

# dignity:

creative expressions from  
the inspiration project



Spring 2024 Volume 14

### *about:*

The Inspiration Project is a volunteer collaboration between the University of Rochester and CP Rochester, a nonprofit organization that supports individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. During the spring of 2024, students from the University of Rochester met weekly with writers from CP Rochester. Through extensive one-on-one conversations, the UR students and CP Rochester adults have produced the creative works assembled here.

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## *Introduction*

While the air coming in through the doors of Rush Rhees library was usually freezing cold, it was impossible not to feel the incredible warmth (like the dragon's breath and lava found in Russell and Shane's stories, respectively) that each participant of the Inspiration Project radiated as they'd arrive, ready to meet with friends—old and new—and start sharing and writing. As we held the door open, it was impossible not to smile, impossible not to feel welcome, in turn, as we welcomed all the folks from CP Rochester and students from the University of Rochester. There'd be a flurry of hellos, high fives, and hugs, then, everyone would set to work. Even though we met—from February to April—at seven o'clock (and, here, we're being as precise about the time as Sean is in his story, "Two Boys' Lives"), after long days of work or school, everyone, even as they shared some of their days' frustrations, had so much energy. Maybe we were all moved by the persistent, staccato rhythm of typing. Or by the laughter that would punctuate and soar over our conversations—enveloping the room, and everyone in it, in a kind of spell. Yes, with a magic not unlike that which Sam describes in "Mystery Stitch," we were motivated to continue in our collaborations. Whispers, exclamations, nods, the waving or the clapping of hands, carried so much meaning, so much care. Each of these actions, each one of our meetings, presented us with the possibility to connect. And, every Thursday night for the past 10 weeks, we have connected, and looked forward to the next Thursday for another chance to connect once again. We hope this anthology can be a testament to not only the connections made through the Inspiration Project this year but to the countless connections that sustain each and every one of us in our everyday lives. Think of "Sophia" from Chris's "She's the Boss of the House" and Nikki from Jeff's "Nikki the Bus Driver" and all the care they give to and receive from others. Writing, too, after all, is an act of care—for ourselves, each other, and the world. Writing—the sharing of our expressions with others—is what we do in the Inspiration Project. The Inspiration Project itself is only made possible by so many different forms of care, delivered and experienced by many different people. This anthology and all the pieces that comprise it are expressions of that care. We write about what we care about. We write because we care. We hope that you, our readers, will feel the warmth and music these pages contain and recognize this feeling for what it, in part, is: an emanation of connection that will remain for as long as these pages are bound together, and beyond that even.

And one more thing: Latrice, let's have that gala!

– *Claire & Zoë*

# She's the Boss of the House



By Chris Thorton  
In collaboration with Nora Rooney

Sophia is the boss of my house. She comes in at 9:00 in the morning. She has a lot of jobs! She gets my headphones from the basement when I want them. She goes shopping for stuff in the house. Down in the basement, she puts the groceries away. Sometimes, she picks up sub sandwiches for us from Wegmans. She takes the garbage out and recycling. She does all the chores of the house: dishes, laundry, and sweeping the floor. She cleans her office. She vacuums the hallways. She cleans people's rooms, their drawers, and their closets. She folds people's clothes and folds towels. Sometimes, when the couch gets crooked, she pushes it back. She cleans the bathroom when we're at

programs. She shovels snow off the driveway, the walkway in the back, and the deck in the back. She cleans the fireplace. Sometimes, she cleans out the fridge, the stove, and the countertops, too. The oven got broken, so we got a new one. With the new oven, Sophia cleans it out. She cleans down the tables. She even cleans my underwear drawer! Sophia waters the flowers. Sometimes, I spray her with the hose! I spray her in the hair. Sometimes, when people come out of the shower, she mops the floor in the bathroom. She mops the floor in the living room, too. Sometimes, when we have programs, she goes to her office and does her paperwork. She cleans out the garage and the basement. When

the mailman comes to put mail in the mailbox, Sophia takes it out and puts it in her office.

Sophia is very helpful. Sometimes, when we have programs, Sophia does interviews in our house. I can't say what she says because it's a secret. When new people come, she interviews and gives them a tour of the house. In her office, she makes copies of papers. She has her staff meetings in the house. She gives out my medicine, too. In the morning time, she gets people ready for programs. Before I get up, she helps people in wheelchairs in the shower. She helps out when people misbehave. Sometimes, she helps people out when they can't find stuff. When people get sick, she calls people in the program and tells them that they're not coming in. Sometimes, she goes to the bank and gets money for us. When people go to bed, she closes up the house. She puts the chairs on the table and locks the doors. She gives the key to the staff to open the doors. When I got a cut on my forehead, she put cream on it. Sometimes, when we order food, she brings it back to the house. One time, when I was at my own program, she came to give me eye drops. Pat moves stuff sometimes, and Sophia helps him move it. Sometimes, when people want things from their rooms, she helps out.

Sophia tells jokes to make people laugh. They're very funny! Sometimes, when I make jokes about her, I say that she has a bird nose! She gets a kick out of that. Then she says stuff about me. Sometimes, I call Sophia "sugar momma," and she laughs. Sometimes, me and people in the house call her "old grandma" and "old granny." Sometimes she calls Pat old too! She calls him "old goat" and "Daffy Duck." When we joke, we call her "Wonder Woman." Sometimes, when people say stuff to Sophia, she says, "Watch yourself!" I told

her to behave. Sometimes, when other people tell jokes to her, she says she's got her eyes on us. Sometimes, I give her bunny ears and moose ears. I say, "Granny, you're an old woman!" That makes her laugh. She always says, "Watch yourself, mister!" Sometimes I call her "old goat" and "old bacon." She laughs at that, too. I call her "Dolly Parton," and I get away with that one.

Sophia says sometimes, when people are talking, you have to wait and let other people talk first. She tells us not to get angry with other people. She tells us to have water first at dinner before tea. A couple months ago, we did paper mache, and we put the paper on top of her head, her nose, and her ears. I did that to Kristi once, too.

Sometimes, when we have programs, she goes outside and washes the van. She cleans the van out with the vacuum, too. Sometimes, she goes out to get gas for the van. After that, she can take people for rides. She takes me to Starbucks and Subway. When I go to Subway or Starbucks, Sophia gives me \$10. At Subway, I get a meatball sub, soda, and 2 cookies. At Starbucks, I get double chocolate crumble coffee (with whipped cream on top) and a bagel.

She takes people to the movies, to get ice cream, to the beach, and to the park behind the library. At the movies, we see *Home Alone*, *The Spice Girls*, and *The Golden Girls*. We like to go get sundaes. She takes me shopping sometimes, too, at Walmart. We get stuff like batteries and DVDs. I have a new DVD player. We can watch movies at home. The last movie we saw was *Big Momma's House*. She takes all of us to the ball game sometimes. She drinks Mountain Dew at the game, and I get pizza.

She also takes people to appointments. A long time ago, when Sophia took me to my appointment, there was snow on the ground, and I threw snowballs at her. It went onto her head. We get coffee after for everybody in the house. Sometimes, she takes people to the zoo. At the zoo, we saw monkeys and giraffes. Sophia heard the monkey making monkey noises, and she made monkey noises back! Sometimes, in the house, she makes hamster noises. She took us to Seabreeze and the waterpark too. We do the waterslides. Sophia likes the waterslides and the Jack Rabbit ride. One time she took me and Pat to the casino. We made money! Pat had a penny stuck to his nose, and it came out of his ear.

Sometimes, she gives us money to get pizza from Salvatore's for everybody in the house. Some get cheese, some pepperoni, and some sausage. Sometimes, we get McDonald's, too. I get two cheeseburgers, fries, and a chocolate milkshake. Sophia likes two cheeseburgers, a small fry, a drink, and a chocolate milkshake.

Today, I had a sandwich. I like ham and cheese. Sometimes, I take 3 slices of cheese from the bag and put it in my shorts pocket. Then I bring it to my room and hide it. Sophia and all the staff don't know about it. I hide it in the drawer next to where my computer is so they don't find it. Sometimes, I go out to get water and get cheese to hide for the next night. I have bread and drinks in my room too— tea, water, coffee, and milk. They don't know about the drinks either. Tonight, I might hide taco shells! I'm not sure yet.

When people go to bed, Sophia does the hokey pokey dance, the turkey dance, and the dinosaur dance. She does the horse dance in the living room. Sometimes, she does the doggy dance, the moose dance, the duck dance, the monkey dance, and

the cow dance. Sometimes, she does the hipposaurus dance and a frog dance and goes "ribbit ribbit." Sometimes, she does the ballerina around the house. She does the Potato head dance and the hot potato dance. Her and Pat do the chicken dance and ring around the weasel. They do Duck, Duck, Goose, too, and play hide and seek. They do the Rudolph dance, the pig dance, and the sheep dance, too. It makes me laugh.

Sometimes, me and Kristi do arm wrestling— she cheats! We also play Pin the Tail on the Donkey. She does the hokey pokey dance too.

On Wednesdays, Sophia stays home and works from home. She works on her laptop at her house. Every Wednesday, when she's not in the house, she'll text people on the phone. She comes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Sophia gets paid every Friday. She does not come in on the weekends. Sometimes, she goes on road trips with her family. She goes to Florida, Syracuse, Buffalo, and Canandaigua Falls with her family. Sophia is a Nana. Sophia has a son, a daughter, grandkids, a husband, and a cat. Her cat's name is "Mr. Puss Puss."

Her birthday is coming up on July 11th. She's gonna be 800! If she heard that, she'd get a kick out of it. Sometimes, on her birthday, we play Pin the Tail on the Donkey. On her birthday, I might get her Mountain Dew. She takes her birthday off and goes on vacation. She goes camping with her family or to the beach. Sometimes, on people's birthdays, she gives out birthday cake. On Pat's birthday she might go and get him a cake too.

She makes breakfast for us, too. She makes the best egg sandwiches and French toast. I like her toast the best. She

makes me coffee and tea for breakfast, too. She cooks us burgers and fries for lunch. When we have homework, she cooks dinner. For dinner, we have spaghetti, meatballs, and sauce. She makes garlic bread, too! Sometimes, she cooks chicken and chicken parmesan. She makes macaroni and cheese, too. When we have snacks, people have pudding cups or veggie chips. I have pudding cups. Today, she got me breakfast pizza for tomorrow's lunch.

Sometimes, Sophia cooks food for the holidays and family parties. On Halloween, she cooks pudding with chocolate chips on it. My costume was Captain Underpants. One time on Halloween, she put on a Mr. Potato Head costume. On Christmas, she cooks chicken, pasta, fruit, rolls, mac and cheese, and salad. We put up the tree and decorate it. She puts up Pat's Santa face on it— he has a beard, hat, and a mustache! We decorate the front of the house outside with the wreath and lights, and put candles on the window. We put the stockings up too. Sometimes, on Christmas, we put Sophia on top of the tree with the mistletoe. On the Fourth of July, she cooks out on the grill. She cooks burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, and macaroni salad. For dessert, she makes cookies and brownies. For St. Patrick's Day, we might have corned beef and cabbage. Sophia cooks that, too. For Easter, she makes ham, mac and cheese, rolls, and fruit. On Mother's Day, she has breakfast in bed at her family's house. On Father's Day, she cooks steak, mushrooms, potatoes, gravy, and stuffing. On Thanksgiving in November, she makes turkey, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and rolls. For dessert, she cooks pumpkin and apple pie. On Valentine's Day, she's with her family. She also stays home to watch the

Super Bowl. On New Year's Eve, we watch the ball drop. On April Fools Day, we put a lot of balloons in Sophia's office. She came upstairs and said, "Who did this!?"

Sometimes, when we cook food in the oven, the smoke alarm goes off. Then the fire truck comes. One time, we were doing fire drills. The fire drill happened when me and Ben were sleeping. Sophia pulls the fire alarm for practice, and then we go outside and stand by the pole. When everything's fine, we go back in. Sometimes, we have thunderstorms, and the power goes out. Sophia tells staff to turn the power back on with the generator.

Sophia does the house meeting with us. She tells us about cleaning our rooms, cooking, safety, when people misbehave, and outings. Sometimes, the people in the house misbehave, but I don't. She wants to make sure stuff in our rooms is fixed, too.

I put the *Home Alone* movie on the TV in the living room behind her back. She says, "turn it off!" She says people don't want to watch that. Sometimes, when I sit on the couch next to her, I pass gas. She says, "Ew!" and calls me Mister Stinky. Sometimes, when I do my laundry, I put the clothes that I'm wearing in the washer behind her back. After people dry their clothes, I take them out and fold them.

Sophia sings me a lullaby at night and reads me a bedtime story. When we're in bed, Sophia watches MTV. Her favorite show is *Law and Order*. Sometimes, when she's taking a nap, she snores! We call Pat "Love Muffin."

