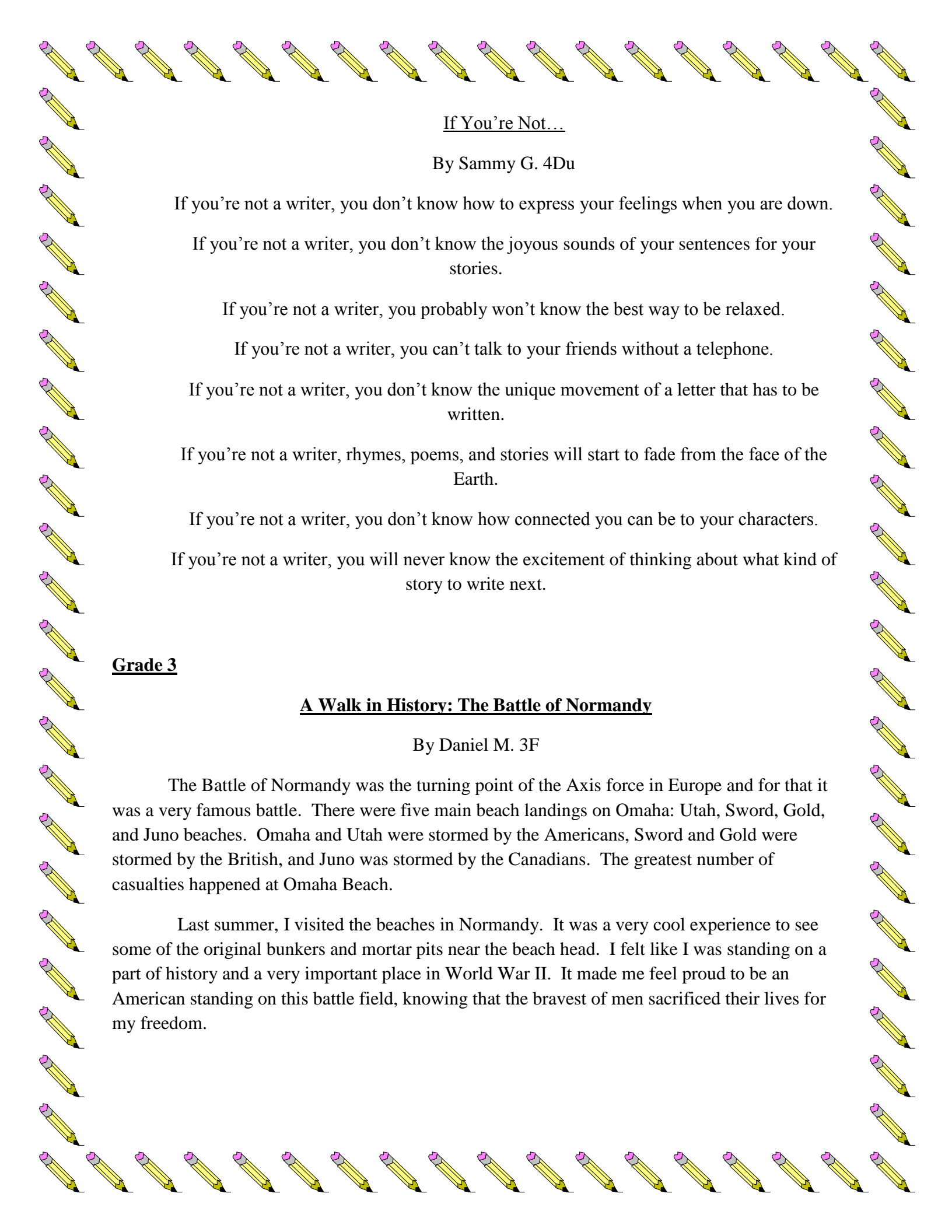




**THE  
WEST  
SIDE  
STORY**

**A LITERARY  
MAGAZINE  
FOR STUDENTS,  
BY STUDENTS**

**SPRING 2011**



If You're Not...

By Sammy G. 4Du

If you're not a writer, you don't know how to express your feelings when you are down.

If you're not a writer, you don't know the joyous sounds of your sentences for your stories.

If you're not a writer, you probably won't know the best way to be relaxed.

If you're not a writer, you can't talk to your friends without a telephone.

