roberto says “sorry Tim, we just ran out of cheese, so we can’t make any more pizzas today.”

“Oh no! Where is the cheese to make the pizza?” I said to Roberto, the owner. Roberto told me there was no more cheese, because all of the cheese ran out in the whole entire country. I turned away, and began to think of ways to bring back cheese to Roberto’s Pizza when I noticed the

trash can was full… of perfectly edible pizza! I could not believe what I was seeing.

People had thrown away multiple slices from their full pizzas that they didn't finish eating. What I waste! I turned to look at the other trash can, and the it was even more full of uneaten pizza than the first one! No wonder all of the cheese ran out so fast, it was being thrown away!

The only way to get cheese outside of the country would be to visit the world famous country of cheese. The only option would be to create a teleporter machine to go to Italy. It took me two weeks to build my machine, but I was convinced on getting this cheese. I was determined that my project would work. I turned on my machine, and at the last minute, Charlie jumped in, and we were off!. A big sound exploded. The portal opened, I closed my eyes and we stepped outside.

We were in a hilly countryside. Mountains and hills with gold flowers appeared all around us. Approaching us was a shepherd, who led his sheep back to his fields. Charlie is shy, but she surprised me and went up to the shepherd and asked, "Do you know where we can get some cheese? We need some cheese for the pizza store back at home."

He laughed and said, "Yes, you are going to want to visit Alfredo. He is the specialist in cheese, especially for pizza."

“How do I find this Alfredo man? Where do I need to go?” I asked.
“You are going to need to find that out yourself, my lad. Here, take the path up and over that hill, and you will see a white beautiful mansion. In that mansion is the secret recipe for cheese. But remember, Alfredo will not give it up so easily, so be kind and respectful,” the old man told me. When we arrived at the white mansion, I knocked on the door, but nobody answered. I looked at the portal and the battery was low so I knocked harder this time. Finally, Alfredo opened the door and said “come in the house!”

Charlie and I introduced ourselves to Alfredo and explained to him our cheese dilemma.

“Our favorite pizza restaurant ran out of cheese because so many people are wasting it! All of the trash cans in the restaurant are full of perfectly edible pizzas that are going to a dumpster!”

“Well well well, it looks like you have learned a good lesson coming all the way to Italy. Many people waste a lot of their food when it is unnecessary. All of that pizza could be given to somebody who is hungry” Alfredo said.

“Roberto said to find you to get the recipe for cheese that I can bring back to the restaurant” I said.

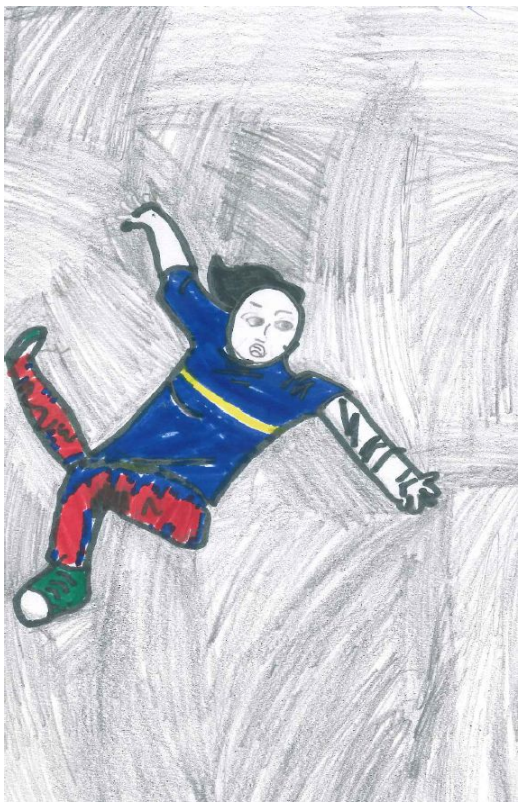
“I will give you the recipe for cheese if you promise to find a way to tell people to not throw away their pizza, but to take it in a to-go box and eat it later, so it does not go to waste” Alfredo replied.

“I’ll make a sign that says ‘Take it in a to-go box for later’, and put it on top of the trash can next to a pile of to-go boxes” I said to Alfredo.
“Sounds like a great idea Tim!” Roberto said.

“May I have the recipe for the cheese please?” I asked.

“Ok, you can have the recipe for the cheese,” Alfredo answered.

“Thank you!” I replied. Charlie and I powered on the portal and went back to Roberto’s Pizza with the recipe in hand.



At Roberto’s we ran up to Roberto and handed him the recipe and taped up our sign above every trash can. The next day, Roberto thanked us because his restaurant will never run out of cheese again, and when I looked in the trash cans, there was only plates, utensils, and dirty napkins, no pizza! My sign was working!

“We have saved over 100 pizzas from going into our dumpster in just two days since having your signs by the trash can” Roberto told us.

“Wow!” I replied. I had never felt so happy! I never have to worry about Roberto’s not having cheese pizza and more importantly, I helped the restaurant with their food waste problem.

Farming Harm: Food for Thought

Lauren Forman, Neven Kolomejec, and Yash Tanna

Robbie the Robin was flying through his usual forest, checking out all his favorite spots like that one tall green tree he can see the humans from, or the clear blue lake that became his favorite drinking spot. He noticed that bright blue was gone and covered by some strange gray color. He wondered, “What happened to the lake? Can water just change color overnight?” Robbie realized this must be the new humans that came to his neighborhood a few months ago. He quickly flew over to their nest, and saw giant lands full of corn, wheat, and other delicious treats that he could eat. But as he looked closer, he saw the same gray water flowing down from the land and into the river that was near his lake. As he perched on the crops, he noticed some animals near the river scared to drink the water as it had already made a few of the birds sick and coughing.

The sad reality of what Robbie the Robin was experiencing is that big farms like the ones he flew over are really bad for the water around them! Such big farms have a duty to produce a certain amount of food in the growing season, and they will do whatever it takes to accomplish this goal. Most of the time, this means that the farmers have to use a special spray on their plants for them to grow faster and stronger than regular crops. This special spray is called a fertilizer. Fertilizers are really helpful and help to produce a lot of food which can feed lots of hungry people! However, when farmers use too much fertilizer, it can run off into water near the farm. This means that the nitrogen* in the spray is seeping into the underground water, where it isn’t supposed to be! This is harmful to the plants and animals. If humans drink water with nitrogen in it, they will have pain in their stomach and won’t be able to digest food!

However, it’s not just farm water that can get polluted. Drinking water for us can be dangerous too. Water fountains, in particular, can get polluted with

lots of different chemicals, not just fertilizer. One example is lead. Lead is a dangerous chemical that can sometimes get in water This chemical can cause side effects such as bad vision, vomiting, and difficulty walking. Lead can often be found in buildings made before the 2000s. The lead from the paint and old pipes can leak into the water supply and also be very dangerous to people. Another example is Mercury, which is a pollutant that stays in the air until it is brought into water supplies via rain run-off. After it rains, that Mercury ends up in water and can be very dangerous to people everywhere! If you drink water with Mercury in it, you might not even be able to smell and taste it, but that is part of what makes it so dangerous to people.

But the future seems bright. Farmers and organizations have taken efforts to ensure drinking water and farm water doesn't create harmful effects for the humans and animals. One farmer, Mr.Kinnard, found an innovative solution to make sure his neighbors don't get poisoned. He created a swimming pool full of tree-bark, that absorbs the bad chemicals leaving the water much cleaner!

Definitions:
Nitrogen - A chemical used in farming that is harmful to humans

Ally Saves The Ocean

Skittles: Gabi Bennett, Natalie Lizarde, Anna Morrissey, Telly Rollins Jr., Robert Salazar, Isabel Sanchez, Eduardo Suarez, and Telly Rollins Jr.