Emma is Sophia



# Latrice and the Moodring



By Latrice Person  
In collaboration with Debarati Choudhury

*Latrice has been working as an advocate for nearly two decades. She has an advocacy group and she talks about political issues around health. She speaks about people with disabilities and how she has persevered despite her cerebral palsy. She wants people to know about cerebral palsy and insisted we give a medical definition of Cerebral Palsy before we move on to her experience of it. This is a definition: "Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture. CP is the most common motor disability in childhood. Cerebral means having to do with the brain. Palsy means weakness or problems with*

*using the muscles. CP is caused by abnormal brain development or damage to the developing brain that affects a person's ability to control his or her muscles". But that is just a very clinical definition, and living with the condition is very different for every day with the condition.*

*Latrice wants people to know that people with disabilities are not stupid, but they learn in their own ways. This is her story about her experiences growing up with cerebral palsy. Yesterday, she went to a high school to talk about CP, and many people listened. I listened, too, and here is an account of all that she said. I have only*

*changed direct speech to an indirect one—all the metaphors and images are hers.*

After school, Latrice went to CDS-Monarch, and at CDS, she found it cool there because that was the first time she could use a walker. She always had learning disabilities and had problems with her left eye. The first time she used the walker, she felt like a bird and felt she could fly. She loves swimming, too, because it gives her a sense of freedom and relaxes her muscles, which are usually very tight and uncomfortable (due to CP). She always felt she could do anything if she put her mind to it, and with that thought, she started the Inspiration Project with a friend who is much older than her. Her friend is a professor of literature, and she has been Latrice's inspiration. Latrice loves stories and finds them very helpful in coping with life's difficulties. She wants people to read and write stories because access to stories isn't a luxury that everyone has. And yet, everyone likes a good story.

Right now, the most important thing she does is the Inspiration Project. What made her start the project initially was the fact that she needed help with reading and writing growing up since she had learning disabilities. But she really liked writing and reading stories and realized how important it was for other people with disabilities to have similar kinds of help. She thought she could help others who wanted to tell their stories, and indeed, she helped, and the Inspiration Project took off. She wants to host people at Applebees sometime and be a public speaker. She takes advocacy very seriously. She likes to help people because

people help her—when her eyesight started getting bad and she wasn't feeling herself, many people who she knew made her realize that even without her eyesight, she was still the same person. You never know who can help you when and with what.

She focuses on hard work and dedication, and she wants everyone to be a tough cookie. She has single-handedly launched and coordinated and continued programs that would allow people with disabilities to express themselves, one of them being the Inspiration Project. What starts as a small idea mushrooms into a big one and has so many people under its shed. She sees her program as a garden growing and blooming.

Latrice is very outgoing, but sometimes at restaurants, when the staff don't ask her about what she wants to eat but ask her parents, she gets very angry. She feels slighted and discriminated against for no good reason. A speech problem, or a motor problem, or a vision problem doesn't make a person incapable of deciding on their own meals!

When she was little, sometimes people would ask her mom: "Can she talk or communicate or is she verbal?" Or more ridiculous: "Can she eat?" Her mom was very vocal, and her mom insisted on other people asking Latrice about her preferences and what she wanted. People often see the physical part of her disability and make assumptions—but the moment she starts talking, people are stunned by how articulate she is. And that makes her feel like she has managed to teach them a

lesson about how not to assume things about people. Their surprise also makes her laugh at times because their expressions are really funny with their dropped jaws!

What people don't understand is the need to understand her viewpoint or the basic facts about help. Everybody needs help—there is no one who needs no help. It's only a matter of degree that she wants to drive home. There is always a way to get around our weaknesses. But she feels discriminated against when people don't understand that she is just trying to make her life better, just like anybody else. She gets angry, too, and frustrated, too, but she wants people to know that she brings value to the world, too, in her own ways, just by demonstrating some amazing coping skills! She teaches people new ways of living.

When she was little, she used to think of changing the world. Her goal since then has been to help people. She believed in little goals, all aggregating, to make for a big goal. And even if she can't achieve the big goal, it is not a problem because she has all those little goals established for her. All those small goals add up in themselves; all those tiny specks make for a big picture, if not a goal, and that makes her content, too.

She moved to a bigger house with more people about seven months ago, and that has been a learning experience for her. She used to live with only one person, before, but now, as a program-runner, she has to live with many other people. She likes being around people, usually a certain group of people. But if there are too many people, she sometimes feels overwhelmed, and she

has to use her coping skills to get through her day. When she goes back from her large class to her house, she is sometimes overwhelmed because the house can get busy. She likes the weekdays because they are busier. In moving from a small house to a bigger house, she has learned a lot as a person.

Adjusting to her new house was a problem initially. There are times when she has to go to bed and get up, and even these things seem difficult sometimes. There are over twelve people, and it's hard to get any kind of attention or attention at the right time. But she writes, and that makes her feel better. But, as someone who takes advocacy very seriously, she knows how important it is for her to be able to understand the needs of many others. She gets homesick sometimes, and though she is not very close to her mother anymore, and her sister is busy most of the time, she still misses her home. Her dad is ill, and last time, on her birthday, he could not read the menu, though he has always loved reading. That made her sad. Her dad always wanted to be independent. Despite these sad moments, she still goes about her daily tasks, and the adjustments she has had to make in her new house help her mind from wandering to other things.

She gets sad sometimes, though she does not like brooding on her sadness. She is losing her vision, and that makes her sad. She was watching *Good Morning, America*, where she sees a football player from the Eagles, and he has a daughter called Isabella who has a brain tumor. She is only

nineteen. But her twin sister told her that didn't mean she could give up.

Latrice too, while she is gradually losing her sight, has to keep going because she believes it can only make her stronger. She wants to make her parents happy. Now she listens to things: songs, books, poems. She listens to Amanda Gorman who cannot speak that well, but wrote for the President of the US despite that. Latrice, too, has made a program after all—a program that has the ability to change how people see things. She wants to make the world a little better. She was running the program even during COVID-19.

Her best friend (not her professor-friend), who helped her start the program, passed away from leukemia. She was a writer. She could write about gargoyles and had a big imagination. Even though she is not here anymore, Latrice lets other people know about her. They did a hell of a lot of things together, and Latrice talks about her because she wants to make her friend live on. Tory, her best friend, knew she wouldn't live long, but she still helped Latrice start the program, and that motivates Latrice now. Latrice thinks what Tory did was beautiful. She would not brood on a frustrating thing, and Latrice is following her suit. She writes, or she talks, or she takes medicines, or she just lets her frustration out on her pillow. She just never lets anything hold her back. Latrice also thinks that without her, the world would be a very boring place because there would be less variety, in whatever way.

Latrice is, of course, not an automaton, and she, too, gets frustrated at times. Just this morning, she had a meltdown because everyone forgot about her appointment, and she, too, forgot about her appointment at the school, and she had to hurry through her morning routine. Life can take you on a whirlwind.

Latrice thinks of her nieces and nephews when she gets sad or disappointed—they help her go on because they make her happy. She can sometimes enlarge her stature with her walker and pretend to have a rather unique shape that her nephews and nieces like. And she likes to see them laugh. Her nieces and nephews make her laugh, and they also challenge her. They tell funny stories and jokes, and they go out with her. When she is in her wheelchair and they are in a park, she chases them around, and they have to ask her to stop because they run and get tired, but she can keep wheeling her wheelchair without tiring.

Her cousin Brandon wants to be a rapper, and Latrice encourages him. He also wants to be a fashion designer and she encourages him in that too. Just like her family encourages her. Latrice is closest to her cousin Carlos within her family. He encourages her to be the best person she could be. Carlos's dad passed away, and he was very close to his dad. He became a nurse because of that, and he has a son. They talk about food, music, and all sorts of things. Even though he is younger than her, he is still her role model. Her sister is an inspiration, too, for Latrice.

She likes watching the real version of *Beauty and the Beast* (the one with Emma Watson in it)-- that's her favorite movie. Her best friend's favorite movie was *Beauty and the Beast*, too, and when Tory passed away, it became Latrice's favorite movie. She listens to gospels and hip-hop (Biggie, Jay-Z). Her favorite restaurant is Applebees, and she likes their quesadilla burgers. Her favorite snack is pretzels. She loves ice cream, too. She likes *The Other Sister*, *I Am Saying*, *A Walk to Remember*. Very much like the rest of us. But she also makes several other lives better while enjoying her ice cream.

She loves to watch football, and The Cowboys are her favorite team. She likes doing math--adding and subtracting. She also likes cooking--if she has help, she makes cookies. She likes putting her dishes in the sink at home, picking her clothes up, working with her tablet--all these little activities give her pleasure. She likes going outside. She likes summer. She goes outside and sits in the sun. She loves pricking the bubbles when someone blows them. When she goes over to the water, just looking at it makes her feel at peace. She likes speeding her chair real fast, and she really likes walking for a long stretch with her walker when someone helps her stand up. She can remain standing for an hour, and she likes it. She calls a mini-exercise-place her ballet bar, though it is a grab bar. She likes to roll over on the floor sometimes--that's how she gets her exercises. She likes exercises that help her move her body and that helps her feel a range of emotions. She also likes celebrating Mother's Day.

She wants people to know her. Because her eyesight is getting bad, it is hard for her to look at a picture. Sometimes, watching TV is hard, but she still watches it. The TV is a bit blurry, but she can see the tablet better. Now that her vision is poorer, she sees things like they were underwater with the eyedrops she has to use. If you take a piece of paper and scribble a picture, that scribble is how she sees the world now, sometimes. It is like the darkness that comes with the sun.

She understands independence, not just in terms of mobility. She goes to abacus groups, and she likes to help around the house. She can speak up for herself and say what she thinks. The ability to think in a different way makes her independent, too. She is good at turning her thoughts to something positive, even when she is down. She believes it is partly by her will. Sometimes, it is like going through a tunnel, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. She thinks she is like a flower in a way--even though she does not have much mobility, she can still make people happy. When she writes, she expresses herself through words, and that helps her. Words help her, and her independence comes from her ability to use words and images in certain ways--only that someone has to do the writing for her while she speaks.

Working and writing help her be patient. She was always a bit of a troublemaker, Latrice said, chuckling. But now she is very patient with other people who she lives with. Once, when she lived with fewer people, she would brood and would want to have things her own way. But now that

she lives with a lot of people, she has learned more about what it means to live as and in a community, and share. She gets to go out less now because she likes to go out with everyone in her house, and not everyone is always ready to go out. But going out with all has its own pleasures.

She is part of an abacus group called "Handicapables," and she thinks she is a leader, just like someone at her group said that they were all leaders. Life is sometimes messy, but she knows she should be prepared for when the sun comes out and be happy for that time. It is okay to be sad sometimes because people have feelings and desires. All the people around her make her patient, and though they test her patience sometimes, she still has more patience because of them. She thinks growing up makes people patient. She also takes care of her health—she drinks a lot of water. She listens to Christian rock. But when she is frustrated, she likes to color the most. Coloring helps her a lot with her frustration. She thinks one can learn a lot from kids. She has a nephew, and he fascinates her. Children are like sponges and soak up everything. Her little nephew Kaden is also without filters (somewhat like her) like many other children, and she likes his cheekiness. It is good to learn from others.

She has been working on the Inspiration Project, where she makes it possible for people with disabilities to write their stories, and the program has been going on for fourteen years. The program makes her really happy. She wants to have a gala so bad because she thinks it's almost

imperative to celebrate something that has been going on for so long but so quietly. She likes music, and sure, she likes some sound and noise around when she is on a journey like this—it's been too quiet for a while.

She learned from her dad to always speak her mind. She learned from her mom to be polite, but also how she could keep herself from harm. She learned from her professor to live her life to the fullest. She tries to be happy. She hopes people will enjoy her story. She wants people to read her stories. Though she is very agile with her wheelchair, the inability to go to a place where she badly wants to go because she depends on someone else for going to places frustrates her at times. Despite everything she has achieved, going out of the house all by herself is still difficult. Sometimes, the little things (or what seem little) prove to be more difficult after all! However, she doesn't mind that too much.

The people she works with encourage her to go out--she does things for her parents and other people, not just for herself. But she likes solitary excursions sometimes. She believes the effort she has to put into doing certain simple things, like picking up clothes or standing for an hour with her walker, allows her to see these simple things as both adventurous and satisfying.

She sees the world like an idea of a painting taking shape. You have all different colors and shades, and you make a picture that you hang on your memory wall. And seeing some of those pictures can make you happy. Life is like a mood ring, she said

after some thought. It changes colors but has a lot to do with the wearer of the ring. Life can be given a certain color if one tries, Latrice thinks. When she is faced with difficulties, she has a choice to respond in a certain way and give her ring a certain color. She wants to turn her words into paintings because she likes to draw. She imagines the color because she can feel the colors. She might no longer be able to see colors as well as she did before, but she can imagine them, and imagination takes her many places. It is always satisfying to learn something new and grow as a person. She thought maybe not being able to see so good would make her isolated. But most people don't care if she can see—people still like her. Her low vision, though, is now part of her, and she now has a hard time imagining how she would be with great vision.

Though mobility has been more of a logistical issue lately, she still doesn't despair. Her moving house has disrupted her project in that all the adjustments have made her a little forgetful and unorganized, but she still tries to go on for others' sake because so many other people are involved in the project. Sometimes, meeting so many people is overwhelming, but it is still worth it to work with and for other people. She has been through obstacles, and that is why she wants to show other people that keeping progressing through obstacles will make them better. Writing itself is very therapeutic for her because it allows her to be independent—she wants others to see the therapeutic power of writing, too. She wants others to go on like trains on tracks.