If you're not a writer, you don't know the unique movement of a letter that has to be written.

If you're not a writer, rhymes, poems, and stories will start to fade from the face of the Earth.

If you're not a writer, you don't know how connected you can be to your characters.

If you're not a writer, you will never know the excitement of thinking about what kind of story to write next.

Grade 3

**A Walk in History: The Battle of Normandy**

By Daniel M. 3F

The Battle of Normandy was the turning point of the Axis force in Europe and for that it was a very famous battle. There were five main beach landings on Omaha: Utah, Sword, Gold, and Juno beaches. Omaha and Utah were stormed by the Americans, Sword and Gold were stormed by the British, and Juno was stormed by the Canadians. The greatest number of casualties happened at Omaha Beach.

Last summer, I visited the beaches in Normandy. It was a very cool experience to see some of the original bunkers and mortar pits near the beach head. I felt like I was standing on a part of history and a very important place in World War II. It made me feel proud to be an American standing on this battle field, knowing that the bravest of men sacrificed their lives for my freedom.



## Camp Laurel

By Sophia S. 3P

Camp Laurel is a welcoming camp full of young campers from first to sixth grade. Your child will have the best experience of his life there. Your child will be having fun outside doing a variety of activities for boys and girls. No child is left behind.

The counselors are always there too. They show up every morning with a smile on their faces. The owners are nice too! They don't just know your name, but they know your favorite activities and hobbies too.

The meals are pretty delicious. The breakfast is scrumptious and the desserts are to die for. The food is amazing-- it's like food fit for kings.

Your child will come home giving you so much information about the fun they had. It will most likely take two hours to tell. Your child will want to come back every year. Camp Laurel rocks!

## Carlos' Bakery

By Mia N. 3P

Carlos' Bakery is the best bakery I've ever been to. This is the bakery on the show *Cake Boss*. Buddy makes really cool cakes. We saw a tie-dyed peace cake. I got a Big Bird cup cake. The best flavor was the Red Velvet!

The bad thing about Carlos Bakery is the long wait. It took us two hours to get into the bakery and one hour to get our food from Buddy. The trip to Carlos' Bakery was amazing! The best part about the trip was seeing Buddy and his sister. I give this bakery five stars!

## Dylan's Candy Shop

By Sophia S. 3P

At Dylan's Candy Shop there is an enormous variety of candies. Right when you walk in the door you smell the smell of candy, ice cream, and anything you can imagine.

The store is filled with candy! The stairs are made of candy with a glass cover over every step and the tables are covered with gumballs. Every wall has candy glued to it and candy machines are even covered in popcorn.

The milkshakes are sweet and the ice cream is amazing. While you enjoy your delicious dessert, you can look out the big window and watch the beautiful city below. Enjoy!

## How to Make Chocolate Chip Pancakes

By Sam R. 3P

Do you want to have the best chocolate chip pancakes? Well, read this *How To* essay to learn how to make chocolate chip pancakes.

### Materials:

- Griddle
- Chocolate chips
- Eggs
- Flower
- batter

**Tip:** Use big chocolate chips

### Steps:

1. First, make the batter (or buy it at a store).
2. Next, preheat the griddle.
3. Then, put the batter in the griddle.
4. After that, put 5 chocolate chips in.
5. Last, flip them when they start to bubble.



## Haiku

By Katie M. 3P

Birds making noises

Recycle water bottles

Reduce, Recycle



## How to Make a Friendship Bracelet

By Fiona H. 3P

Do you want to learn how to make a bracelet? If so, I'm going to teach you how to make a bracelet. I am good at it because I watch my sister do it a lot.

## Materials

- String
- Sisters
- Clipboard

**Tip:** Always go slow if you want your bracelet to be good.

## Steps:

1. First, lay one end of the thread across your palm and let the very end dangle off the side of your hand between your thumb and index finger.
2. Next, put the thread between your ring finger and your little finger. Wrap the thread around your little finger.
3. Then, the thread goes across your palm in between your index finger and around your thumb.
4. After, this is the path of the thread: Across your palm between your ring finger and your little finger, around your little finger, back across your palm, between your thumb and index finger and around your thumb. The threads criss-cross in the center of your palm. You're making two sets of loops like the wings of a butterfly-- One set around your little finger and one set around your thumb.
5. Last, when you've butterflyed nearly all the thread, pinch the butterfly where the threads criss-cross and lift it off your finger. Wind the last bit of thread around the center of the butterfly to keep it together.



look

## How to Make a Smoothie

By Ariel S. 3P

Do you want to know how to make a refreshing drink? If so, I am going to teach you how to make a smoothie. I love smoothies and I think you will like them too.