My name is Ally. I am 10 years old. This is my story on how I saved the ocean, our environment, and all the animals in it!

Every summer, I go to my grandma's house on the beach in Santa Cruz. My grandma is very good at cooking food, especially seafood. Every Sunday, she makes my favorite dish, which is seafood pizza. My favorite toppings are pepperoni, cheese, and anchovies. I know anchovies sounds like a weird topping for pizza, but it's my favorite!

Every Saturday night, my grandma and I take her little blue boat out into the ocean. The moon shines on us, as we set sail to go fish for my favorite pizza topping. My grandma turns on the motor, and slowly, I see my grandma's house disappear in the background. Now we are in the middle of the ocean, just my grandma and me. My grandma always likes going to a very specific spot that has all of the anchovies, which is right below the moon.

My grandma stops the motor, and we are now floating in the ocean. She gets her net, which is a net made of unicorn hair. This is a very special net, because this net was made from the last dying unicorn. This net has been passed down from my grandma's grandma, and so on.

"Grandma, can I try?" I asked.
Grandma responds, "Not yet, Ally. The day will soon come when you get to use the net."

I sat there puzzled. My grandma began to lower the net into the water. We waited three minutes which felt like three hours, but when she pulled up the net, all there was was TRASH. Grandma looked sad and shocked.

“What is that?!” I asked Grandma, as I peered over the edge of the boat to get a closer look. All I saw was plastic cups, straws, and cans. It made me really sad seeing all of the trash in my net because bringing the net up is my favorite part about fishing with Grandma. It's supposed to be full of delicious anchovies, not trash!

“That is not right, Ally.” Grandma said, she looked worried. “We must do something about it. Do you want to help clean up the ocean?”

“Yes! It is my responsibility to make sure the ocean water is clean for all of the animals and sealife that lives in it!” I responded.

Later that night, after dinner, I was laying in bed trying to fall asleep, but I couldn’t. All I could think about was all of the ways I was going to help clean the ocean and save the fish! The ocean is so big and I am only one little girl with a net! There is no way I would be able to clean the entire ocean all by myself. Would I never eat anchovy pizza again? Eventually I fell asleep and I had a dream where I was walking along the beach looking for shells, and a bright purple stone caught my eye. It looked as though it had just washed ashore, and it was glowing! I ran over, but when I tried to pick it up, I woke up. The next morning during breakfast, I told my grandma about the dream.

“There was this shiny purple rock, and it was glowing!” I said. Grandma dropped her glass of orange juice “I knew that this day would come” she said “Come with me.”

Grandma walked out of the kitchen and down the stairs into the basement. She moved the dirty old red rug and below it was a trap door! Grandma

opened the door to reveal a little hidden compartment with a really old book in it. The book was covered in dust but grandma wiped it clean and handed it to me.

“Ally” she said, “this book has been handed down for generations in our family, but I never thought that I would ever live to see it be used. That dream you had wasn’t a dream at all, but a vision into the future. This book will guide you to the ocean stone.

I couldn’t believe what I was hearing! Was it actually possible that I could clean the ocean!

“Does it actually work, Grandma? It looks really old.” I asked.
“Yes honey, it will work only if you follow every step exactly.”
From that moment I was determined that I was going to follow the steps in this book exactly how they were written. I opened the book and began to read.

Step 1: Go to the place with two palm trees criss crossed along the beach

“I know exactly where that is!”, I yelled.

I ran down the beach to the two palm trees criss crossed and I flipped to the next page of the book.

Step 2: Dig down 6 inches under the sand to find the magic purple ocean stone.

I started digging as fast as I could at the base of the palm trees and I eventually I hit something really hard. I brushed away the sand and the purple ocean stone was there, gleaming in the sunlight! I pulled it out and admired it while I flipped the page to the next step.

Step 3: Tell the stone your ocean wish, and it will give you the powers to make it come true.

I had to think long and hard about this one. What was I going to ask the magical ocean stone? How do I know it would work?

“How am I going to clean the ocean with this?” I asked myself.
All of a sudden, I got an idea!

“My wish is for all of the trash in the Santa Cruz beaches to float to the surface of the water so I can grab it!” I soon realized that this was not a job I could do alone and I would need some help!

“Who could I ask to help me clean the ocean?” I thought, let me call my friends and family. I ask for help from my grandma, my family and I also call my best friend josh.



My mom, dad, grandma, and josh all come running to the beach to help! Josh even brought his four dogs! We load up into our boat and we all have unicorn hair fishing nets and we drove around all day and cleaned up all of the trash from the beaches in Santa Cruz! That night, my Grandma and I set out to catch anchovies and “Hooray!” no trash in our fishing net! And even better, my favorite seafood pizza is for dinner.

Part 2: Chico

Wild Willy

Independent Gummy Pandas: Anna Becker, Charlie Close, Angelica Delgado, Willy Garcia, Desiree Gaxiola, Jamaya Lewis, and Casey Raymond

Deep in the woods of the East, is a little school called Oak Wood Prep. The school, with children from all over is just like a normal school, except all the students live on campus. There are many different dor ms on campus, some placed high in the trees, and some in tall stone castles. Some of the dorms are more rowdy than others, especially one dorm named Swig. Swig is a big castle that has many loud kids that live in it, including Willy Garcia Alvarez. Willy is a very sweet thirteen year old with dark brown eyes. Willy is constantly making new friends during all the sports that he plays. Willy likes to run on the track team, and just signed up to play basketball in the winter. Willy has never played basketball before, but he wants to give it a shot!

On the first day of practice, Willy laced up his retro Jordans and strolled down to the basketball court. He realized that he did not know any friends trying out for the team, but Willy wasn't fazed. He saw a girl named Kiara that he recognized from his composting class. Willy went up to Kiara and found out that behind Kiara's long dark braided hair was a somewhat shy girl. What Willy did not know was that Kiara is one of the smartest girls on campus. Kiara makes honor roll every year and is a star basketball player. Willy loved talking to Kiara, which was really surprising for Kiara because she never had any friends before she met Willy. Kiara liked Willy because for some odd reason, he reminded her of someone she knew.

Eventually, Kiara and Willy became best friends and started to share everything with each other. One day while having lunch, Kiara was really upset and Willy asked her why she was upset. Kiara told Willy she was having trouble reading the book assigned to her in English class so Willy tried to cheer her up by showing her his best jump shot with a uneaten orange. As Willy shot the orange into the trash can and yelled, "Curry!"

while fading away from the trash can hoop, Kiara made a scrunched up face and got even more upset. She said how she hated that everyone wasted perfectly good food at Oak Wood Prep, and that she knew kids in her neighborhood at home that were really hungry and need the food that some kids just throw away.

Kiara went back to her dorm high up in the trees, which was usually pretty quiet. Willy eventually wandered up to Kiara's dorm to see what she was really upset about. When Willy walked into Kiara's room he saw that there were tears streaming down her face and she was clutching a small photo near her chest. Concerned, Willy asks what was wrong, and Kiara explained that it was a photo of her friend named Holiday, who was lost in the woods a year ago. Courageously, Willy offered to look for her friend in the woods. "After all," he said,"Looking through the woods is just like Fortnite." In the dark of night, while all the other kids were asleep in their dorms, they set out into the woods to their great adventure.

Willy felt bad for Kiara so he said "I'm going to find her" but then Willy got lost. Although, he kept looking for Holiday and he finally found her deep in the woods. He then led her back to school and asked her how she got lost.

Holiday got lost because those mean girls named Stacy, Ariana, and Jackie said, "Go to the the woods; if you don't something will happen to you. If you come back we will hurt you very bad. We will make you cry for days." Next thing Holiday knew she had been lost in the woods for a year. Over time she learned hunting skills like her father. While she was lost in the woods, she made this little house and it was cool.

Willy then said "Oh, my father taught me good hunting skills too."