She ended this way, and I will quote her verbatim, "Suffering can change you as a person—money, make-up and all such things don't matter as much. Every time you talk to someone you are perhaps inspiring them or helping them in some way. It usually comes off as fine at the end of the day."

# Adventure!



By Shane Murray  
In collaboration with Brennan Price

A submarine goes deep into the ocean. Piloted by Sea Captain Niles, the submarine, with 20 crewmembers, goes down so deep that you can hardly see anything; it's completely pitch black.

The submarine encounters a giant squid hiding within a hole formed by two huge, crushed boulders. The hole has just a little room in there, but not much. The squid, who thinks the submarine is food, comes out of hiding to get ahold of it by hooking onto it with its tentacles. The submarine can't pull from the grip of the squid!

One of the crew members, Drake, was almost 80 years old and had worked with the crew since he was 30. He left the submarine, equipped with a harpoon and an ax, ready to attack the squid. The

crewmember opened the door to the submarine, and he went outside to fight.

As brave as he was, he had a really bad aim. So, when he aimed for the squid's eye, he missed and hit the squid in the forehead. The squid roared and got mad at the man who shot him. The squid got a hold of him and slowly brought him to its beak. Its arm was wrapped around the man really, really tight, so he couldn't breathe. The man thought he wasn't going to be able to make it. He almost died.

Four more crew members came out of the submarine to help the man. Their names were Paddy, Wendy, Theo, and Cassandra, and they were skilled fighters who had been hired for this occasion.



Drake, who was losing blood from the tentacles that had hooked onto him, was about to pass out. The squid was ready to eat him. It bit the old man's head! The squid ate the man whole and growled extremely loudly. He was hungry because he had no food; there were no more little crabs for him to eat.

However, the crewmembers all got mad when they saw that their crewmate got eaten by the giant squid.

They yelled at the squid, "What do you think you're doing? You're eating my friend!" One of the crew members from inside the submarine fired two missiles at him. The missiles were filled with a super hot fire, which immediately killed the squid.

Then, a new squid came from a billion miles deep—the deepest part of the ocean. This squid was much larger because he was a Kraken! He had more than a million arms and four long tentacles that were 139 feet long. He was almost as big as two ships! He had suction cups, called suckers, with sharp needles inside that were the size of a football, and, if he stuck on to you, with one slam he would snap you in half. Inside his mouth, he had hundreds of thousands of humongous teeth like razors. If they got ahold of you, it would tear you up. And when he roared, he shot out disgusting mucus from his mouth. Not only was he the most powerful, but he was also the scariest in the ocean.

He slammed the submarine really hard through the middle, and it snapped in half. The man who shot the missile and the rest of the crew members inside died.

Paddy, Wendy, Theo, and Cassandra knew this new squid was mad. He reached out with its long tentacles and grabbed them. He got a hold of all four crew members and threw them far away.

After being thrown by the giant squid, the four surviving crew members landed on an island. This island was covered in palm trees and surrounded by water. Within the land, there were two volcanoes. One was super small, while the other was extremely huge. The lava inside both volcanoes was so hot that it could melt you! The crew members wanted to find a way off the island.

Theo said, "I have an idea!" So he told his friends that his idea was to launch themselves from the biggest volcano on the island to get the attention of a pirate ship. He knew the Kraken swam quickly, so he wanted to escape the island before it came after them.

They started making their way to the volcano and climbed up it. The four crew members climbed to the top even though it was super hot. On the side of the volcano, they found a thin strip of rock that was tilted into the lava, which would help them inside. They started to walk very carefully to the end of the rock, but Paddy made it break because he had eaten a lot during their trip.

The four men slipped into the lava! As they dropped inside, the volcano started to erupt from the pressure. The lava, along with the crew members, shot out of it. Their butts were on fire, and their bodies were covered in lava.

They screamed, "OWWWW! My whole body is on fire!" They started looking for a pirate ship and saw one on its way to the island. The pirate ship caught sight of the crew coming out of the volcano and was surprised to see people flying through the air on fire.

These pirates were led by the scary, half-human, and half-squid pirate captain, Davey Jones. The crew flew until they

finally landed on the pirate ship. The pirates were mad and disappointed because they had never seen anyone shoot out of the volcano before. However, the crew was still on fire when they landed on the ship! One of the pirates grabbed a bucket full of water to stop the people from burning, but it didn't work, so they jumped into the ocean. The water put the fire and lava out, and they were safe. However, the pirates grabbed them and put them back on the ship.

Meanwhile, the dangerous Kraken was nearby and heard the annoying crewmembers trying to get on the pirate ship. The Kraken started to swim over super fast to the ship because he was mad that they had awoken him from his sleep.

Davey Jones told the crewmembers, "Wait here. I have sensed the Kraken has been awakened, and we have to fight him." He yelled at his pirate crew to quickly get ready to fight the Kraken. If they were not careful, they might be eaten.

The Kraken was angry and ready for another delicious meal. He swam over to

the pirate ship and got ahold of it, pulling it to himself.

The pirate crew yelled at the Kraken, "Stop! Do not eat the ship!" But the Kraken did not listen. He started creating a whirlpool in the water, using its tentacles to stir it. Thunder and lightning were heard in the sky, and a storm formed. The rain was super hard and almost felt like hail.

The pirate crew shot cannonballs at the Kraken while Davey Jones pulled out a longsword. He ran towards the Kraken. And with one fell swoop, he cut one of its tentacles off. The Kraken got angrier and roared at them. He spit out mucus that landed all over the ship.

With all of his tentacles and arms, the Kraken got a hold of everybody on the ship. What he didn't know was that the crew members from the submarine were still onboard. They realized they needed to help because it was the right thing to do, and started looking for weapons. They felt happy when they found pirate swords they knew could kill the Kraken.

The Kraken held on to the pirate crew extremely tight, wrapping his tentacles around them and tightening his grip. The crew members jumped on Kraken's head, and they tried to stab him, but it was too hard. The Kraken's head was made of an extremely thick skin that swords, as sharp as they were, couldn't break through.

They had a new plan: to stab the Kraken in both eyes. The Kraken started using the pirates in his tentacles to push the crewmembers off the top of his head. The crew members gathered their strength and stabbed the Kraken in the eyes! He roared at the crewmembers who stabbed him, and he got so mad that he started trying to bite them.

The Kraken's teeth started to spin around, and he began to eat the pirate crew. Paddy, Wendy, Theo, and Cassandra were scared they would be eaten, so they jumped into the water and got back into the boat. They swam as fast as they could in the water and started climbing a ladder so they could shoot cannonballs at the Kraken. Once they got on the boat, the Kraken raised its tentacle high up so he could break the ship in two.

The crewmembers split up because two people had to work together to load the cannon. One person put gunpowder into the cannon while the other loaded it with cannonballs. They got into position, lit the cannons, and fired! They kept firing the

cannons until they ran out. The Kraken was extremely hurt but still alive. So, the crewmembers got more cannonballs to fire at the Kraken. They continued firing until, finally, the Kraken died.

The Kraken's tentacles dropped and hit the ship, damaging it but not too badly. The clouds from the storm went away, and his tentacles released the surviving pirates.

Davey Jones said, "Thank you for saving my crew!"

Paddy, Wendy, Theo, and Cassandra replied, "You're welcome! Do you think you can help us get back to land?" So, Davey Jones and the pirates helped Paddy, Wendy, Theo, and Cassandra sail away on the ship.

To be continued...

# Animated Menus



By Russell Hill  
In collaboration with Isabel Doshi

## “Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire”

T-rex likes to eat meat. Andomonus Rex likes to eat meat also. They have sharp teeth also. Sometimes they are fossils, but sometimes they are alive. In May, the fossils in the Strong Museum come to life.

## **Breaking News: Jurassic Quest Dinosaurs on the Loose**

The Strong Museum has a baby dinosaur and a bigger one. Godzilla comes to life, too.

The dinosaurs go to the park. They roar, and they play. They run around and play a game called “If you put your hand out, they will bite you.”

They travel to Florida and go to Disney World. They go see *The Lion King*. They like the movie.

The Pterodactyl is a flying bird. Pterodactyls like to eat people. Sometimes, they like to

eat children. The sea monster wakes up, and flies out of the water, and grabs the Pterodactyl, and eats him. These two are dangerous animals. Sometimes, they do great damage to everything. Many people got hurt by the pterodactyls, and the ambulance had to come.

The ambulance says, "All the people and children are fine."

The ambulance comes around, but the dinosaurs aren't even here. The dinosaurs follow the mountains of the volcano and end up in the jungle. The baby T-rex is in the jungle, too. They are living with the lions, and they are eating the lions. The dinosaurs make a snack. They are bigger than the lions. And the Brontosaurus is there, too. The Brontosaurus only eats trees. The Pterodactyl is in the jungle, too. It is flying around the trees. They will always be eating plants and stuff, too. There is a volcano in the jungle. The volcano explodes. The volcano almost kills all the dinosaurs, but a helicopter comes and saves them — the small ones and the big ones.

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Godzilla is a big iguana. She is taller than all the dinosaurs. The Godzilla crushes the building, too. Some of the Godzillas breathe fire. Some like to eat fish. There is a man on a boat fishing. This made Godzilla mad. She comes out of the water and uses the spike on the head to get the old man. Godzilla comes out of the bridge and destroys the cars on the bridge. The police see this on the news and come to fight Godzilla. Godzilla goes inside a building

near the subway to hide. A long time passes before Godzilla goes out of the building. When she does, the police cars are gone.

A dump truck comes, and it puts all the fish on the road. So when Godzilla came out of the building, she smelled many fish. She goes to eat them. The U.S. army sees her eating the fish. They try to shoot a missile at her. She doesn't get hit by the missile. As Godzilla runs away, she hits her head on a building. Then, a helicopter tries to shoot her. Godzilla runs into another building, so the helicopter misses. She eats the helicopter. The army sends another missile at her, but they miss. Instead, they knock a building down. Godzilla trips and hits another helicopter. She also eats this one. Godzilla roars, and everyone celebrates her day. She goes back to the building by the subway and goes to sleep.

The army waits for Godzilla to come out first. While this is happening, a man tries to fill a pothole in the street. He fills one and then another and then another. While he is filling the last pothole, the pothole bursts out of the road, and Godzilla comes out. She spits the fish at him. Godzilla is mad because the man interrupted her sleep.

Godzilla tells the man, "You will smell my breath!" And she almost breathes fire. Then, Godzilla walks away. She sees the army and a light, and she turns to run away. That's when they sent a missile at her again. She hits her head on the building. The helicopter chases after her and sends another missile. Then, Godzilla jumps into the water.

The Godzilla is in the water, and she's swimming. The submarine is fighting her. It is shooting Godzilla out of the water. She hits the submarine out of the water using the spikes on her head. The submarine splashes out of the water. The submarine shoots a missile, but it misses Godzilla. The submarine gets hit by its own missile and explodes out of the water. The Coast Guard shoots another missile at Godzilla, who is on the rocks, and it hits her. Godzilla explodes out of the world! All the people come out to see what's going on, and they see that Godzilla has gone out of the world. The people aren't happy by what the Coast Guard did in the water. They blame the mayor because he called the Coast Guard. They don't like him very much.

Before the fight, Godzilla laid two hundred eggs, and now they have hatched. The baby Godzillas like to eat fish. There's another one. He's a big boy. This one is the biggest one. They call him the Father Godzilla. The helicopter came, and they were killing the baby Godzillas. The tallest Godzilla, the Father Godzilla, looks over the baby ones. One of the babies got killed, and the Father Godzilla is not happy. He starts to breathe fire. The humans start running as the big Godzilla starts to charge. He charges at the people in the taxi car. Then he hits the bridge. The dad comes up and grabs the car, and eats it. He's bigger than the whole helicopter. He sees the helicopter and grabs it with his teeth, and eats it. A plane lands in the garden and shoots a missile at the Godzilla. The missile misses and sets a building on fire. The babies are in the building, and they try to get free, but they all die. Another helicopter

comes in to shoot the dad, but he's so strong. It shoots him again, three times. He falls down on a car. The big Godzilla dies. Puff Daddy is singing while he dies.

Now, there are no more Godzillas.

—

All the dinosaurs are gone in New York, but the ones in the jungle are alive.

The dinosaurs hang out under the trees. They like to eat plants and meat, but they never eat cats. Sometimes, they run around. They also like to swim in the water. There are also iguanas in the water.

Also, there is a Godzilla in the jungle. The dragon is also there. They are destroying castles by breathing fire at them. The people in the castles have no guns; they have bows and arrows, horses, and cows. They close the gate so that Godzilla and the dragon can't come in. The people can't come out of the castle because there is a heat advisory from all the fire breathing, and there are children with them.

—

There was a big fire. There are burning lizards in New York, the jungle, and China. They turn back into lizards. They go back to their eggs. There is a mother and father laying eggs. A building is on fire. All the eggs are at the back of the building, but they never get killed. They are safe.