## Materials:

- Blender
- Fruits
- Yogurt (Can be any kind)
- Orange juice (Preferred no pulp)
- Small bag of ice



**Tip:** Make sure to turn the blender to medium.

**Procedure:**

1. First, go to the supermarket to get your ingredients.
2. Next, put all your ingredients out on a table.
3. Then, put your ice into the freezer so it doesn't melt. Rinse fruits in sink. Pour orange juice into the blender.
4. After, put the yogurt into the blender. Put all fruits in the blender. Take ice out of the fridge and put it in the blender.
5. Last, turn the blender on. Put the lid on. Take out a cup. Press off and unplug. Enjoy your delicious smoothie.
- 6.

**If I Were in Charge of the World**

By Fiona H. 3P (Inspired by Judith Viorst's poem)

If I were in charge of the world,  
I would turn vegetables into candy,  
and candy would be everywhere.



If I were in charge of the world,

I would turn people into puppies,  
and be friends with them.

If I were in charge of the world,

we would have no school or work,  
and we would play all day.

If I were not a dog,

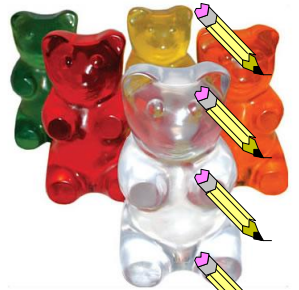
I would still be allowed  
To be in charge of the world.



**If I Were in Charge of the World**

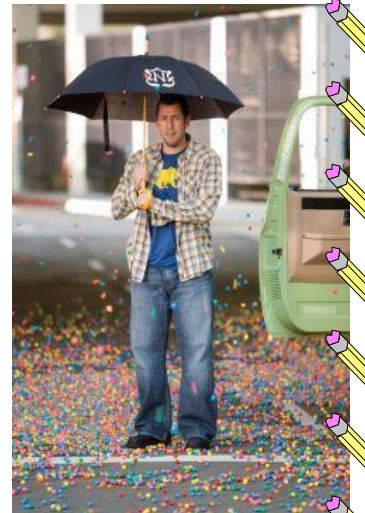
By Caitlin M. 3P (Inspired By Judith Viorst's poem)

If I were in charge of the world,  
School, homework, and Mondays would be canceled.  
The world would be made out of gummy bears,  
Math wouldn't even exist.



If I were in charge of the world,  
We wouldn't have any dinner, just dessert.  
We wouldn't have a bed time at all.  
Living things dying would be banned forever.

If I were in charge of the world,  
Thunder and lightning would be the best weather.  
It would rain gum balls at 8:00 am every day.  
The clouds would be made out of cotton candy.



If I were in charge of the world,  
A girl who cries,  
And is only eight years old,  
And never cleans her room,  
Would still be allowed to be in charge of the world.



If I Were in Charge of the World

By Mia N. 3P (Inspired by Judith Viorst's poem)

If I were in charge of the world,  
I would make the world out of candy.  
One dollar bills would be 1,000 dollar bills.  
Pencils would not break during tests.

If I were in charge of the world,  
All houses would be machines.  
All of us could fly.  
No one would need help with stuff.

If I were in charge of the world,  
There would be no such thing as bad people,  
No homework and  
No such thing as a state test.

If I were in charge of the world,  
We would have cubs as pets.  
Nickels would be jewels.  
And a girl with a big nose could still be in charge of the world.