Holiday replied and said, "Cool! What was his name?"

Willy answered "José Garcia Alvarez"

Shocked Holiday exclaimed, "THAT'S MY DADS NAME TOO!"

Together they whispered "Wait… does that mean… we're siblings?"
Willy then called his mom and she confirmed they were siblings and that they had been looking for Holiday since she was little. Their mom was so

happy that they FINALLY FOUND HER, that they all yelled and hugged each other!!!!!! They were all so EXCITED that they found Holiday!!!!!!!



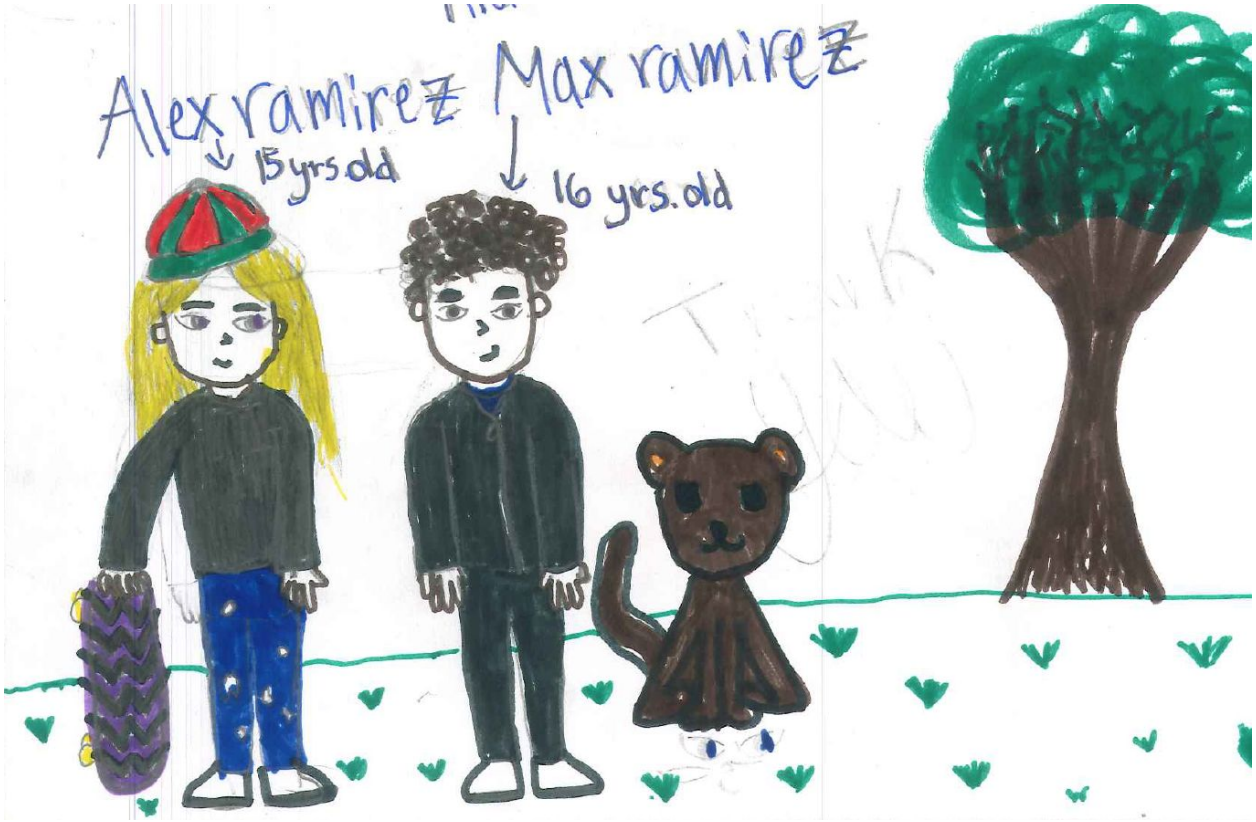
Kickin' It

Independent Pandas: Katherine Alvarado-Olivia, Jazmine Ambriz Anna Becker, Charlie Close, Jhessie Manzano, Anthony Matos, and Casey Raymond

On a quiet street in the suburbs of Oakland lived Alex and Max Ramirez. They lived in a big beautiful blue house, with lots of tall windows that let in plenty of sunlight. In the front yard there were several trees that were almost as tall as the house, and in the backyard, right next to the pond there was another tree with a charming little treehouse in it. And in the back of the driveway, Alex had built a small wooden halfpipe to practice her skateboard tricks in. She's quite smart and funny, but also a bit shy and has trouble making friends. But her best friend in the whole world is Max, and they get along well.

Max always told her not to worry about making friends. He was sure that Alex would make a new friend any day now.Her brother Max was quite popular in school and was a star player for the school soccer team. Every time he scored a goal, he would bust out his best dance moves that he learned from Fortnite. A lot of the time, he would bring his friends over to his big blue house to play tag after school.

One day, a mysterious package arrived for Max and Alex. After opening the box and tearing away the wrapping paper, they found two new pairs of white Jordans inside! They were very excited, and they quickly laced them up and got ready to go to school and flex on their classmates.



Eager to get to school, they began their morning walk, with Alex riding slightly ahead of Max on her purple skateboard. Occasionally, she would do a kickflip or ollie over a car, which always impressed Max.

At recess that day, a crowd of kids surrounded Max, all asking about his fresh pair of kicks. “Do they make you run faster? Jump higher?” they all asked. Max admitted that he didn’t know, but they sure looked fresh right out of the box. While a few kids complimented Alex, she mostly just smiled and nodded her head when they came up to her. However, she noticed that her classmate Kiara had been glancing over at her shoes but hadn’t said anything. Intrigued, Alex walked over to her and said hello.

Excited, Kiara said that she loves playing basketball for the school team and always sported a clean pair of Jordans. And like Alex, she was pretty shy and eager to make new friends. Noticing they were chatting, Max walked over to them and did his usual goofy trick of bunching up his lunch bag and bicycle-kicking it into the trash-can. Quite concerned, Kiara told him that it’s not nice to waste food like that, and quickly apologized. Eager

to spend time with her new friend, Alex invited Kiara to hang out with them at the blue house after school to play tag and maybe even a couple rounds of Fortnite.

But on their way home as they were passing by the farm on the end of their block, they noticed a scruffy-looking dog who was limping down the sidewalk. Worried, the three of them rushed over to the dog. What were they going to do?

They went to the vet and Dr. Susan took them to check to see if the dog was okay. A few hours later, Dr. Susan told them the bad news!! Dr. Susan said “THE LEG IS BROKEN!!” Then they didn’t know what to do. They took the dog to their house.

When they got home Max said, “Should we wrap it around with a cast?”

“Hmm” said Alex “OK“ The dog was feeling pain in his leg.

“What should we do?” said Alex.

Max said “Should we call mom?”

“Hmmm” Said Alex “OK, let’s do it.”

A few hours later Alex and Max’s mom came and said “Why did you call me?”

Max replied, “We found a dog.”

Alex said, “The leg is broken.”

Max said “So we took the dog to Dr. Susan and told us the bad news that the leg is broken.”

The Mom said, “We just have to wait for it to heal.”

Alex and Max said, “OK.”

A few months later the leg was finally healed!

“The leg is healed!” said the Mom, “But, I’m afraid that we have to let it go.”

“WHAT” said Alex. She was really disappointed.

Alex said to Max “Come upstairs”

“Why?” said Max”

“Because I have to talk to you” said Alex

“OK” said Max. So Max and Alex went up stairs.

“We have to talk” said Alex

and Max said “So, I’ve been thinking, I want to keep that dog.”

“Really? Me too!” said Alex.

“Ok! Let’s talk to mom about it!” So they went back downstairs and the mom was preparing to leave the dog.

“Mom, can we keep the dog!!!?!?!” Alex and Max said together.