But now the new Godzilla comes up. This one is in the water. It is swimming around in the water. The big one comes out of the water. He's walking around. The robot

comes out from the train tunnel. The robot attacks a train. It comes right through the building. The big Godzilla comes out. He attacks the robot. He uses his fire breath. The robot almost melts. The robot tries to fight back, but it can't. It falls through one side of the building and pushes Godzilla through the other side. The big Godzilla gets up. He fights the robot again. They attack the whole building. The building falls way down onto the ground. The big Godzilla picks up all of Japan and Florida. Godzilla is everywhere: every one of the states, America, and Japan, and China. He can be in more than one place. Godzilla is breathing heavy fire.

Then, there is a baby Godzilla and a big Godzilla mother who lives in the water. The robot grabs the baby Godzilla. The mother tries to get the robot. The baby Godzilla gets thrown down by the robot and goes, "Ow!" The mother Godzilla tries to stop the robot. The mother gets it down on the ground. She breathes fire, and it gets melted. The robot hits the building and never comes back. The baby Godzilla is okay. The big mother lies down on the ground. The robot almost tackled her. All the people come. They see the bigger Godzilla on the ground. They kill the baby. The big Godzilla gets up off the ground, and now the big Godzilla roars. She roars all day. And then she walks into the water and starts swimming home towards the rock, which is underneath the tunnel.

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A bigger monster comes from a lizard. Some Godzillas live in China. This one is in

New York City. This one is kind of huge. He is walking in the water. He is chasing one of the airplanes and the helicopters, too. He's breathing fire, too. His fire breath causes a building to be on fire, with a ring of fire. He joins Operation: Lucky Dragon, Monarch: The M.U.T.O. File, The Godzilla Revelation, Godzilla: Force of Nature, and Monster Tech: Monarch Joins the Fight.

The Godzilla is everywhere. There is an old Godzilla and a new Godzilla. The old Godzilla is heavy on fire. The new Godzilla is the King of Monsters. The Godzilla is always swimming in the ocean. Sometimes, they live in a tunnel. And trains, too. A robot falls into another tunnel. Sometimes, with a dragon. The robot and the dragon fight. Godzilla is fighting robots and stuff, tagging buildings, and smashing the glass in the buildings. They have sharp teeth also. They are like gators. The robot and the dragon fight through the building. Their favorite food is fish. They catch fish in the water.

One of the biggest Godzillas is underneath a bridge. He moves his tail around. He's almost out of the water. All the cars see him and a school bus also. He goes all the way underneath the bridge. Sometimes, the people are scared to see Godzilla. He's bigger than an elephant. Longer than anybody. He's swimming everywhere in the water. He almost hits the bridge. Sometimes, he goes on top of the road. The fire trucks see him, and they call the New York Fire Department. The Fire Department tries to get the kids off the bus and everybody off the bridge. They don't attack Godzilla. They leave the cars and bus behind and run away. The Godzilla

goes to the other side of the street and sits on the grass. He then goes to the other streets. He goes to a building.

He goes and tries to get the robot. He tries to attack the robot. The robot tries to defend itself. The robot sometimes succeeds. It has red on its stomach. The robot is a lobster. Godzilla is in the water, and the lobster is on the land. The robot cannot swim in the water. Godzilla stays in the water, and the robot lives on the rocks underneath the tunnel. The robot is always hiding. There are lots of explosions and flames. The Godzilla searches for the robot near a fence. The robot lives in the tunnel, which is near the fence. They have a big fight. Godzilla is bigger than the whole robot. Godzilla is more powerful than the robot. He's a strong monster. He breathes fire, and the robot falls down. There's giant smoke. He picks the robot up and throws it at the building. The robot never comes back. Godzilla is happy because he beat the robot.

Godzilla says, "Thank you," to the army because they blew a whistle and got the robot. The robot got melted by the heat of Godzilla's fire.

The people clapped their hands and said, "Thank you," to the Godzilla.

The day is over, and Godzilla roars. He falls down to the ground. He's injured. The robot almost killed him before Godzilla killed it. But then he comes right back up. Now he's walking near the water. He looks up and then dives into the water. All Godzillas live in the water. Godzilla goes to sleep. He sleeps all of the next day.

The next day, Godzilla wakes up and helps the army.

—

The dragons and Godzilla are family. They work together to blow their fire up to the sky. They have giant hearts. They are both monsters; dragons are a group with snakes and worms.

Puff the Magic Dragon blows fire. He's burning everything, burning all the houses. There are two monsters that breathe fire: dragons and Godzilla. Godzilla is partners with a bat and Puff the Magic Dragon. The bat is using an echolocation. The group is attacking the city of New York. They are breathing very heavy fire. They are knocking down buildings. The army tries to stop them, but it doesn't work. They don't stop. They attack the statues. They break them down. The people are scared, and they run away. The army sends in spaceships to make them stop, but the group doesn't listen. The spaceship points a laser into all their eyes, but this doesn't work. The helicopter has a big satellite. The satellite controls the monsters (the dragons and Godzilla). It throws the satellite at the monsters. An airplane comes around and shoots the satellite down. They don't want monsters attacking their country. The satellite is destroyed in the water. All monsters stop moving. The spaceship shoots one of the monsters five times, and it dies.

A robot Godzilla comes. He has a satellite in him, so when the big satellite was destroyed, he didn't die. The bat also didn't because he used his echolocation. The



robot opens up his stomach, where he has an echo alert. He blocks the echo alert, then he kills the bat.

A new Godzilla comes. He has a satellite on him. He knocks the robot down and uses his fire. He uses his teeth to destroy the robot's satellite. He uses his fire on the robot's body. The robot dies.

## **Size Does Matter**

# Mystery Stitch



By Sam Jansen  
In collaboration with Ritu Peddinti

*Disney Castle, Friday, 4pm*

It is a sunny Friday afternoon in Disney. Stitch and Angel are in a colorful castle with pictures of characters on the walls. They sit inside the castle, waiting for their friends.

Tinker Bell comes in first. "Hi, Stitch."

"Hi! How are you?"

"I'm having an off day."

"You can go talk to Eeyore about it."

Eeyore comes into the room with a rain cloud hovering above him. He talks to Tinker Bell.

Eeyore talks really slowly and is very sad. "I'm really sad."

Tinker Bell says, "I'm also having an off day. Do you want to go get ice cream?"

"Obviously," Eeyore says. They both leave the room to get ice cream.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse walk in next, looking happy to be with their friends. Now everyone is in the castle: Goofy, Pluto, Donald Duck, Rapunzel, Belle, Aurora, and Cinderella.

After everyone arrives at the castle and says hi, Tinker Bell and Eeyore get their ice

cream. They return to the living room and ask Stitch, "What are we doing today?"

The Disney characters bicker while they try to figure out what to do.

Minnie says, "Let's go to the beach!"

All the girls agreed, shouting, "Yeahhhhh!!!"

Mickey replies, "But we went yesterday!!!"

Goofy says, "That's right! I'm bored, and I want to do something goofy."

Everyone continues talking, complaining, and arguing about what they should do today. Finally, they realize that Stitch hasn't said anything, and they all look at him.

Stitch remains silent for a minute, then says,

"Hmmm...WHY...SHOULD  
...WE...NOT...GO...TO...THE...  
HUMAN...WORLD?!?"

The song "Hot dog, hot dog, hot diggity dog," starts playing, and Stitch starts dancing.

The other characters look at each other and say, "The Human World? Yeah!!!" They join Stitch, dancing.

For Stitch and his friends to go to the Human World, they will need to pass through Maleficent's cave, but everyone is scared of her, and nobody wants to ask her. As they walk towards her cave, they hear scary music.

They decide to play a game to figure out who is going to ask Maleficent.

They decide to play a food challenge. Whoever eats a huge burrito the fastest wins the competition. Donald Duck barely wins the competition!

Tinker Bell eats the burrito the slowest, so she has to go talk to Maleficent.

The cave is dark, cold, and creepy, with an evil green light. There are bats flapping around the cave and bones scattered on the floor. That's when Tinker Bell gets really scared. She has to walk deep into the cave to find Maleficent; the others cannot see her anymore. She is deep, deep, deep underground.

Maleficent is tall and has horns coming out of her head. "Hello, Tinker Bell," she says. "Can I help you?" She laughs evilly.

Tinker Bell screams and runs back outside the cave. "What happened?" everyone asks.

"It's too dark and creepy, and she said 'May I help you?' with an evil laugh, so I screamed," Tinker Bell says. "Can we all just go together? It's too creepy, I'm scared."

Everyone immediately agrees. When they reach Maleficent, she says, "Welcome, all, to my cave home."

Everyone tries to say hello back, but they are shaking. "Can you tell us how to get to Paris?"

She says, "Well...I could, but you'd have to do something for me first."

"What?"

"You have to guess a word," Maleficent says.

"Ice cream! Pineapple!" Everyone is shouting. "Dog!" Aurora yells. Everyone was trying to figure it out. "Open Sesame!" Stitch says finally.

"That is correct!" Maleficent says.

DUN. DUN. DUNNNN.

The wind in the cave suddenly began to blow, and a map came into view. *Go to Paris, the map says, to find a potion. Follow the cave all the way down, go outside, and teleport to Paris.*

They follow all of the directions, then Maleficent bangs her tall cane on the ground, and suddenly the room fills with light.

When everyone opens their eyes, they yell, "We made it!"

Mickey Mouse said, "Did we make it to the right place?"

Minnie Mouse said, "Of course we did! Do you see the cafes, the croissants, the music? The EIFFEL TOWER?!"

"Do you want to go there?" Mickey asked.

"Well, of course!" Minnie Mouse replied. So the whole group started towards the Eiffel Tower.

"Wait a minute," Stitch said. "Where's Angel?"

"Probably in the bathroom or something," Daisy said.

On the way there, everybody got a croissant, but everyone began to argue because they all wanted to do different things. Daisy wanted to go shopping, Rapunzel wanted to go to the beach, and Aurora wanted to go get pizza.

"Everyone, stop!" Stitch said. "Before we do anything, we have to figure out where we're going to sleep."

They decided to go looking for a hotel, and stumbled upon a greyish-black building with cracks and creepy squeaking noises. They were really scared at first but decided they needed somewhere to sleep. Stitch decided to go in first.

He walked up the creepy metal stairs and into the oval-shaped door. The door beeped. *EEH. Need. Passcode.*

Stitch thought long and hard about what the code could be. Daisy said, "What if you try 'butterfly?'"

Stitch entered the passcode, and the door opened. When he walked in, Stitch saw two old, creepy beds. They had spiderwebs on them, and it looked like no one had been in the hotel forever.

They saw a lot more creepy doors, and, thankfully, they did not need passcodes. In each room were two more old creepy beds.

"See, Stitch? We found a place to sleep." Daisy said. They all decided to nap for a bit, but shortly after, they heard a noise.

*Squeeeeeeak. Squeeeaaaakkkkk.* They all screamed and ran out of the house.

Stitch counted every one. *One, two...Angel? No Angel.* "Where is Angel?" he yelled.

"I haven't seen her in a while," everyone murmured. "Maybe she got lost along the way."

"Since we're outside, let's just keep looking around," Daisy said. After some walking, they stumbled upon a forest.

Mickey volunteered to go in first. "I think I heard something," he said. He took a few steps further and saw a rustle in the bushes. "AAH!" He yelled. A baby lion jumped from the bushes.

"It's so cute, but I don't know if we should pass it," Mickey said.

"I think we should keep going," everyone else said. They all tiptoed past the baby lion, who looked at them curiously.

A few steps further, they heard squeaks from the trees. They looked up and saw monkeys swinging from the branches! "I want to take a picture with them," Minnie said.

"No, we should keep going," everyone replied. "We came here to find Angel." Further into the forest, they found a campsite.

"Someone has probably already been here," Aurora said. "We should try to stay here too."

Everyone was really hungry but knew that to set up the campsite, they would have to make a fire pit and tent. Goofy said he would do it and wandered back into the woods to gather sticks for the fire. When he went in, he saw a stick pile, and there was a tent in it!

He brought the tent and sticks back to the campsite, and everyone said, "Thank you, Goofy!"

Mickey, Goofy, and Donald Duck all worked together to assemble the tent and fire pit. They decided to make hot dogs! *Hot dog hot dog hot diggity dog*, Goofy sang.

Everyone sat around the fire, eating their hot dogs and warming up. "We should probably make a plan to find Angel," Stitch said.

"Where do we go next?" Daisy asked.

"I don't think we're going to find her," Tinker Bell said. "This is going to take forever, Paris is huge!"

"Does anyone have the map Maleficent gave us?" Stitch said.

"I do," Mickey said, pulling it out of his overalls. As soon as he took it out, words and pictures began to swirl around on the map. "Whoa!" Mickey said. "Wait a minute, this looks different now!"

*GO TO A DANCE PARTY*, the map read now.

"I'm tired of dancing! I don't know how to dance! What's dancing? Ooh, I like to dance." Everyone in the group began to yell.

“Guys, we have to find Angel. She is our friend. Let’s go try out this dance party. Who knows? If we find her there, we’ll have even more fun!”

“How do we get there?” Daisy asked. The second she said it, a car appeared seemingly from thin air. It looked new and kind of like a spaceship!