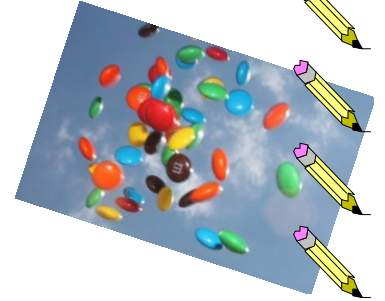


# If I Were in Charge of the World

Written by Peter S. 3P (Inspired by Judith Viorst's poem)



**If I were in charge of the world,  
I would make ice cream a vegetable.  
I would let people fly.  
I would make it rain candy!**



**If I were in charge of the world,  
I would make school five seconds long.  
I would have kids rule their parents.  
I would make it a nice temperature all year long.**

**If I were in charge of the world,  
I would make water taste like Gatorade.  
I would have no bed time at all.  
I would let everybody over age three drive a car!**

**If I were in charge of the world,  
I would have an amusement park in my back yard.  
Failing a test would not matter, so you would get 100.  
I would always have the best teachers!  
A 9 year old kid that plays lacrosse for 10 hours on the weekends would still be allowed to  
be in charge of the world!**

## Earth Day Haiku

By Sam R. 3P

**Litter bugs are bad.  
Reduce, reuse, recycle.  
Please do not litter.**



The Problem with McDonald's

By Blake N. 3P

Ah, McDonald's fattening people worldwide from America to China, from Australia to Brazil. Happy meals are being served around the world every second of the day. Why do we eat this bad food!? Personally, I don't eat food with so many fats and chemicals in one chicken nugget.

Nobody should eat McDonalds' because it is killing us. We need to eat at other restaurants like Subway or Arby's. Even if McDonalds' offers SOME good things nobody orders them so McDonalds' should only serve healthy food.