“Well, I guess there’s nothing wrong with that.” Mom said. Alex and Max were screaming with excitement. They named the dog Scruffy and were delighted. They lived happily ever after!

Trashy Food

Patrick Guinn, Maeve Corbitt, Regina Howson, and Anna Becker

Did you know that one in five fruits and vegetables is thrown away because it's too ugly? Apples that look like cucumbers and carrots that have limbs are still edible yet end up in the garbage. Even though many people go hungry and often don't have enough food to feed their families we still waste 165 billion dollars worth of food every single year! In addition, wasting food is really bad for our environment. In the first place, growing crops takes a lot of natural resources like water, land, and energy. We need to be careful about not wasting these resources because we are actually running out of drinkable water. The Colorado River is rapidly drying up, partially because over 70% of its water is used for agriculture.

The same can be applied to the land we use to farm. Approximately fifty percent of all land is already used for farming. There are not a lot of places left that can support a whole farm and many of the remaining spaces are home to important forests and ecosystems*. To preserve the drinking water we have left and save these beautiful forests we must work to reduce food waste.

The first phase of reducing food waste needs to start at home. Households can minimize their grocery shopping to only foods they need and foods they know they will consume. This also means to check food such as produce** before buying it to ensure that the food is edible, fresh, and not contaminated*** or damaged. That said, buy the funny looking produce! A tiny bruise on an apple doesn't make it bad! Furthermore, families need to focus on storing the food they have in a conservative manner. This means properly refrigerating the items that need to be refrigerated and storing the other items in sealed containers to prevent them from becoming stale or

exposed to pests. This includes leftovers! Before making a whole new meal, look in the fridge for last night's dinner. These steps will help to minimize food waste on a household level. More drastic changes need to be made in other areas to reduce the food waste crisis even further.

Another food waste problem actually comes from K-12 schools, just like the one you attend. The government requires many schools to provide a lunch to each student at school. Although this is an important law, this results in much food waste and a surplus of food. Have you or your friends ever thrown away something from your lunch you didn't want? Maybe you weren't hungry at the time, or your mom cut your sandwich the wrong way, or two foods were touching. The answer is most likely yes; everyone has before.

But there are also many ways to avoid food waste within a school community. One way to do this is by sharing leftover food items with those in the school and beyond. Many food items can be offered on share tables or in pop-up food pantries outside of school. Your community can also come together to create temporary food donation and recovery sites. Your school can also identify ways to send leftover food home with children and families in need. California has recently passed a law that allows any untouched fruit and unopened packages to be sent to food banks. This law will save about $100,000 of food. Another easy way to save food is to only pack what you know you are going to eat in your lunch box. If you do happen to have lots of leftovers from lunch, put them back in your pantry for someone else to snack on! Talk to your parents about what you're actually eating in your lunches.

Together, we can help minimize food waste by following the steps outlined above. Try your best to prepare foods you know you are going to eat, and

be sure to be accepting of all food items, even the funky shaped apple. You matter. Your choices matter. You can help save the planet one meal at a time!

Definitions:

Ecosystems - A community of trees and animals in a specific location
Produce - Food items grown through farming
Contaminated - Filled with toxic substances

Questions:

1) Why is it important to conserve farmland?
2) What can you do about meals at home and meals at school to help prevent food waste?

Pug Robbery

DJAH Skies: Emily Bachar, Delilah Chavez, Patrick Guinn, Hugo Jimenez, Aaron Mago Morales, John Pineda Lara, and Vivian Shao

It was her normal Tuesday afternoon. Beatris had just gotten out of school and began her walk downtown for art class. She liked drawing, painting, sculpting, pretty much all forms of art, especially when dogs are involved, but she felt that art class itself was restricting her creativity. She went along with it though, doing as her parents told her.

It was about a mile walk from her middle school to downtown, and she had gotten used to doing it every day. It became routine.

Today was different. What started as a sunny morning at school had taken a turn for the worst. It was not pouring rain, and the lighting was illuminating the sky. Thank goodness Mrs. Gnomes had an extra umbrella.

Beatris was nearly to her class when all of the sudden she heard somebody yell out her name behind her. She turned to Bryan her classmate, completely drenched and running at full speed towards her.

“Beatris run!” he yelled as he neared her. Behind him were two hooded men with what appeared to be duct tape and rope in hand.

Not thinking twice, Beatris took off down the street as Bryan pulled up next to her. They ran for a few blocks and as they rounded a corner Bryan pulled Beatris into an alleyway and behind a garbage can.

“Man that was close!” Bryan panted as he watched the two men run by. “That’s like the third time this week.”

“Who were they? What did they want from you?” Beatris asked, scared but excessively curious at the same time.

Before he could respond they heard footsteps coming back down the street towards the alley.

“No time to explain. Just follow me back to my place and I will tell you all about it.”

Well, one missed art class never hurt anyone, thought Beatris as she followed Bryan further into the alley and out onto the street on the other side.

Bryan lived up in the hills, away from the mess of downtown and through what seemed like multiple security gates. His house was enormous. It was covered in moss and ivy which gave it the appearance of an old castle.

“Well this is it.” Bryan exclaimed as he opened his garage, displaying all types of customized cars: Lamborghinis, Bugattis, Rolls-Royces, and more.



“Wow!” Shouted Beatris, completely forgetting the potentially life costing chase that had just occurred.
Everybody at school had known Bryan was well off, but nobody had ever

imagined this. “Where are your parents? Don’t you want to tell them what just happened?”

“Uhhh no it’s fine. My parents have been out of the country for quite a while now actually.” said Bryan

“What do you mean?” Beatris couldn’t imagine living without her parents for any amount of time.

“Well they are always gone for work and don’t like it when I ask questions. I tend to just deal with things like this by myself.” explained Bryan.

“Who were they and what did they want from you?” Beatris asked, concerned for her and Bryan’s safety as the wind and thunder continued to attack the outside of the mansion.

“They are thieves.” Explained Bryan as he led Beatris into the kitchen. “Somehow word got out to the local criminals about how much money my family and I have. They seem to be particularly excited about how I am always home alone. By the way do you want anything to eat?”

Still confused but also hungry, Beatris accepted his invitation as her stomach grumbled for dinner. Bryan walked over to the fridge and revealed all the chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza bites, and mozzarella sticks anybody could possibly need. He then open the pantry and brought out a basket of every candy imagionable.
“What is this?” Asked Beatris. Her family always ate healthy, with the salad being the main feature of every meal.

“What do you mean? This is the stuff that I like.” said Bryan, shocked that she was questioning his choice of food.

“My family only eats healthy food. Seeing all of this is like heaven! My mouth is already watering!” said Beatris.

Both Beatris and Bryan start digging in. In the middle of the meal, Beatris noticed that Bryan was taking a bite or two out of everything and putting it back on the plate. Beatris immediately thought of all the food Bryan is wasting, but she was hoping Bryan would go back and finish all the food he bit into.

Beatris then finished her plate and said “I’m stuffed.”

Bryan said “Me too” with a plate piled use with half eaten food. Bryan then proceeded to dump his plate in the trash.

“Hey, you just wasted all that food.” said Beatris, astonished over Bryan’s food waste.

“Well I’m not hungry anymore, plus I can just buy more if I’m running out of food.” said Bryan.

Beatris, upset, said “You know that wasted food builds up over time. In a week or even a year, image how much food you are wasting.”

“Beatris, I never even thought of that. Thinking about it, I really should make an effort to waste less food.”

Once Beatris and Bryan finished dinner and they were cleaning up, Beatris asked Bryan “Do you have any pets?”

“Yes I do, they live in the backyard,” responded Bryan, “Do you want to see them?”

Beatris got so excited and immediately said “Yes of course I do!” So they headed to the back door. Right before Bryan opened the door, he turned.