Everyone climbed in, and the car began to move on its own! When the car stopped, they saw huge bright signs and a bunch of people walking on the street.

They all got out of the car, and as soon as Mickey’s feet hit the ground, a door on the house next to them swung open. They didn’t see anything at first, so they decided to walk in and explore.

They heard loud thumping music but could not find where it was coming from. The door to the basement looked really creepy, so they were scared to go down. Daisy volunteered to go first, but as they went down the stairs, the music got louder!

They heard the “Cupid Shuffle” and Stitch wanted to dance! *To the right, to the right, to the right to the right.* Stitch’s blue feet kicked in the air as he danced. Everyone danced with him but quickly realized they should start looking for Angel. As soon as they thought it, *POOF!* A large blue genie with gold jewelry appeared next to them.

“Genie is here to help for a clue!” He announced.

“What’s the clue, Genie?” Stitch asked.

“I have a bracelet for you, Stitch. It will show you where you need to go next.” Genie pulled out a shiny gold bracelet with lots of bling.

Stitch put the bracelet on, and it began to tug at his arm! His little feet scampered after the bracelet, and everyone followed hurriedly. Before they knew it, they arrived on an island! The bracelet suddenly stopped moving, and Stitch landed in the sand with a thud.

They began to look around the island for Angel and stumbled upon a pit of fire! Because it was so warm and cozy, and the sun was starting to set, they decided to camp out there.

Mickey spoke first. “We need to figure out a plan for getting Angel, and also how we are going to find dinner.”

“Yes, that’s a good idea,” Stitch said. “Let’s look for food first because once it gets dark, it’ll be really hard to find. We can make a plan while we eat dinner.”

Half of the group ventured out to go find food and found some oranges in the trees and fish in the stream. They brought the food back to the fire, and all began to eat.

“Okay, let’s make a plan,” Stitch said. “We should form groups to split up and search the island.”

Stitch and Mickey were named the team leaders, and the rest of the group was divided among them. “Stitch’s team will take the south part of the island,” Mickey said. “And ours will take the north.”

Everyone look for clues or anything that might help us find Angel.”

The next morning, they split up and headed out to opposite ends of the island. Stitch had a bad feeling about this island, but he couldn't place what it was. But he knew he had to find Angel.

Tinker Bell was walking slowly at the back of Mickey's group when suddenly, her feet began to sink in the mud. She tried to kick it away but kept getting deeper! “Mickey, help!” she squealed. Mickey ran towards her.

“It's quicksand!” he yelled. “Quick, Donald Duck, grab that vine from the tree!” Donald Duck tossed a long vine towards Mickey and Tinker Bell. With Mickey steadily pulling the vine, he was able to free Tinker Bell from the quicksand.

“Whew, that was a close one. Be more careful, Tinker Bell!” Mickey said, and he turned to lead the group once again.

On the other side of the island, Stitch's group wasn't having much better luck.

They had seen a sign with big red letters saying, DON'T TOUCH THE ROCKS! But naturally, Cinderella was a klutz – trying to climb fast enough to keep up with the others, she slipped, and her hand grazed a rock. “Oh no,” she said dramatically.

Initially, nothing seemed to happen. Everyone looked at her in alarm and breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, they heard it. *Whooooosh*. A slew of arrows whizzed past them, narrowly missing all of them.

Seemingly from the sky, a vine carrying a beautiful woman appeared. With long black hair and tan skin, she swung from the trees gracefully, with her bow and arrows still in hand.

“Who are you?” she said.

“I'm Stitch, and these are my friends. We're here looking for my girlfriend.”

“What does she look like?”

“Just like me, but in pink.” Stitch said matter-of-factly.

“Let's walk to the village and then talk. We're in dangerous territory.” Everyone was a little nervous but followed her anyway. Another beautiful woman joined her as they soon entered the village.

“We're sorry for the violent welcome you had,” she said. “I am Butterfly, and this is Robin.” She gestured towards the woman with the arrows. “We are the protectors of our village.”

“Where are we?”

“This is the Island of the Maleficent.” Stitch got that weird feeling again but still didn't know why.

“Maleficent? That sounds familiar...” Stitch said.

“Let us show you around,” Robin said, not seeming to hear Stitch. “This is the Apple

Bridge. It stretches all the way through the village.”

Robin gestured to treehouses settled up in the tall trees like the one Robin had swung from. “This is where most of us live. And over there is the fire pit, where we all cook dinner and eat.”

“Thank you for the tour. We’re here looking for my girlfriend Angel, and we were hoping you could help us find her,” Stitch said.

“How did you guys end up here?” Butterfly asked.

“It’s a long story,” Stitch said. “But Angel has been missing for a while, so we really need to find her. Have you guys seen her?”

“I think so,” Butterfly said. “We saw the leader in the middle of the island the other day. She had a carriage that was shaped like you, Stitch.”

“Where did she go next?”

“Legend says she has a castle on the other side of the island, but no one knows how to find it,” Butterfly said.

“Would you be able to help us?”

“Yes,” Robin said. “I have a book that might be able to help you, but I have to get it.”

“*Booooooook*,” Robin said. Stitch looked at her weirdly. “*Booooooook, come hereeeeeee.*” Seemingly out of nowhere, a book flew in their direction. It was old, so it flew really slowly and settled in the dirt next to Robin.

Stitch opened the book slowly. “This book will give you the directions to what your heart desires most,” Robin said. “You just have to give it a piece of your fur and it will do the rest for you.”

Stitch plucked a blue hair from his arm and sealed it in the book. Glitter whirled around the book as it took in his hair, and ink began to color the pages.

Stitch opened the book again, and now it read, “*Insufficient material. Please add samples from all members of your party.*” Stitch rolled his eyes and went around his circle of friends, gathering a piece of hair or fur from each one.

He slammed the book shut and shook the samples into it, and watched the glitter again with disamusement. When he opened the book again, a light shone brightly out of it.

As the light settled, it began to show a map of the island. “It says the castle’s on the east end of the island,” Stitch said. “Let’s go!”

“Butterfly and I will go with you,” Robin said. “We know our way around the island and can protect you from the other traps.”

So, the large group started on their adventure.

As they trekked up the mountain, the sky began to darken. “That’s weird,” Robin said. “It’s the middle of the afternoon!” Suddenly, they heard loud noises from the sky.  
*Raa-aaaa-aaah!*



"Flying monkeys!" Butterfly yelled.  
"Everyone run, but stay together! Robin and I will handle this."

The group went fleeing back towards the village, watching Butterfly and Robin shoot arrows into the sky at the monkeys until they went away. They re-joined the group in the village, exhausted from fighting off the monkeys.

"What were those?" Stitch asked.

"Flying monkeys, they're some of the leader's henchmen," Butterfly said. "She must know that you're here. They say her staff and orb can tell her anything."

Stitch got that uneasy feeling. "Wait...who is your leader? This could be serious now."

"Her name...is Maleficent," Robin said.  
*Dun. Dun. Dunnnnnnn.*

The entire group went silent. Stitch *knew* the name of the island had sounded familiar. "We should've known it was her," Stitch said. "She must have grabbed Angel when she was transporting us to Paris; why else would she have been missing for this long?" The group murmured in agreement.

"This is going to be really dangerous," Stitch said. "We know Maleficent. She's very powerful."

"Why would she take Angel if she was helping you guys get here?" Robin asked.

"Maybe I offended her," Tinker Bell piped in. "I screamed when I saw her for the first time. It probably hurt her feelings, so maybe this is revenge."

Stitch agreed, "That must be it, Maleficent does like revenge."

"Getting to her is going to be difficult, but not impossible," Butterfly said. "The monkeys were the least of your problems."

"What else is there?" Mickey asked.

"There's dinosaurs at the far end of the forest," Butterfly said. "They're huge, so they protect her castle."

"And we'll have to watch out for flying squirrels and the booby traps around the island," Robin added. "She changes the island around every day so she can catch intruders. But as long as we stick together, we will be alright."

"Now that we know what's going on, let's head out and try to set her free," Stitch said. "We should all go as one group this time so we don't get separated."

"Let's try a different way this time," Robin suggested. So they went to the opposite village and then left from there.

Thankfully, there were no flying monkeys on this side. The group very carefully walked from the village to the other end of the island. This side was much less scary; the sun was shining, and flowers bloomed from the ground. "It doesn't look like she's touched over here," Stitch said.

"How do you think we get to the castle from here, then?" Donald Duck asked. "It's darker in the sky, so I think it must be higher. We have to figure out a way to get up there."

"I think we can take a hot air balloon up there," Butterfly said. "We just have to figure out how to use it."

The hot air balloon was high in the trees, and they didn't know how to get to it – but seemingly, out of nowhere, a ladder appeared next to them. "I'll go first," Butterfly said uneasily. She climbed up the ladder and easily into the basket of the balloon, and everyone was quick to follow.

"Now, how do we get it to move?" Minnie said, but as soon as the last person sat down, a wind came out of nowhere and began to move them. Everyone was a little scared at first, but they quickly got used to it, and within seconds, they arrived at a big castle, also sunny and with flowers. They all jumped out of the basket.

"How do we get into the castle?" Stitch said. On the outside of the castle wall, he saw a big red button. There was a bit of disagreement among the group about whether he should press it. "We should just try it, guys," Stitch said. "It's the only option we have right now."

With that, he lifted a claw to the button and pressed down.

They heard a loud *creak* and saw the big draw bridge begin to open – it slanted downward toward the castle and looked like a slide you could use to enter.

"It could be a trick," Donald Duck said. "There's no way it was that easy."

There were some whispers of disagreement, but most people wanted to try it. Stitch, Mickey, and Robin decided to

be the ones to go – they were the leaders of the group, and Robin knew the most about the island.

As the three of them went down the slide, they saw many odd lights and stars flashing around them. *Thunk. Thunk. Thunk.* They all landed back to back in a bouncy house.

"This must be Maleficent's playroom," Robin said. "We made it into the castle."

"Where do we go next?" Stitch asked. "Should we keep going, or let the others know it's safe so far?"

"We should keep going," Mickey said.

"I think we need to wait for our friends," Stitch replied. *Hoooooot. Hoooooot.* From the corner of his eye, Stitch saw an owl in the corner of the room. "We can send a message to them through him, if he flies out."

On a piece of paper, Stitch clawed, "It's safe here. Just bounce houses." He tied the note to the owl's leg.

"Please go to the top of the slide to meet my friends and give this note to them," Stitch said. With a loud *hoot*, the owl flew away. Within minutes, one friend after the next came rolling down the slide and landing in the bounce house with a soft thump.

"Now we can all go as a group to try to find Angel," Stitch said.

"Everyone, follow me," Robin said, and they tiptoed out of the bounce house. Robin stopped suddenly outside. "There's guards!

Huge ones! We have to be careful," she whispered.

All of them ducked behind the bounce house and continued to tiptoe down the hall. "We have to find Angel quickly before Maleficent finds us," Stitch said.

"We should check the tunnels," Robin said. "Maybe Maleficent hid her there." They continued tiptoeing down a dark tunnel. At the end of the first tunnel was a big wooden door.

Stitch tried to turn the handle, but it was locked. "How do we get in?"

The mirror on the wall next to them lit up. "What can I help you with?"

"Is there a way to get this door open?"

"EEEEEEH. Please ask in correct format." Stitch looked at the mirror with confusion. Aurora stepped up with confidence.

"Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" The mirror lit up again. "How can we open this door?"

"I can help you, but don't tell Maleficent," mirror said. "To get into the door, you have to say a magic word."

"Hot dog," Stitch said.

"EEEEEEEH. Please answer in correct format with accompanying dance."

"Hot dog hot dog hot diggity dog," Stitch sang, flailing his arms. The door swung open.

The room was mostly empty, with a few wooden barrels in the corner. Stitch shoved

the barrels aside to reveal a smaller door – just the size of Angel. He pressed the button to open it, and suddenly, a jungle gym appeared.

On the jungle gym was written, *Complete the gym without falling, or else the alarm will sound.*

Stitch sighed. One last puzzle.

He climbed up the rock wall first to reach the top of the jungle gym, then looked fearfully at the monkey bars. He was much smaller than the gym, and the ground seemed so far away.

With a deep breath, he swung from one bar to the next, finally making it to the other side. The final obstacle was a swinging rope, and he grabbed onto it with ease, safely making it to the ground on the other side.

The door opened, revealing Angel in a small cage. "Stitch!" she cried as he pulled the cage door open. "You saved me."

"Guys, Maleficent!" Donald Duck yelled. They turned and saw the tall woman with her horns and staff glaring at them expectantly. "Let's go, quick, before she catches us!"

A slide to exit was on the other side of the room, and one after the other, they all tumbled down, landing on the grass outside.

"Thank you for saving me everyone," Angel said. "It's time to go home. We've had enough adventure."

Mickey and Stitch began to sing the hot dog song, and soon enough, the car appeared next to them.

One after the other, they all climbed in, and the next thing they knew, they were safe and sound in their own world.

# Pat's Birthday Extravaganza



By Pat Hurley

In collaboration with Adya Mohapatra and Tenzing Lama

I woke up to my alarm and then I remembered! It's my birthday! I'm so excited to celebrate and I have the perfect day planned.