**NOT!**



Loveable Animals

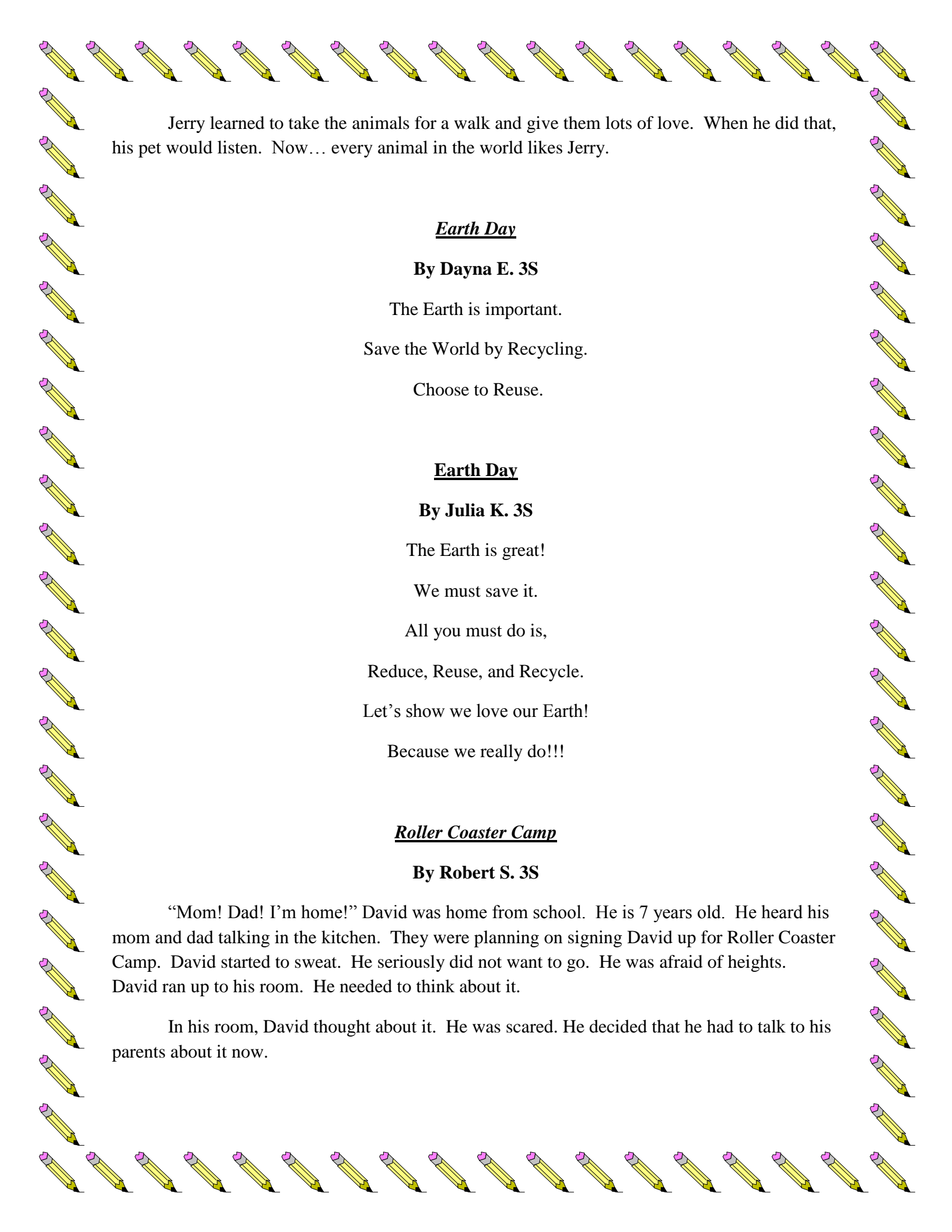
By Zachary B. 3P

Jerry loved animals, but animals didn't love him. He was a 10 year old boy. Whenever Jerry saw an animal, he tried everything he could think of to get close to that animal. No matter what Jerry did, the animal would walk away and leave Jerry with his mouth wide open.

When Jerry fed the animals they took the food and walked away. He bought every treat he could find. Jerry baked special food for the animals and Jerry saved his steak bones from restaurants. He did everything he could think of. Jerry felt discouraged.

Jerry tried everything he could think of. But nothing worked for him. He did not like what happened. Jerry wondered if he could ever make a pet love him. Jerry felt like he would be a failure.

When Jerry tried to give an animal a bath it ran away. Jerry went to the library to look up how to make animals love you. He found a book shelf that said *Treating Animals*. Jerry found a book and got the right answers.



Jerry learned to take the animals for a walk and give them lots of love. When he did that, his pet would listen. Now... every animal in the world likes Jerry.

**Earth Day**

**By Dayna E. 3S**

The Earth is important.

Save the World by Recycling.

Choose to Reuse.

**Earth Day**

**By Julia K. 3S**

The Earth is great!

We must save it.

All you must do is,

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Let's show we love our Earth!

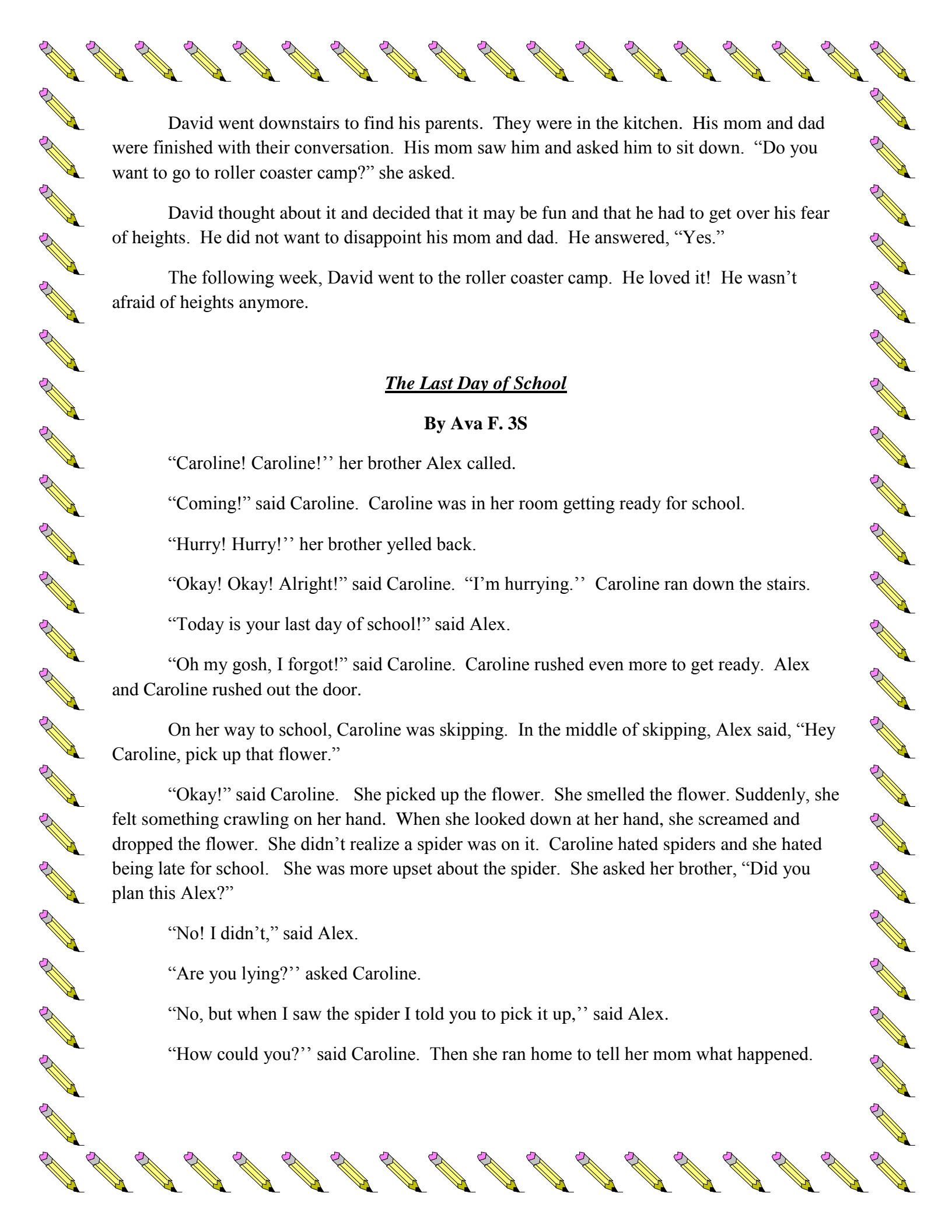
Because we really do!!!