“Beatris I’m warning you now, I have a lot of pets.”

“I can’t wait to see, open the door!” Beatris responded.

Bryan opened the door revealing a huge backyard filled with hundreds of pugs! Beatris’ jaw dropped. She was at a loss of words over the amount of dogs in one area. She saw adult pugs and baby pugs running around all over. Pugs of all different colors too. Beatris even noticed a small house in the back, assuming that’s where the dogs sleep at night.

“Oh my gosh Bryan look at all these pugs! I’m in love!” says Beatris.

“I’ve been collecting them for a while now. When my parents bought me my first dog, I instantly fell in love with pugs and always asked my parents for more pugs every Christmas and every birthday. I’ve also found a lot pugs on the streets and have taken them home and now they all live here.” explained Bryan.

A puppy with black fur came up to Beatris, jumped on her leg, and barked “Hi my name is Sparky!”

Beatris smiled, knelt down, and said “Hello Sparky I’m Beatris. It’s so nice to meet you.”

Bryan jumped when Beatris started talking to the dog. Shocked, Bryan exclaimed, “You can talk to dogs?!”
Beatris laughed and said, “Yes, I can talk to dogs. I can actually talk to all animals.” Beatris then started playing with the dogs, laughing and having conversations with them.

All of a sudden, Beatris and Bryan heard a glass shatter inside the house.” Beatrice said “What was that?” Everyone, even the dogs became silent.

A pug started barking and Bryan and Beatris ran see if the dog is still there. When they went inside they looked everywhere and the pug wasn’t there. The pug got stolen! Bryan went to get his Bugatti and told Beatris to get in and they started to chase a car that looked suspicious. The car left a mask where it parked.

Beatrice asked ”Should we get the dad of the pug to maybe tell us or give us clues to where the baby pug is?” All of a sudden Beatris heard something. She told Bryan, “I think I hear the pug .”

One of the robbers, driving away in their car, said, “There's no chance those kids can catch us! This car can run 125mph!”

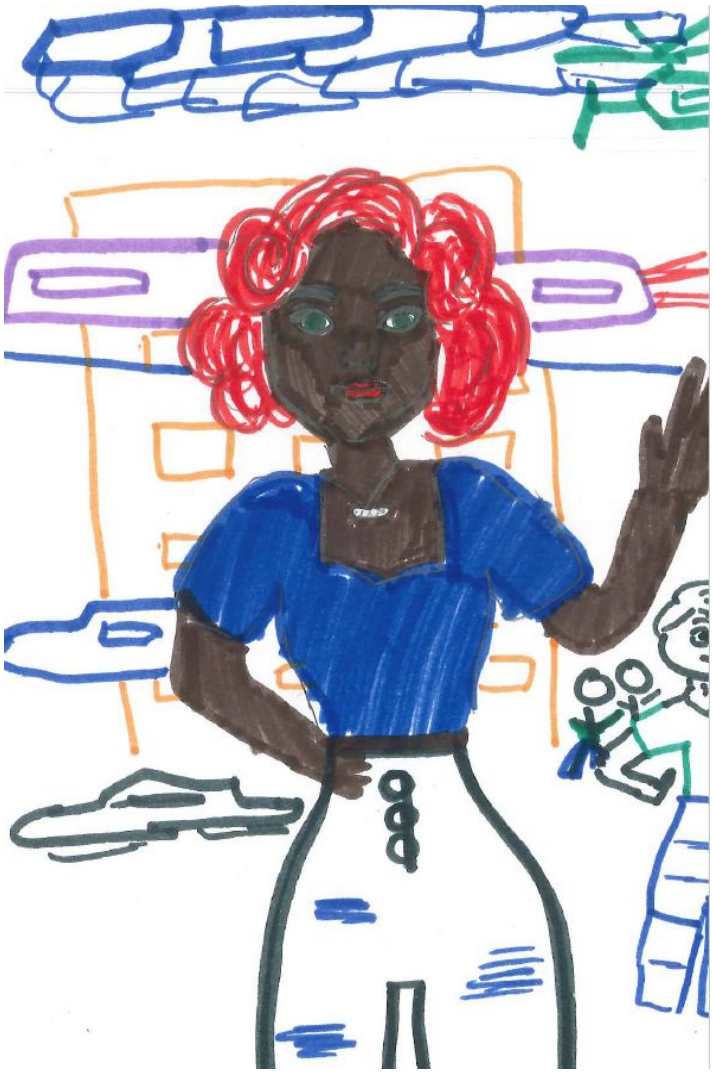
“Yeah boss, they’re never gonna catch us. They’re too slow!” said the other robber, laughing.



Beatris yelled “Bryan!” He didn't hear her. Bryan was sitting straight and quiet for about two minutes.

Bryan heard “Why?” in his ear and heard “Bryan come join us we can help your family we’ll find your dog too.” Bryan finally woke up.

As he woke up he heard Beatris scream “Bryan we’re about to crash!” Then Bryan covered his eyes and then he made a pathway with ice. Bryan landed the car on the pathway.



“Wow!!!” he said. “What was that Beatris??” he asked in amazement, looking down at his hands.

Twenty minutes later Bryan and Beatris finally got home and Bryan kept looking at his hands and then Bryan got out of his car then he said ”Time to finish this once in for all.” Then, Bryan said “but what was that noise I heard in my ear that almost made me die!?”

“Mmmhhh yeah you know I matter too” replied Beatris who was also in the car. “Wait! Oh my gosh my mom is probably worried sick I’m uuuhhh, I'll just tell her I want to have a sleepover with my friend.”

Beatris and Bryan needed to find a way they could use their powers to stop the robbers a day later, and they did! They used their powers for good and got Bryan’s puppy back and lived happily ever after and he told Beatris he liked her the end.

Magic Carpet Ride

The M & Ms: Julia Bewkes, Alex Furukawa, Jesus Hernandez, Victor Juarez, Giovanni Maldonado, Jesus Hernandez, Ava Muniz, and Dean Wilson

It is an average day on the ranch in Austin, Texas. Star and Steve are riding their horses through the meadow, the sun bouncing off of Star's long blonde ponytail. As the horses trot next to each other, Star turns to Steve: "I wish I could make more friends at school."

"Yeah," Steve nods, "Me too. It's just hard to make new friends when everyone already seems to have close friends."

Before Star can respond her horse stops suddenly and neighs loudly. Confused, Star looks down at the ground in front of her to find a large metal box sitting in the middle of the field.

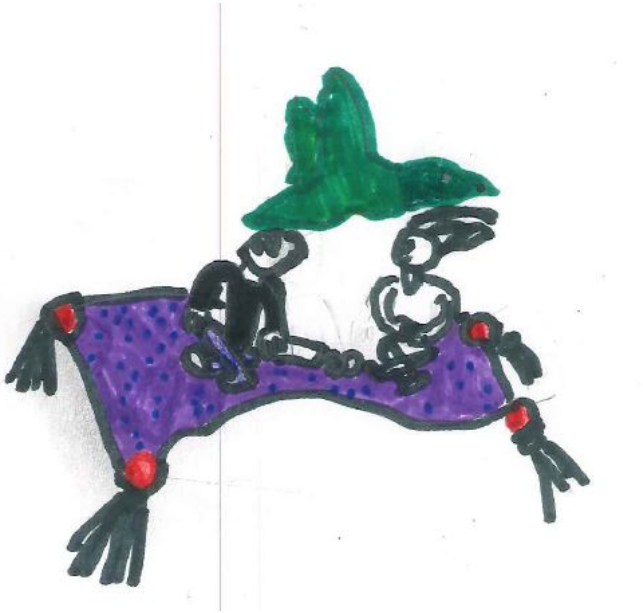
"Steve!" Star calls as she hops off her horse Pinto, "Come look at this."