I jumped out of bed and brushed my teeth. Then, I listened to the radio while I got dressed. I put on my shoes, jacket, and special clover green hat, and me and my sister, Mary, drove to Dunkin' Donuts.

At Dunkin' Donuts, I got a glazed donut and a diet coke. We drove back home with our food, and I finally ate my donut. It was really good!

Once we were done eating, Mary and I wanted to go on a walk. It better be nice outside! Luckily, it was sunny and warm - perfect for walking outside. We went on a trail near Program. We were outside for quite a while, and I saw some owners walking their dogs. Other people were also riding their bikes.

After our walk, we headed home. Mary lives across the street from me, and she headed home and so did I. I started making my lunch. I have a special recipe for my favorite kind of sandwich - a baloney sandwich. I put the bread in the toaster, and once they are warmed up, I put two pieces of baloney

and cheese on it. Perfect - my lunch was complete!

After lunch, I hung out with my best friend Chris. We sang karaoke together. We sang a bunch of Luke Bryan songs. He makes country music, which I love. He is my favorite musician. We sang song after song, including some Jackson Dean songs.

Then, we played some games. We played Go Fish, Snakes and Ladders, and Charades. We'd been having so much fun that we decided to watch some of my favorite shows like *Baywatch* and *MASH*.

While we were watching TV, we heard the doorbell ring. I went to open it and it was my brothers! John, Tim, and Jerry were standing outside and they had presents with them! I invited them inside. I was very happy to see them.

I had just closed the front door when the doorbell rang again! I opened it, and this time, it was my sisters! Mary, Elaine, Anna, and Bridgit were there and they had a cake with them! I was also very happy to see them.

A few more of my siblings showed up right after them, and soon all ten of us were standing around the table with the cake on it. My other best friend, Ruthie, also showed up, and she and Chris stood over by the cake.

I was excited to cut the cake and see what it looked like. The cake was my favorite. It was strawberry and chocolate cake and it was eight layers tall. On the very top, it said "Happy Birthday, Pat!" in frosting. There were a lot of red candles on the cake.

The doorbell rang, but everyone was already here. So who could it be?

I went to open the door, and to my surprise, it was Luke Bryan! Coincidentally, his music was playing in the background.

"Happy birthday, Pat!" Luke Bryan said, and he came inside holding a guitar.

"Wow," I said. "You're so nice for coming to my birthday. I'm a big fan!"

"It is my pleasure, Pat!" said Luke Bryan. "Now, what song should I play first?"

I smiled. I knew exactly what song he should play.

"Can you play 'Drink a Beer?'" I asked.

Luke Bryan laughed and said, "Of course!"

So we all moved over to the living room to watch him perform. He sang quite a few songs, including some of the songs that me and Chris had been doing karaoke to earlier.

Soon, it was finally time to cut the cake. We gathered around the table, and I blew out the candles while everyone, including Luke Bryan, sang me happy birthday. I made a wish that I could hang out with my siblings all the time. Then, we cut the cake and ate it.

Once we were done eating cake, we all went to Subway, one of my favorite places to eat. I got a ham sandwich with cheese and another diet coke - cause it's my birthday, of course!

Luke Bryan had to leave before everyone else because he had to wake up early. He said he had to shoot *American Idol* the next day.

He handed me a letter, and said, "Happy Birthday, Pat. Open this before you go to sleep tonight." I tucked away the letter in my jacket pocket for safekeeping and I waved goodbye.

The rest of us decided to watch TV. We put on the movie *Gargoyles*. After the movie finished, we headed out to a pub, Murphy's Law.

I took a seat on a stool and ordered a BudLite. Sometimes, I get two. I'll definitely get two on my birthday.

I soon made my way over to the dance floor and joined the other people line dancing. It's pretty crowded, but I stood out with my dancing because I'm the main character!

I could have just kept on dancing, but my family and friends finally dragged me home. They said something about the bar closing, but that wouldn't have stopped me from having a great time!

When I got home, I went to change my clothes. I took my jacket off and I heard a crinkle. The letter!

I took out Luke Bryan's letter from my pocket and unfolded it. It says,

*Dear Pat,*

*I hope you had an amazing birthday. I know you are a big fan of American Idol, and as a*

*birthday present, I wanted to invite you to be a guest judge on tomorrow's episode. Hope to see you then!*

*Your friend,*

*Luke Bryan*

I was so excited! I was definitely going to go.

I put on my pajamas and got ready for bed. Tomorrow was definitely going to be an eventful day!

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### **Transcript of Pat's Appearance on *The Late Night Show***

*Pat Hurley walks onto The Late Night Show Stage. In actuality, he is carried onto stage by David Hasselhoff.*

*Pat is gently set down on the couch. Across from him, Hasselhoff takes a seat.*

*Hasselhoff: Welcome to the Tonight Show, Pat! It's so great to have you here!*

*Pat: Thanks! But who's going to interview me?*

*Hasselhoff: Why of course, I'm going to! Let's get started! I'm going to ask you a few questions, and you can tell me everything.*

*Pat: Oh, I thought you were just here to carry me onto stage.*

*Audience laughs.*

*Hasselhoff:* You sure are a funny guy, Pat!

*Pat:* I know!

*Hasselhoff:* So to start off, what is one of your favorite places to go to?

*Pat:* Program! We do a lot of fun stuff there, and I go there every week on Wednesdays! I see my friends and I have a good time.

*Hasselhoff:* Very nice, Pat. Next question, what sports do you like?

*Pat:* Well, my favorite sport to watch is football. Go Bills! But I also like to go bowling, and I'm pretty good at it.

*Hasselhoff:* What is your favorite color?

*Pat:* Any shade of green. I have a green hat, green shirts, a green gym bag, and green weights.

*Hasselhoff:* Wow, Pat, do you work out a lot?

*Pat:* You know I do! I go to the gym on Wednesdays and Fridays. I sometimes lift weights or I run on the treadmill or I go running outside. But only if the weather is nice.

*Hasselhoff:* Do you work anywhere?

*Pat:* Yeah! I work at Web Seal, with my brother, John, who's the boss. I go to work

on Wednesdays and Friday, and I sort the O rings. We've got a lot of those. I sort them by size. They usually come in a small tube.

*Hasselhoff:* What is your go-to catchphrase?

*Pat:* It don't bother me!

*Hasselhoff:* Do you have any pets, Pat?

*Pat:* I have a lot of pets! I have two horses, one is named Chestnut and the other is named Ginger. They're pretty old. I also have rabbits, cats, kittens, and two dogs."

*Hasselhoff:* Wow, Pat! How do they all fit in your house?

*Pat:* My family's house has a barn where they all stay.

*Hasselhoff:* I've heard that you love to watch *Baywatch*. So for our final question, who is your favorite *Baywatch* actor?

*Pat:* Oh c'mon! Of course it's David Hasselhoff!

*The crowd laughs!*

*Pat rises from his seat and waves to the audience. Jimi Jamison's "I'm Always Here" begins to play as Pat runs off stage in slow motion.*



# Selections



By Ruth Emens  
In collaboration with Sherene Yang

## “Elmwood”

I live in a house in Elmwood with Pat, Chris, Jim, Loamie, Jeremy, and some staff. Elmwood is a group home. The house is brick and has a ramp outside. The house has a big kitchen, a living room, and a dining room. The kitchen has a coffee pot and lots of counters. The living room has two couches with brown covers on them, a TV, and it is where the staff do their work when we watch TV. There is an office where we take medicine. The dining room has two brown wooden tables with matching chairs. We also have two bathrooms, one in the front hall and one in the back hall. My favorite part of the house is the back hall where my room is. My room is blue and big. I have pink curtains for my windows and pink sheets for my bed. My brother gave

me a TV, and Rick mounted the TV on the wall. I like to watch *The Golden Girls* on my TV. I like to watch TV with my other friends, too. But by myself, I watch *Golden Girls*.

## A Day in Fairport: A Poem

Fairport is big

I get up in the morning

I had tea

Jared picked me up

We picked up Shelly and some friends

I went out for coffee at Dunkin' Donuts

I had a donut and a small coffee

We get in the van

Jared took us back to Fairport

Fairport has a building with pretty walls

The walls are gray  
I ate lunch  
Then I colored  
I like to use all different colors  
I want to color angels  
I exercised in a gym

I go to Fairport with Group Three  
Boyce, Josh, Shelly, and Ricky are in Group  
Three  
Ricky is my man  
We talk together  
I like to be in Fairport

#### "Gary, Connie, and Ruthie"

Gary and Connie came to see me. Gary is my older brother, and Connie is my sister-in-law. Gary is tall, and he has brown hair. Gary and Connie go to church together. Gary has a red car, and he took me on a ride with Connie. Gary and Connie helped me in their car in the backseat. They brought me to their house for a whole day, and we all talked. Connie gave me a cup of coffee, and we had brownies. We then had chicken for supper.

I bake cookies with Connie. We like to bake chocolate chip cookies. I like to have tea with cookies. I like Gary. Connie is his wife. They bring me to their house. I eat. After I eat, they bring me back to Elmwood.

I want to go to my brother's house for Easter. I want to celebrate with him. He's sweet. We talk, and I watch TV with him. He watches a ball game. I like to watch the ball game with him. We have dinner together. I have a sleepover with him. Gary gave me a

card for Easter. The card had a white bunny. We watched TV together. I miss Gary. He's cool.

In the future, I want to have a picnic with them. We would have hamburgers, potato chips, pop, and cookies. We would talk. We would have a picnic at a park. The park is in Fairport.

#### "Circus"

Pat, Chris, Ruthie, and Paul are friends. There was a clown who hosted a party at the library at UofR. One day, the friends received letters in the mail from the clown during supper. At supper, they had hamburger rolls, cheese, and mashed potatoes. But Ruthie didn't like the potatoes. After supper, they opened the letters and found that they were invited to the party. Everyone was dressed up. Ruthie wore a pink dress to the party. Paul drove everyone to the party in the van after supper. Gary and Connie drove their car together.

When they got out of the van, they saw that the party had lots of balloons and the walls were very colorful. Then, at the entrance, they saw the funny-looking clown who greeted them. The clown wore many different colors, like pink, purple, and orange.

"Hi," the clown said, "I am happy to see you all!"

"Hi, how are you?" Ruthie greeted the clown.

"I'm good and welcome to the party!" The clown replied. Everyone walked into the party. The party had all sorts of food, like brownies, punch, and pizza. The party had drums, horns, and violins.

"The party is very pretty!" Ruthie exclaimed. They were the only ones at the party. Everyone decided to eat first. Pat ate a cookie, Chris ate cake, Ruthie ate brownies, Paul ate hot dogs, and Gary and Connie ate chicken together. After they ate, they cleaned up after themselves and danced. They danced to "You are My Sunshine" and had a lot of fun. Then, Ruthie saw the clown skip towards them with a grin on her face.

"The party is nice," Ruthie complimented. Chris called the clown funny. The clown didn't like that and punched Chris in the eye and walked away. Chris was crying because he got punched in the eye. Pat came to Chris and talked to him.

"Are you all right?" Pat asked.

"I am in pain," Chris responded. At the same time, Paul came in and asked: "What did you get hurt for?"

"A clown punched me."

"The clown is sad," Paul said. But Paul had another idea. He took Chris up to the clown, and they decided to go eat together. While they were eating together, they made up.

Chris said: "I'm sorry that you punched me in the eye."

The clown said, "It's okay. I got you a surprise." The clown pulled out a bag from his hat. The clown gave the bag to Chris. Chris opened the bag. Inside the bag was a purple hand puppet.

"I'm sorry for punching you, I got you this puppet as a gift," the clown said. Now, Chris can do a puppet show.

# A Good Attitude



By Joe Hill  
In Collaboration with Eric Kukenberger

“Do you want to be a DJ?”

If you want me to, I could do it. I want to do that. I could do that. I could put it on my resume. If I do music and stuff like this, I could broadcast.

*104 WDKX. This is DJ Smackdown with the hits, where everything is new.*

I know WDKX is going to be calling me in a little while, and they are going to say, “Yes, Joey. They are going to want to hire me.” I can say, “I did it. It's another day for me.

It's another week for me.” I'm very, very passionate. People love you, Joey. People want to see you. “Mr. Hill, we want to see you.” “I don't have no problem giving out my information,” I told them that I think I can do it. And that's exactly what they want to see. Yes, I have a good attitude. And yes, people love me. The staff loves me. People care. I'm a role model. I'm the best.

*You got to have a great attitude. And I do!*

You have to show great passion. Don't say you can't do nothing. You have to show people what you can do. People tell me

things that I know. I can show them instead. I don't have no problem not doing it, because I will do it for you. I have a good radio voice. Everybody tells me that I don't, but I do. I still have it. I'm not afraid to

speak to people because I do. That's why. I'm going to go out there and show what I can do. Nobody says, "Oh, Joey doesn't have a good attitude," because I can go out there and show people how to do things. I speak to a lot of people here. Everybody will hear me when I go out there. I think I can do what's right. Good things come to people who wait.