**Roller Coaster Camp**

**By Robert S. 3S**

“Mom! Dad! I’m home!” David was home from school. He is 7 years old. He heard his mom and dad talking in the kitchen. They were planning on signing David up for Roller Coaster Camp. David started to sweat. He seriously did not want to go. He was afraid of heights. David ran up to his room. He needed to think about it.

In his room, David thought about it. He was scared. He decided that he had to talk to his parents about it now.



David went downstairs to find his parents. They were in the kitchen. His mom and dad were finished with their conversation. His mom saw him and asked him to sit down. “Do you want to go to roller coaster camp?” she asked.

David thought about it and decided that it may be fun and that he had to get over his fear of heights. He did not want to disappoint his mom and dad. He answered, “Yes.”

The following week, David went to the roller coaster camp. He loved it! He wasn’t afraid of heights anymore.

### *The Last Day of School*

By Ava F. 3S

“Caroline! Caroline!” her brother Alex called.

“Coming!” said Caroline. Caroline was in her room getting ready for school.

“Hurry! Hurry!” her brother yelled back.

“Okay! Okay! Alright!” said Caroline. “I’m hurrying.” Caroline ran down the stairs.

“Today is your last day of school!” said Alex.

“Oh my gosh, I forgot!” said Caroline. Caroline rushed even more to get ready. Alex and Caroline rushed out the door.

On her way to school, Caroline was skipping. In the middle of skipping, Alex said, “Hey Caroline, pick up that flower.”