Star slowly lifts the lid to find a scroll sitting on an old blue carpet. She carefully picks up the scroll and unwinds it to find a message on the yellow paper.

"What does it say?" Steve squats next to Star.

"You have been chosen to explore the world. You will make new friends and learn about the world, but you must ask the right questions," Star reads from the scroll, "you must take this carpet on your journey. It is magical and can transport you to any place in any time period. All you must do is sit on the carpet and close your eyes and both wish to go to the same place. You will find yourself there. You may travel as far as you want because this carpet does not require any fuel that will harm the environment. It has been sent from the future where the people of our planet have finally learned to

conserve the resources on Earth long enough to develop this magical device. Good luck on your journey kids."



They both sit in silence and look at each other.

"Do you think it's real?" Steve finally asks quietly.

"Only one way to find out!" Star exclaims as she excitedly removes the dusty carpet from the metal box.

They follow the instructions and sit on the carpet.

"Where do you want to go?" Star asks.

Let's go to Ancient Rome!" Steve exclaims, "I wanna see the gladiators fight!"

They both close their eyes and wish to go to ancient Rome as hard as they can. Suddenly, the world around them begins to tilt from side to side and they can't control it. They grab each others' hands and hold on tight as the world goes black. With a large thud, they land on the ground again and find they aren't in Austin, Texas anymore. They are sitting in the Colosseum with hundreds of men, women, and children dressed in robes. Peering over the edge of the stage, they see two men with spears fighting in the middle of the ring.

"Oh my gosh it worked!" Steve screams, jumping to his feet.

A man turns his head towards Steve, looking confused.

"Where do you come from?" the man asked.

"The future," Steve says with a smile.

The man merely laughs, “Okay young man, I am Titus. What is your name?”

“I’m Steve,” they shake hands.

“What are you doing here today?” Star asks.

“Well, if I’m being honest with you,” Titus whispers, “I’m actually Jupiter. I am here in disguise to see my long lost son who is competing in the gladiator fights.”

Steve and Star look at each other in confusion before Steve finally asks, “Are you famous?”

Jupiter chuckles, “I am the kind of all Gods, young man. Maybe you are from a different time.”

Before the children have a chance to respond the carpet begins vibrating underneath them. A voice echoes “Choose your next location carefully.”

“I guess we have a time limit!” Star screeches, “Let’s go to the beginning of America!”

They think their hardest of the founding of America as the world again begins to spin beneath them until they land inside an unfamiliar building. As they are rubbing their eyes they see seven men crowded around a table all turn to look at them.

“Uh, hi?” Star waves awkwardly.

“How did you get in here?” One of the men screams.

“Oh, we’re from the future,” Steve says casually and all the men look at each other in shock, “What’re you guys doing?”

“We-uh-we are signing the Declaration of Independence to free ourselves from the tight grip of Britain,” one man explains.

“Oh! That’s a really important document. Wait so what does it do?”

“We are signing for our freedom because we want a democracy where everyone has a say. We hope one day that everyone will have a voice and use it to speak up for what they believe in!”

“Are we just going to let these children stay in here? Get them out of here!” One of the older men exclaims.

“Uh oh!” Star says to Steve, “we have to get out of here. Quick where do you wanna go?”

“Well,” Star starts, “We’ve met so many people from the past who can teach us, I wonder who we will be in the future. Do you think we can learn something from that?”

“I guess we’ll have to see, think future!” Steve yells as the men approach the carpet.

As the world begins to spin, they hold on tight, waiting to see what the future holds. When Steve and Star got off the magic carpet, they told a stranger about what happened. They whispered in his ear: “We have a magic carpet that takes you to the future.”

“Oh!” the stranger said.

When the stranger was done hearing about their adventure, he had an evil idea: to steal the magic carpet for himself. The stranger grabbed one end of the carpet while the children had a hold of the other end. During the struggle, they got sent back to the present day. While the children were confused from the time change, the stranger grabbed the carpet, and quickly vanished away to the future.

Star and Stevie were happy to be together and safe, but soon Star had a realization: she had left her magic necklace in the future! It was her favorite necklace that was given to her by her grandmother when she was young, and she loved it very much. Stevie did not care that much and didn’t get why she wanted the necklace so bad. Eventually, after a lot of whining from

Star, Steve understood how much she wanted it, so they would try to go back; however, they needed the carpet. All of a sudden… POOF!

The magic carpet appeared out of thin air, right in front of them! What the kids did not know was that the carpet had special properties and will always return to its rightful owners, which are Star and Stevie.



Off they went, back to the future. They managed to get the magic necklace back. After getting the special necklace, they realized they wanted to talk to the stranger who tried to steal their carpet, so they teleported to the stranger. When they confronted the stranger, the stranger was actually very nice and they all became good friends. The stranger apologized and that was that.

Star and Stevie learned from old legends and would continue to do so by travelling through time on their magic carpet for the rest of their lives.

The Flaming Sword

Ice King: Julia Bewkes, Alex Furukawa, Evelin Garcia, Mekhi Kent, Sayuri Montiel-Vitela, Dean Wilson, and Benyamin Zakizadeth

On a beautiful spring day, 12-year-old Gabriella Lopez and 10-year-old Jiffy were enjoying the sun and playing in Gabriella's garden. They were very good friends that stuck with each other through thick and thin. They were picking some yummy orange carrots and made sure to finish eating them because they were studying about food waste in school. All of a sudden the ground began to shake.

A loud boom and lightening cracked across the sky. Then, with a poof of smoke, a giant man in white robes with hair and a white scepter appeared.

"Hello Jiffy and Gabriella! My name is Gandalf. I am a wizard and I've traveled through time to find two brave heroes such as you two," said the tall man.

"Well, what would you need us for?" said Jiffy.

"I have been sent on a quest to find the ancient magical sword known as The Sword of Eternal Flame. I need two smart companions to help me on my quest, are you up to the task? The road ahead will be dangerous, and you will have to be cunning. But I wouldn't come to you if I didn't feel that you could do it," said Gandalf.
Gabriella and Jiffy looked at each other for a second. "Okay" they both said.

With that, the old man swung his scepter around his head and the world swirled around them. Black smoke began to surround them and the ground beneath them rumbled. Gabriella and Jiffy watched as the garden turned into a vast jungle.

“Gabriella, Jiffy, welcome to the Amazon Jungle. I brought us here as our first stop for the sword. It is rumored that a big jungle monster guards the ruby that gives the sword power. Be careful and stay alert,” said Gandalf.

They began walking deeper and deeper into the jungle. Bats were flying around like bees in a hive. The bushes were rustling and the sound of rushing water could be heard faintly. Jiffy saw a monkey swing right above his head. Gabriella almost stepped on a snake as it slithered by. Gandalf casually removed spiders that were crawling up his shirt. After a long while of walking, the three adventurers reached the mouth of a cold and dark cave.

“Here we are: The Cave of the Forbidden Ruby. They say an ancient monster protects a ruby in here, so stay close,” said Gandalf.

They entered the cave and Gandalf cast a light spell on top of the cave’s ceiling. The cavern lit up to reveal a frightening sight. In front of the three roared a large jungle monster made of vines and tree branches. It stood up to try to eat the three.

As Gabriella and Jiffy watched the monster rise, they noticed a loose rock hanging from the ceiling. They yelled to Gandalf to cast a spell to cause the rock to fall. Gandalf pointed at the hanging rock, and with a flash of light the rock fell on the monster’s head, knocking him out cold.

The three rejoiced and look for the ruby. On top of a golden shrine lay the most beautiful thing that Gabriella and Jiffy had ever seen: a ruby with the inside crackling like a fire.

“Ah, here is the piece that gives the sword power. Now we must find the sword itself. We will travel to the North Pole, where the ancient people hid the sword to keep it away from other people who might misuse the power of it. C’mon! Let’s Go!” said Gandalf.