*Getting up is tough, but we still have to do it.*

I'm the first to get up every morning. They say, "Who's the first to get up every morning?" It's me. My mornings are easy. It's not hard for me, but it's hard for so many other people. I got to get up for the next morning. I go to program every day. I catch the bus every day. I sit in the front every day. And I don't bother anybody. I don't want to see anybody else make mistakes, either. I want to get on the right track.

*I think I want to be independent. Let's do this.*

That's what people want to hear. That's the attitude that people want to hear. I could do it. Let's see what my brain could do. Going forward, I think I got this. There's a lot of things I could do, because I'm confident. I learned my lesson. I said I could stop. The staff could make sure I do my job. I could do it. This is my chance. This is exactly

what I want. I don't see why not. **I think I can handle it because I will talk to some people because I have a voice.**

*I do have a voice, and I use it. You know what, I could do this.*

I appreciate people, that's all. Some people don't do nothing, they are afraid. Not me; I speak up. I speak up in front of everyone else. **I say, "Joseph Hill can do what he does." Pretty soon, I'm going to be out of a wheelchair. People say they want to see me walk more. That's good, it keeps me focused. I'm the best, anything they say, I do.** I been in my chair my whole life. And when I start walking, that's what it's going to be. I know I can do a lot of things. I've been following people and doing my best when I have to do something. I do my best when I have to do it. I work. I work hard every single day. Joey doesn't give up. I stay focused. I stay on task. I don't quit. I keep going. I keep my hand up. I want people to remember me. They haven't forgotten Joseph Hill. I will never be forgotten.

*222-0104, 222-0104. 103.9.*

I know someone's trying to talk to me. I'm pretty good when people try to talk to me. I remember numbers. I'm good at numbers. I got it down so easy. Some people don't do that. Elaine is getting me trained. I think I will. I got it down. The more I speak it, the more I do. I am an intelligent person. That's what I do. "WDKX. Hello, how may I help you?" "Wow, Joey, I like that." Because folks, I'm getting ready to do those things. All these things that I know. I know the

reason. I know every single thing that I do. I play a lot of stuff. And they met me. Tariq. Everybody knows him from the WDKX Wake Up Club. I'm there every single morning and every single day.

*I'm a legend. That's why they want me back.*

These people love me, man. Cause I did it for the Christmas party last year. That's why I was famous last year. Everybody loved it. I played the music. They asked me what songs I would pick from. That's one of my goals. That's one of my dream jobs.

*They just said my name about two minutes ago. They know who I am. They haven't forgotten me. I am Smackdown.*

# Untitled



By Geraldine Copeland  
In collaboration with Eva Naik

I remember when I was a child, my father was always there to help me. I love my father very much, but I guess it was his time. He was born on January 30th, 1939. He was 84 when he died, and this year he would have been 85. He had covid, and he had pneumonia. His lungs were bad before he ended up in the hospital. And I'm just so glad he is in a better place. I didn't want to see him suffer.

At the funeral home, they played music, and I didn't think that they would, but they did. I feel sad because I miss him. I really liked the songs they played at the funeral home. I didn't know they were going to play music. It made me happy. Music can do that—make people happy. He was the greatest dad, and I hope he is with his

mother playing cards, baseball, and swimming. I'm just so glad he is in a better place.

My father, he was a great person. He helped me, and my mother, and my sister. He always helped me when my computer needed fixing. He fixed a lot of my stuff, and he did a lot of good stuff for us.

He loved playing baseball and also watching it on TV. I found a baseball in the prickler bush in the park. I wore some gloves and picked it up. I asked everyone if it was theirs, but they said no. When I asked my father, he said, "Give it to me; it's mine," so I gave it back to him. I caught a baseball at the Red Wings game. And you know what he said? "Throw it back." But

when he caught one, he didn't throw it back.

He took us all over the world. He took us to the Enchanted Forest, Disney World, Bear Mountain, and the Rockies. He took us to the Grand Canyon. He took us to NASA; he took us everywhere. My father took us on all different trips like Mount Rushmore and Washington, all different states, and even inside Rochester. I'm very proud of him and all that he did.

We went to NASA in Florida, where the spaceships are. We watched the spaceships that were going to go up, and we looked at the old ones on display. He took us many, many places around the world. My grandma went with us. We went to Washington, D.C. They let my father go into a basement where the guns are. Me and my mother didn't want to go. Neither did my sister. That's when we were younger.

Mount Rushmore was my favorite. We got to see the presidents that were up there. And we went to the Grand Canyon; it was pretty. It was too steep, you could get hurt. Some people were riding donkeys up and down, but that was quite scary.

In the White Mountains, there were movies that we could watch for free. We went to Denver, Colorado, to go see my aunt.

He taught me how to make waffles, and I loved making waffles with him. I made the batter and put it into the waffle iron. I turned it with the handle, and when they were done, my father took it out with a spatula. My father also cooked. He cooked meals

for my mother, me, and my sister. He used to cook breakfast and dinner for us.

He loved to cook on the grill, and he loved to cook things in the oven. He wouldn't let my mother do anything on the grill. He wouldn't let anyone use it. Usually, he would cook hamburgers. My father taught me how to use a computer. He had so many of them when he was still living. He made me happy. He made my day.

Him and I made fudge balls together. They are little round chocolate balls, and guess what? After I made them, I gave them to my father, half for us and half for his work. We made 2 batches. We made quiche, and I loved it.

My father was so good to us; he took us to Carvel's when it was open. I remember when he made milkshakes, and when we went to an ice cream place, he got a banana split. He loved banana splits. He did a lot when he was alive. We played Bonkers together. His favorite color is blue.

He always had a great sense of humor. He was just such a wonderful guy. When he was alive, he used to say that there was rock candy at the top of the mountain. But I was too scared to go up. But my sister went up, but she didn't find any candy. He was just kidding around.

He loved swimming. He loved fishing, and he started fishing with me, but when he got older, he didn't want to do it. He helped us build snowmen; he was the greatest dad.

My father was a great person. He helped my mother on Easter when he was the



Easter Bunny. He helped my mother at Christmas time to put packages around, and that was fun. I got an easy-bake oven for Christmas when I was little. I made little cakes, and I shared them with my mother and father. I made a lot of things in there. I made brownies, too. That was my favorite gift.

He taught me how to cut stained glass. I didn't get cut, but he did. He made some windows and mirrors. I wish he brought them to the new house with him. I think my father was tremendous. When I had my keyboard, he played it, and I really liked that. He played Jingle Bells on it. That's what made me happy. I love my father's CDs so much; I used to listen to them when he was alive.

My father was the best father—the best. I miss him real bad. He was so great, he was the greatest he could ever be.

### **My group home**

I moved from Elmwood group home.

First, I was in Westerlo. Now, I am in a new group home, Jefferson. I love this group home because there are good friends in there, like Ramone, and I just love everyone in that group home. Debbie is wonderful. Sue Lee is working in the office. My new assistant, Leah, we do things together. We are going to a play on Saturday. I feel wonderful. I feel so wonderful about my group home. I LOVE IT!

Sue Lee is a great friend and person. She always likes hugs—of course, I ask first. I ask, "Can I give you some hugs?" When she is upset, I ask if I can give her a hug so I can brighten up her day.

Marcus, one of the staff who used to work at Elmwood, he used to help me bake things, and I love baking. We made quiche together, I made one plain one for people who didn't like veggies, I made a vegetarian one, and one with mushrooms. With Mary-Anne Paris, I bake a lot of pies to prepare for Thanksgiving, but since we made too many, I got to take them back to Westerlo! I turned the stove on to the right temperature, I wore the oven mitts and put them in, and Mary-Anne Paris took them out.

Sometimes, we do puzzles at the group home. We are working on a 500-piece one. I've done a 100-piece puzzle, and there was a cat on it!

Elmwood baked a lot of things for us. She made the best sweet potato pies, I even asked for the recipe. It is in the cookbook, and I can't wait to make it.

Jefferson is so great. I share a room with Jennifer, and I love it. She comes up to me when I am playing on my computer and asks me to hug her.

The group home treats me well. We had a Valentine's party, and last year, before Israel left, when it was my roommate's birthday, he bought the girls perfume and the men cologne. I think that was awfully nice of him. I just love it there. Debbie is one of the staff, and she is so wonderful. I

am happy there. Sometimes, I have my ups and downs.

I go in my room and play on the computer. I play all sorts of games. Mystery Island is my favorite right now. We look for teddy bears and all sorts of things in the game.

When Israel brought me from the nursing home to Jefferson, I was happy.

Israel, before he left, he bought me this yellow blanket, and he also bought me this wreath with this fake candle with batteries. I make sure to turn it off after I go to sleep. There is a picture up on my wall; it's green and gold.

They help me when I need help.

Sue Lee is a great person. She helps me when I'm upset. She gives me hugs. We play Uno together. Leah is a great person, guess where we are going: A CASINO! I hope we win. I am so happy I have people I can talk to, like Sue Lee. We talk about a lot of things. We've got plans about what we want to do.

The group home has good food.

Chris is my boyfriend. When I was at Elmwood, he asked me to be his girlfriend, and I said yes. We have been together since I went to Elmwood, which has been for twenty years.

The group phone is great because Sue Lee is such a great person. She is taking over Israel's place in the office. I got Leah now, who takes me places, and I just love that. I

love all the people in my group home, everybody. I love everybody there. I would tell anyone else about creative writing. It is so wonderful. My group home is such a wonderful place. I love it. Sometimes, when I feel like I'm getting upset, I take a deep breath. It helps me.

They have a pajama day there; then you can wear your slippers. I like pajama day. We show our pajamas to each other and eat snacks.

I love my group home, it is a wonderful group home. My group home is the best group home I've lived in. I really care for my group home, and I love it.

The group home is a great group home. We have snacks there at night, and I'm so grateful for that group home. I had a wonderful, wonderful time at my group home.

Everyone at my group home is so wonderful. I say everybody because I really like them.

I love my staff, but sometimes they have their ups and downs, just like me. Everyone does.

My group home is such a wonderful place to be. They have a bigger shower, they have a step-in tub, and a handle where you can stand up or sit down. And it bubbles up like a hot tub. And I love that.

Leah is my advocate, and she is a great cook. She cooks pancakes.

# Nikki The Bus Driver



By Jeff Yarmel  
In collaboration with Abbie Boudreaux

Nikki is walking on the beach with her three best friends, Sue, Jess, and Sam. It is sunny and 70 degrees on Long Island, where Nikki lives. While they are enjoying their walk in the nice May weather, they see apples on the trees near the beach. Nikki is a deer so she loves eating apples. She approaches one of the trees to eat an apple -- Nikki is 5' 7", so she does not have trouble reaching the apple from the tree. After eating her delicious apple, Nikki spots a familiar face as they continue to walk: her Dad. Nikki loves her Dad, so she is happy to see him. He is there to keep an eye on her because Nikki gets into trouble a lot. She often runs away from her mom because she needs alone time, her mom

sometimes drives her crazy. Her mom doesn't want Nikki to go out on her own, because she is a kid still. Nikki is only 15 years old, but she wants more independence.

She thinks about running away on their walk, but she stays with her dad. They decide to get food and stop to eat nuts. They sit down in the sun by the trees. Then, they go home after. Nikki is still with her friends, they have a sleepover. They sleep until 11 am. Her parents like her friends, so they stayed at Nikki's house. When they leave, she gets mad at her parents because she wants alone time. She tells them she is going to her room, and she is sassy when

she says it. Nikki plays music and plays games to calm down. Neil Diamond is her favorite musician, and her favorite song is "America" by Neil Diamond. Nikki also plays Duck Hunt when she is in her room. Later, Nikki and her parents make up, but they are mad for 3 days. When they make up, they tell her sorry and Nikki says sorry too.

Nikki gets older, it has been three years. She can drive now. Her job is to be a bus driver. She likes it. She drives for students that are in 6th to 8th grade. She still lives with her mom. It's winter in Long Island. She still sees her friends; they are all adults. One friend is helping her on the bus with the kids. The kids are a lot to manage. They're loud and full of energy. It's Sam. Sam is Nikki's helper for the school year. They have a lot of fun together. Nikki has two favorite students. They are well-behaved and funny. Sam likes them too. One of the kids has epilepsy. He has someone with him 24/7. He is one of Nikki's favorites. Nikki doesn't fight with her parents anymore, but she still likes alone time.

Nikki decides to move. She doesn't live with her parents anymore. She lives with Sam. They live in a big house. Their house has seven rooms. They are not all bedrooms. They have a game room. In this room, they have video games. They like to play video games together after work. Their favorite game to play is Duck Hunt. Sam

and Nikki usually both win. Sam and Nikki eat dinner together, too. They like to eat hamburgers with cheese. After dinner, they walk it away. One day, the air tank of her bus went bad at school. Nikki calls in to get her new 2024 bus. Her new bus is shiny and fancy. It has cool things on it like chargers for phones. Nikki uses the chargers, not the children because they are too young. Sometimes Nikki takes the children on field trips. One time they even fed ducks by water.

When Nikki gets a bit older, she moves to Rochester. She misses her family, but she wants to see if she likes it up there. Luckily, Sam comes with her, so she is not too lonely. Nikki gets a new job. She works with kids. She teaches preschool, 3-4 years old. Nikki still works on a bus, too. Nikki lets Sam keep working on the bus with her. Nikki likes teaching, but she loves working with the kids on the bus. Nikki and Sam think Rochester is fun, and Nikki likes being independent. When she was younger, she always wanted to be independent from her family and Long Island.

Now, she can be.

# Two Boys' Lives



By Sean Connelly  
In Collaboration with Maya Brosnick

Once upon a time, there were two brothers; one named Em and the other named Boy. Boy and Em like to play with a hockey puck. They play with a birdie as well while they play badminton. Boy is 15 years old. Em is also 15 years old. They are twins. Boy and Em are a good team in basketball. They beat other schools a lot.

Today, Boy and Em are playing baseball. Baseball is their favorite sport. They also like hockey. They are wearing navy blue jerseys. Their team's name was W. They were playing against the Yankees. The Yankees lost! Boy and Em were very happy that their team won. After the game, they went to another game; this game was a basketball game. They were just watching this game. They ate hotdogs and ice cream. Boy's favorite ice cream was cookies and cream. Em's favorite was vanilla. Their team

lost the basketball game. Boy and Em are happy even though their team lost.

Next, Boy and Em went home. Boy and Em live together in Rochester. They like living in Rochester. It was time for Boy and Em to go to sleep. Before they went to sleep, they each took a bath. They put bubbles and soap in the bath. After the bath, Boy and Em watched TV. They watched *Spongebob Square Pants*. They like *Spongebob* a lot. Then, they had their nighttime snack. And then they went to bed. Boy and Em share a room. They like sharing a room.

The next day, Boy and Em had school. They were in ninth grade. Boy's favorite subject is math. Em's favorite subject was science. They both like recess. They play street hockey at recess and during gym class. Boy and Em had a fun time at school.

They play basketball after school. They are on the school team. They are very good at basketball. The team is a good team. The team goes to watch games together. They had a game that day. They win. Boy and Em were starters. Boy and Em celebrated their win with milkshakes. They get mint milkshakes. They also get banana splits. All that ice cream made their stomachs hurt. Em and Boy regret eating so much. They feel sick, so they go home. When they get home, they get in bed and go to sleep early.

The next day was Saturday. Boy and Em woke up at 5 A.M. and ate breakfast. They had waffles for breakfast. They put strawberries and whipped cream on their waffles. They had apple juice, too. They also had milk, and they had tea. After breakfast, Em and Boy went to go brush their teeth. Their toothpaste was strawberry-flavored. Then they got dressed. Boy was wearing blue pants, white socks, blue shoes, and a blue shirt. Blue was Boy's favorite color. Em was wearing a blue sweater, blue pants, white socks, and blue shoes. His favorite color was also blue.

After they got dressed, Boy and Em went outside to their backyard. They had fun outside. They played soccer. They are also on the school soccer team. Boy plays goalie. Em plays striker. Em scores a lot in school games. They spend a whole hour in the backyard practicing. It was very cold outside. They need jackets. The jackets are also blue. It is snowing outside. Boy and Em decided to go sledding with ten friends. The sled was blue and yellow. They were sledding for an hour- until one. After sledding, Em, Boy, and their friends went to go get lunch. They had sandwiches for lunch. The sandwiches were made of bread, mayonnaise, turkey, and cheese. They were good sandwiches.

After lunch, Boy and Em went to school for basketball practice. It was a good practice. Boy and Em made a lot of baskets. They did a lot of dribbling and passing, too. They passed to the whole team. There are ten teammates. Boy and Em score three points during practice. They practiced for ten hours. They were really tired after practicing for ten hours. After practice ended, they went home and slept. They slept for ten hours.

On Sunday, they had more basketball practice. Em and Boy really liked basketball. They also played soccer on Sunday. They also spend time with their parents on Sunday. They go to bed early because it's a school night.

The next day was Monday. It should have been a normal day, but a huge wave washed away all of Rochester. Boy and Em survive, though. After the wave is over, Boy and Em try to find their friends. GraySpace is the friend that they look for first because she lives near them. They find her outside her house. When she saw them, GraySpace yelled out, "Hi!" and went to go give Boy and Em a big hug. Next, they decided to go look for food. They find food at a house. They find oranges. They all like oranges. They decide to sleep at the house where they found the oranges because it was not broken by the wave. Once they decide to stay, they go to sleep because it's bedtime.

On Tuesday afternoon, they decided to go check out the school. At the school, there was a pigeon. They decided to name the pigeon Soccer Ball. There was also a picture of the school at the school. There was also lunch food at the school, and they took it with them to their house. They met a teacher at the school. The teacher said, "Hi," and gave them more lunch food.

After they left the school, they went home to eat their food. The next thing they needed was money. They decided to go look for it at the high school. They look in classrooms, other rooms, the cafeteria, and in the gym. They found a lot of money, and that made them feel good. The money was in cash. They decided to play basketball in the gym. GraySpace was good at basketball. They all played well, but Em won the game.

After that, they went back home to watch a game on TV. Only Rochester was affected by the giant wave, so basketball games were still happening in other places. Washington and Rochester were playing in the game. Rochester won.

After the game, they decided to go find another friend. They leave the house and turn right. They find a friend right away. They find their friend Fire Drill. Fire Drill was very nice. Fire Drill was a girl. She was very fast. When Fire Drill saw Em, Boy, and GraySpace, she ran over and said hi. They waved hi back. They decided to go see a baseball game, which was also still happening. They had to walk to the stadium, though.

It was a good game. They had fruit at the game. They had grapes and apples, which they all liked. The game was close. The score was three-two. The Yankees won. They were all sad that the Yankees won. After the game, they went to get hotdogs and cheeseburgers. They tasted very good. They also had a pizza.

The next day, Boy, Em, and their friends decided to try to fix Rochester. They decided to look for materials to rebuild houses. They looked for drills so they could rebuild. They also needed wood and bricks. They put on their jackets before they go look for the material because it is very cold

outdoors. They also want wood to start a fire so they can go to sleep because it was midnight.

The next day, they go outside to rebuild the houses. They do a good job. Lots of people helped them. They worked until ten o'clock. It took them two months to rebuild all the houses. They got a lot of water to put in the houses. After they rebuilt Rochester, Em, Boy, Fire Drill, and GraySpace had to go back to school. They were happy to go outside but sad to go back to school. Boy and Em were happy to be back on the basketball team, though.

The first day back to school, they woke up at seven. They walk to school. School starts at seven-thirty. Their first class was science class. They like science class. They are studying humans in science class. They say hi to a person. The person's name is Accola. She is Boy and Em's friend. She was nice. She was in science class with them. She likes science class and gym class. She also plays basketball. She was good at basketball.

Accola tutors Boy and Em for science. Accola helps them a lot. Now they get okay grades in science. After science, they had Christmas class. Their friend Peter was in Christmas class with them. In Christmas class, they learn how to wrap presents and make hot chocolate. Boy, Em, and Peter like marshmallows in their hot chocolate.

After Christmas class, they have a free hour. After that, they go to art class. They are painting and using crayons and markers in art class. They use crayons and markers to draw on paper. They draw pictures of people. Boy and Em are good at drawing people. They also draw with a green crayon and a yellow crayon.

Next, they had lunch. They ate lunch with their friends. They had spaghetti with meatballs for lunch. They had water to drink. Their lunch period was 20 minutes, and then they had recess. They play basketball during recess.

They had math class after lunch. Boy and Em both like math class. They worked on adding in math class, and they were good at it. Their last class of the day was English. They are reading a book about a football team in class. They like the book. They have to write an essay about the book. They like writing essays.

School ended at two o'clock in the afternoon. After school, they took the bus home. They got home at three o'clock. Once they got home, they went and played in the backyard. They played volleyball in the backyard. They also played hockey. They scored in hockey. They played their best at hockey. They played until four o'clock. After they finished, they went back inside. Once they went inside, they had to do homework at their desks. Boy and Em like doing homework. They do homework with a pen. They keep a cup of water next to them. They do their homework in their room. They did homework for one hour, and then it was dinner time.

They ate dinner in their room at five o'clock. They had pizza for dinner. The pizza had pepperoni and cheese on top. They had Sprite to drink. After dinner, they watched TV. They watched *SpongeBob SquarePants* and the Sabers game. The Sabers game had a puck and a stick. The Sabers won the game. After the game, they had dessert. They had vanilla ice cream. It was very good. After dessert, it was ten o'clock, so it was time for bed.

The next day was Saturday. Boy and Em had basketball practice on Saturdays, so

they had to wake up at five o'clock in the morning. They don't eat breakfast and decide to walk to school for practice. They scored baskets at basketball. Boy scored more baskets. They worked on passing in practice. They had practice for two hours. After practice, they had hamburgers for lunch. They had cheese on their hamburgers. They also had fries on the side. They drank water with their food. They also had lemonade with their lunch. Their coach, also named Boy, ate lunch with them. The coach also ate a hamburger with cheese and fries.

After lunch, Boy and Em went home. When they got there, they ate more food. The coach came home with them. They all decided to play a board game. They decided to play Monopoly. The coach won. After Monopoly, they decided to play Uno. The coach also won at Uno. Then they went back to school to play catch. After playing catch, they all played tag. They were all tired, so Boy and Em went home to go to sleep.

The next day, Boy and Em found out that the coach won 300 dollars. Coach won the money through the lottery. He bought water bottles with the money. He drank water because he was sweaty. He also used it to buy tickets to a basketball game. He went by himself. He drank lots of water at the game. He had fun at the game. Boy and Em are happy for the coach.

That Monday, Boy and Em went back to school. On Tuesday, they also had school. They did lots of work at school. They played soccer in gym class. Boy and Em are good at soccer. They got tickets to a soccer game. They had cheeseburgers and fries at the game. It was a close game. The score was two-three. Their favorite team won. Their parents drove them home. It was



a five-hour drive. They went straight to sleep when they got home.

The next day was Wednesday. They had school. They had fun classes, like math, on Wednesday. They got outside of school at seven o'clock. They had to stay late because they had basketball practice. They watched a softball game on TV when they got home. They went to sleep at ten o'clock.

They had school the next day because it was Thursday. There was a softball game after school, and Boy and Em went to watch it. Their school won the game. Their friend Charlotte is on the softball team. Charlotte is good at softball. They hung out with her at a restaurant after the game. They had dinner at the restaurant. They had steaks and chips for dinner. They drank water with dinner. After dinner, they went to watch a football game on TV. The Bills were playing, and they won twenty-eight-to-three. After the game, they had cheesecake and apple pie for dessert. The dessert was really good. After dessert, Charlotte went home, and Boy and Em went to bed.

The next day was Friday, and they had school again. They like going back to school. Charlotte is at school. Boy has a small crush on Charlotte. That day, Boy decided to ask Charlotte on a date. Charlotte said yes. They go to dinner that night for their date. Charlotte has spaghetti with meatballs and bread for dinner, with a salad with blue cheese and Italian dressing on the side. She drank water. Boy had a hot dog with ketchup for dinner. They had apple pie for dessert. They had a lot of fun on their date. They decided to go on another date later.

After the date, Boy went home and told Em about it. Em was happy for Boy. They

watched some TV before bed. The next day was Saturday, so they got to sleep in. After they woke up, they had to go to basketball practice. They worked on shooting at practice. After practice, the whole team watched a game on TV. They had a fun afternoon. After the game, Boy and Em went home to go to sleep because they were very tired.

On Sunday, they decided to have a lazy day. They stayed in their pajamas all day, but they made sure to wash their faces and their bodies. Other than that, they did nothing.

The next day was Monday, and they went to school. It was spring, so they wore short sleeves. Boy wore a blue shirt, and Em wore a white shirt. They saw Charlotte at school. They said hi to each other. They have the same Spanish class and gym class. They played street hockey in gym class. They also played basketball and got five baskets. They were all good at street hockey and basketball. After gym was lunchtime. They had apples, and red grapes, and strawberries for lunch. They also had water and milk. They also had spaghetti for lunch.

After lunch, they had art class with Fire Drill. They sat at desks and did drawings with crayons and markers. Boy drew a paper. Em drew writing. They had fun in art class. Christmas class was after art class. Fire Drill was in their Christmas class. Peter and Fire Drill worked together in Christmas class. They also played hockey with wrapping paper in class.

School ends at two o'clock. Boy and Em take a bus home from school. When they get home, they take a nap on the couch. They wake up at six o'clock. They have dinner at their house at six-thirty. After dinner, they go back to sleep.

The next day was Tuesday, and they had class. They say hi to their friends in their classes. They have basketball practice after school. They take the bus at two o'clock back home. They get home at three o'clock. They watch TV when they get home. They watched *The Office*, which is their favorite show. Dwight is their favorite character in *The Office*. They watch TV for the rest of the night. They go to bed at eleven o'clock.

Wednesday was the second to last day of school. They had a lot of fun and said some goodbyes. They had their last tests and a basketball game. It started at seven-thirty. They won the game.

The next day, Thursday, was the last day of school. They said goodbye to their friends and teachers and were very excited for the summer. Over the summer, Boy and Em plan to play sports, hang out with friends, and just have fun.