Just like before, the ground began to shake, and the sky filled with smoke. The ground of the cave shifted to snow. Just like that, the adventurers were in the North Pole.

“Do you see that big mountain?” asked Gandalf, pointing to a tall snowy peak, “That’s where the sword must be.”

So, the three began walking. Along the way they saw many peculiar things. They stuck their tongues out as snow fell. They made snow angels. A polar bear even appeared Gandalf used magic to understand the polar bear and began to speak with it.

“Hello Gabriella, Jiffy, and Gandalf. I welcome you to my home, but I must warn you of something.” The polar bear began to shiver. “Up on top of that mountain lies an abominable snowman. If you go up there, you better be prepared. Take caution with everything you do, and good luck!”

After the spell wore off, the polar bear ran away. Once again, the adventurers set off to find the sword. They used special climbing gear to get to the top of the mountain. Jiffy almost fell off but Gabriella caught him.

When they reached the top, the monster had been waiting for them. It saw the three and instantly began charging. Gabriella and Jiffy both thought fast and each grabbed an end of their climbing ropes. As the abominable snowman ran, the two pulled the rope tight and tripped the monster off of the cliff. They then high fived each other.

Gandalf ran ahead to look for the sword. He searched and he searched for hours but found no trace of the sword. He searched him only found a note that said: “The sword was moved and it’s up to you to find it”.

Once again, the ground began to shake, the room began to spin, and smoke surrounded them.

Out of the smoke, a million spiders crawled out. Gabriella and jiffy where scared. Gandalf stood there silently, thinking hard.

In front of them, the golden king monster grinned evilly at them. They had no weapon and they were supposed to defeat the golden king monster, plus a million spiders!?!?! They also had no phone because it fell out of their hand when the ground started to shake.

Jiffy whispered, “How are we going to get out of here?”

Right away, Gabrielle started to scream “HELP!!!” at the top of her lungs Jiffy then murmured, “Stay still and don’t scream or they will attack us.” Oops, too late. The king of the cave had noticed them.

“What are you doing screaming in the king of the jungle’s crystal cave??” boomed the golden king monster.

“NO ONE ENTERS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!” said the golden king monster.

All of a sudden, out of nowhere, a squadron of fire breathing dragons as well as a circle of venomous slithering snakes appeared and surround Gabriella, Jiffy, and Gandalf. Then, the ground started to shake and out erupted a giant, monstrous cobra snake.



The snake told the golden king monster “Let them get the flaming ssssword.”

The golden king monster was not having it, and shouted back, “NO, YOU ARE NOT GETTING THE SWORD! There is only one way to get the sword; you have to fight me to the death.”

Chaos unleashed. The dragons lit millions of spiders on fire and the snakes bit the monster's limbs off, poisoning the monster at the same time. The spiders tried to block the fire with their webs but it did not work. Soon, all the bad spiders and the golden king monster were dead.

"MYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY MONSTER DIED! IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU!" shouted the king of the monster. Then, the snakes bit him too and he died quickly. Gandalf went up and grabbed the flaming sword.

The ground shook and smoke went up, and soon Jiggy and Gabriella were back in the real world. Gandalf appeared and came up to them. He whispered into their ears, "Thank you for your hard work. You are heroes."



Can You Dig It? How Farming Affects Soil

Gabriela Bennett, Andrew Cho, and Casey Raymond

What is soil?

Ah, dirt. You probably remember digging holes or playing around with your toys in the dirt when you were younger, but did you know that dirt is another name for soil? Plants grow in it, we build house on it, and worms live in it, but what exactly is soil? Soil is mostly made of minerals that come from rocks in the ground and organic material from plants. Although soil looks rather plain, try picking a handful up and looking at it closely. What do you see? Chances are, there's a lot of little bits and pieces in the soil. You may even see some small insects!

Although it doesn't seem like it, soil is a very precious resource. We need it to grow our food. While many farms take care of their soil, some industrial farms are doing many things that damage the soil.

Effects of monocropping

One threat to healthy soil is farms that use monocropping* on their land. Monocropping is when a farm chooses to grow a single crop, such as corn or soy, or maybe only two crops instead of a large number of crops. Although this is a good way to harvest a lot of one type of crop, it does threaten the health of the soil. With only one type of crop, the roots of the plants can't dig into the soil very well. This means that wind and rain can easily cause erosion**, leading to soil loss. Additionally, using a single crop can take many nutrients from the soil. Plants need to eat too, and they get a lot of their food from the soil. But having a lot of one plant in one place means that they'll eventually use up all the food and nutrients they need, which can be bad for the soil after a while.

Tilling: Tilling*** is when farmers fold their soil upside down to bury the weeds on top. It is usually the first step in planting new seedlings into the soil bed. They use tractors to till the soil which require a lot of gas and can be bad for the environment. The tractors are also heavy and compact the soil. Tilling damages the soil by hurting soil structures below the surface and by killing some of the organic matter in the soil. After tillage, the soil is easily blown away by the wind. When it rains, the surface of the soil can become hard and crack.

Pesticides: Healthy soil is made up of 20% living things! This includes insects such as earthworms, rollie pollies, and many more. Pesticides**** are a type of poison used to get rid of bugs and other pests that might harm plants. For example, the western corn rootworm devours corn as it is growing and is an issue for many corn farmers. While pesticides can prevent these bugs from spreading, the problem is that they can also harm humans who consume traces of pesticides in the crops or in nearby water sources.

While pesticides may be bad for plant and human health, farmers still need to get rid of pesky insects like the corn rootworm. Instead of pesticides, farmers can use crop rotation***** to interrupt the hatching patterns of certain insects. Additionally, allowing beneficial insects like ladybugs and bees can reduce the number of harmful bugs that eat crops.

But do you remember how many kinds of insects live in the soil? Well some of them have a role in helping plants grow too. Bugs that burrow in the ground can dig small channels that let water flow and roots grow. Bugs can also help in the process of decomposing, which makes nutrients that crops can feed on. Pesticides could be dangerous to these helpful bugs too!

Definitions:

Monocropping - Growing a large amount of a single crop
Erosion - The process of wearing away rock and soil
Tilling - Preparation of soil by digging, turning or moving soil in similar ways
Pesticides - Chemicals used to destroy insects that are harmful to plants
Crop rotation - The process of alternating the type of crop grown on a plot of land

Questions:

1) Explain why monocropping can damage soil, using evidence from the text.
2) What is the job of pesticides? How do they harm plants?



Where's the Carrots?

Independent Polar Bears: Emily Bachar, Patrick Guinn, Deborah Martin Pablo, Jimena Medina, Israel Potillo, Angel Reyes, and Vivian Shao

After a long first day of highschool, the only things Jake could think about were the extra cheesy pizza waiting for him at home and his juicy orange carrots grown on his farm.

Jake is a fifteen year old kid who loves plants and has secret superpowers. Jake likes school, but he constantly has to hide his super powers from his friends and classmates. It gets exhausting! He could easily fly his way to first place in the mile, or win hide-and-seek by simply turning invisible but that would arouse suspicion. At least that's what his parents say.

Jake lives on a small farm just a couple blocks away from the school. Everyday his dog, Spot, runs out to meet him at the halfway point of the walk and they finish it together. Today, however, Spot was nowhere in sight.

"Spot!" Jake called when he neared their usual meeting point. With no response Jake continued his walk, a little concerned but hopeful of an obvious solution.

As he approached his farm Jake heard a mixture of growling and barking coming from Spot's dog house on the far side of the farm. He had been locked inside. *My parents never leave Spot inside* Jake thought, since his parents always leave for work after he goes to school. Jake jogged across

the farm to free his furry companion. Spot, once freed, immediately took off towards the carrot patch.

As Jake approached, he noticed a figure standing over his carrots. It was BIG CHUNGUS the mutant, human sized rabbit. Big Chungus was a classmate of Jake's before being expelled from school for eating the other kids lunches.



“CHUNGUS!” yelled Jake over Spot’s barking as Jake flew across the field towards the mutant. Big Chungus turned, surprised by his evening snack being interrupted. He took one step towards Spot and sent a carrot flying at the dog, who upon dodging the carrot ran back towards his house, obviously scared by the interaction. “Hey!” yelled Jake who did not take kindly to people mistreating his dog.

“Why hello Jake, I smelled pizza coming from your house so I helped myself.” licking his lips “Mmhm, that was delicious. How’d you know my favorite pizza is extra cheesy pizza?” smirked Big Chungus as Jake landed a few yards away, kicking up dust and dirt all around him.

“Are you stealing my carrots?” questioned Jake, forgetting about the pizza so he could prepare to defend his produce at all costs.

“No!” exclaimed Big Chungus, obviously upsetted by the question in the first place. “I am just destroying them” explained the mutant, seeming to unaware of the significance the carrots held for Jake. Big Chungus response confused Jake, *why would a rabbit want to destroy carrots* Jake thought as he mentally weighed the situation.

Then Big Chungus starts ripping carrots out of the ground.

“Stop it Chungus” screamed Jake. Big Chungus ignored Jake and continued to stomp and smash the carrots. *If Chungus isn’t going to stop destroying my plants, I’m going to have to take matters into my own hands.*

Jake then turns invisible and teleports behind Chungus who is caught off guard while Jake, with his super strength picks Chungus up and throws him across the carrot patch.

“Haha, you’re going to have to do a lot more than that to stop me!” Chungus exclaims. Chungus then proceeds to gets up, shake all the dirt off of him and continue to smash carrots.

“Don’t you eat carrots?” questioned Jake, trying to clear his head of the anger and confusion.

“No, I exclusively eat fast food! Why do you think they call me Big Chungus?”

“Ohh that makes sense!” Jake said as an idea popped into his head. “Why don’t you try one of these carrots?”

“EW!” bellowed Chungus. “Because I hate them” he explained.

“Well have you ever tried them?” asked Jake, hoping that by trying the carrots he can turn Big Chungus into a little Chungus.

“Well, no” Chungus said, beginning to see where the conversation was going.

“Just try one!” begged Jake, set on the solution to the problem.

Chungus, thinking over the situation took a carrot from the ground and sniffing it. Thinking deeply about Jake’s proposition, he thought about what

to do but Big Chungus threw the carrot down and said “NO...you can’t make me eat the carrot and now I am going to destroy all the carrots in the world!”

Jake looked shocked when Big Chungus said that but he also felt mad so Jake said “I will not let you do that!”

Then Big Chungus started to run away and Jake used his force to pull Big Chungus and Big Chungus got pulled back and once he got pulled into Jake’s yard he started to crush more of Jakes carrots but Big Chungus was too strong and Jake was getting too tired to keep on pulling Big Chungus.

Big Chungus said “Hahaha you can’t stop me with your force you are too small to pull something even bigger than the world's giant man!”

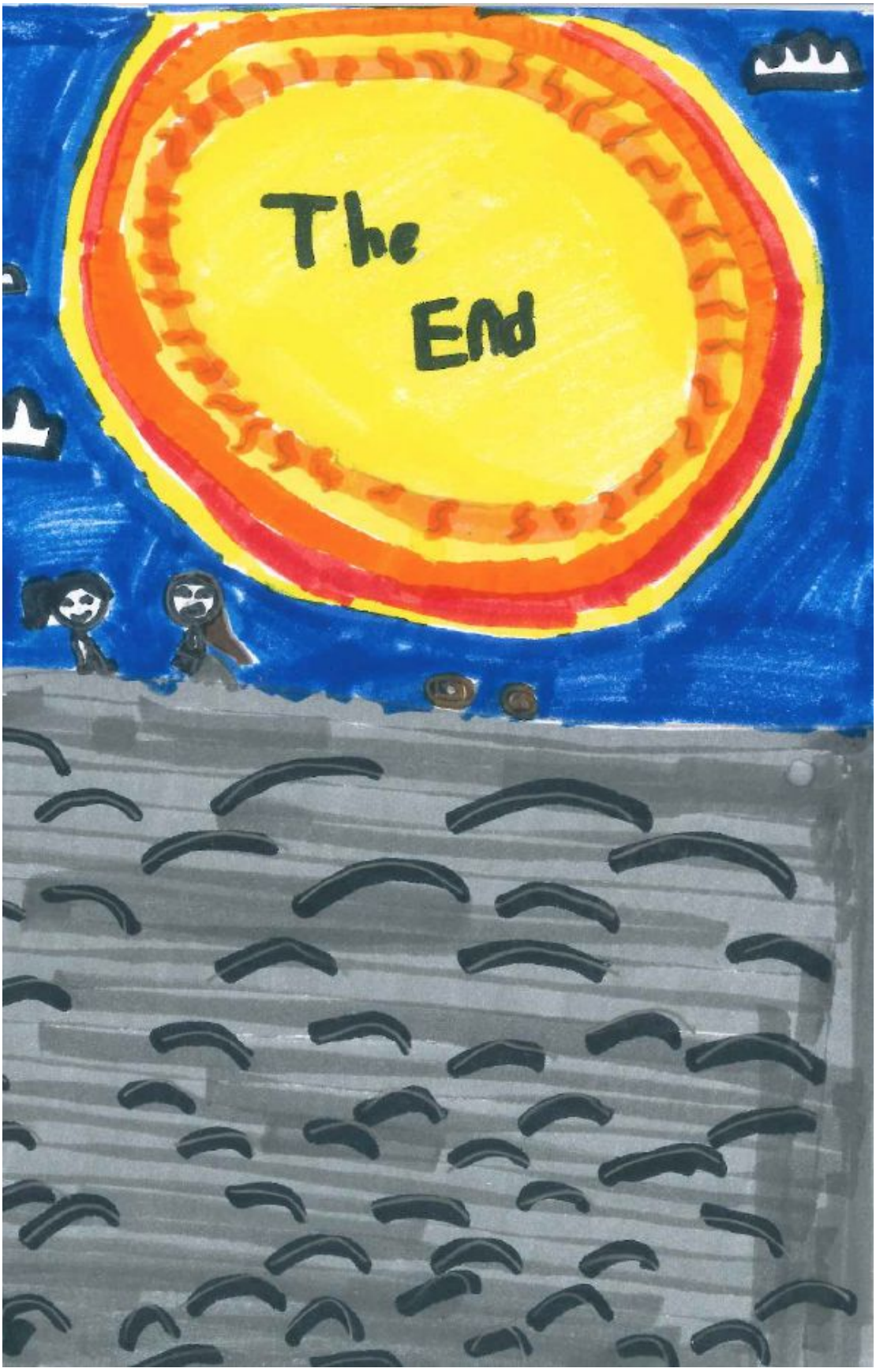
Jake let go of Big Chungus and he ran away. Spot the dog went inside the barn so he could keep safety for the carrots if Big Chungus finds the carrots.

Then Jake used his super speed to collect all the carrots in the world and he put the carrots where Spot was. Then Jake used his flying powers to see where Big Chungus went. Then Jake spotted Big Chungus then they had a big battle.

Big Chungus said “You can’t defeat me!”

“I will defeat you!” Jake replied as Big Chungus launched a big fist and hit Jake in the face.

But then Big Chungus launched another fist but Jake used his super speed to dodge the big launch. When Jake dodged the fist he threw an uppercut and Big Chungus flew up in the air and Jake pulled Big Chungus and slammed him in the rocky ground. Then Big Chungus fainted and ended up in jail and Jake lived a peaceful and calm life with his family and his dog Spot.


The
End