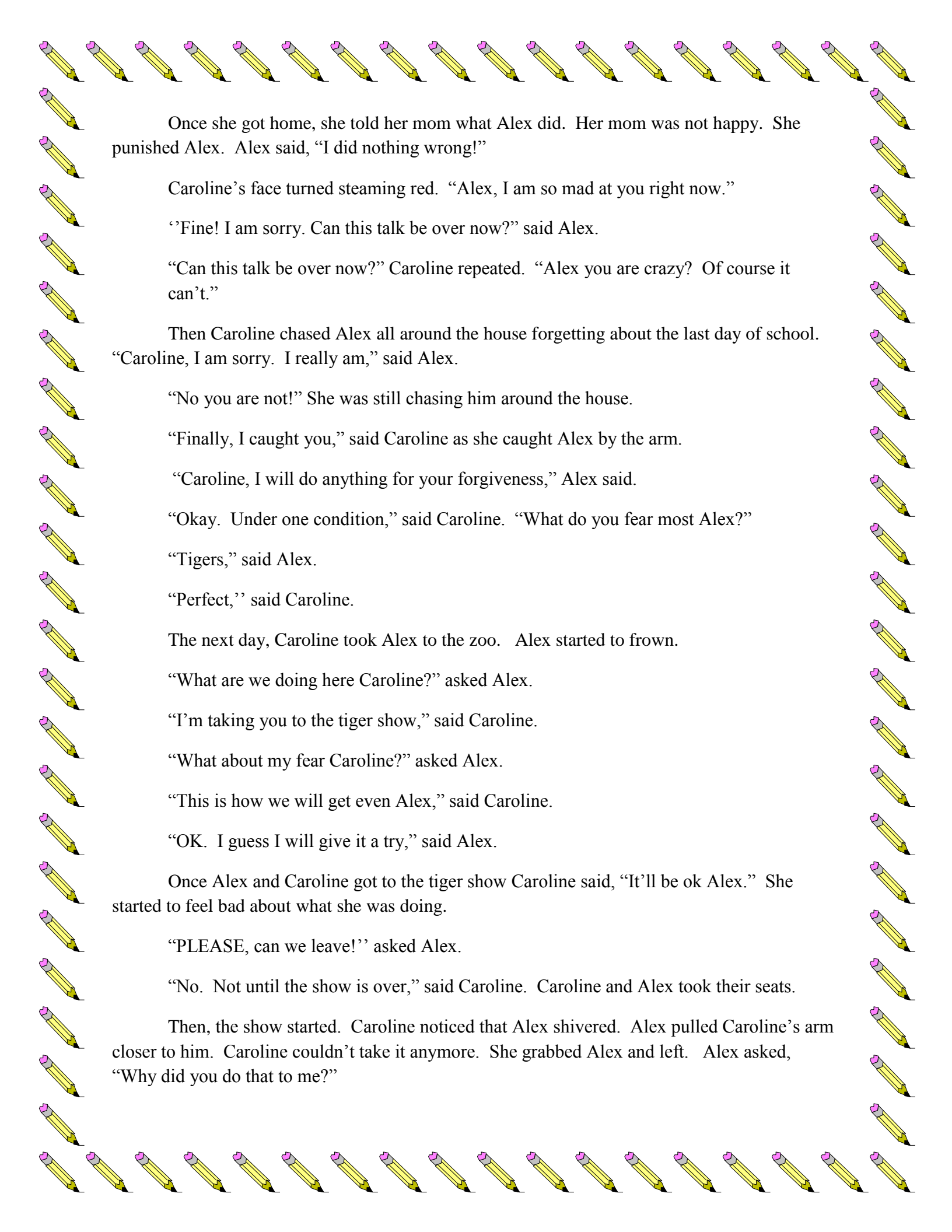
“Okay!” said Caroline. She picked up the flower. She smelled the flower. Suddenly, she felt something crawling on her hand. When she looked down at her hand, she screamed and dropped the flower. She didn’t realize a spider was on it. Caroline hated spiders and she hated being late for school. She was more upset about the spider. She asked her brother, “Did you plan this Alex?”

“No! I didn’t,” said Alex.

“Are you lying?” asked Caroline.

“No, but when I saw the spider I told you to pick it up,” said Alex.

“How could you?” said Caroline. Then she ran home to tell her mom what happened.



Once she got home, she told her mom what Alex did. Her mom was not happy. She punished Alex. Alex said, "I did nothing wrong!"

Caroline's face turned steaming red. "Alex, I am so mad at you right now."

"Fine! I am sorry. Can this talk be over now?" said Alex.

"Can this talk be over now?" Caroline repeated. "Alex you are crazy? Of course it can't."

Then Caroline chased Alex all around the house forgetting about the last day of school. "Caroline, I am sorry. I really am," said Alex.

"No you are not!" She was still chasing him around the house.

"Finally, I caught you," said Caroline as she caught Alex by the arm.

"Caroline, I will do anything for your forgiveness," Alex said.

"Okay. Under one condition," said Caroline. "What do you fear most Alex?"

"Tigers," said Alex.

"Perfect," said Caroline.

The next day, Caroline took Alex to the zoo. Alex started to frown.

"What are we doing here Caroline?" asked Alex.

"I'm taking you to the tiger show," said Caroline.

"What about my fear Caroline?" asked Alex.

"This is how we will get even Alex," said Caroline.

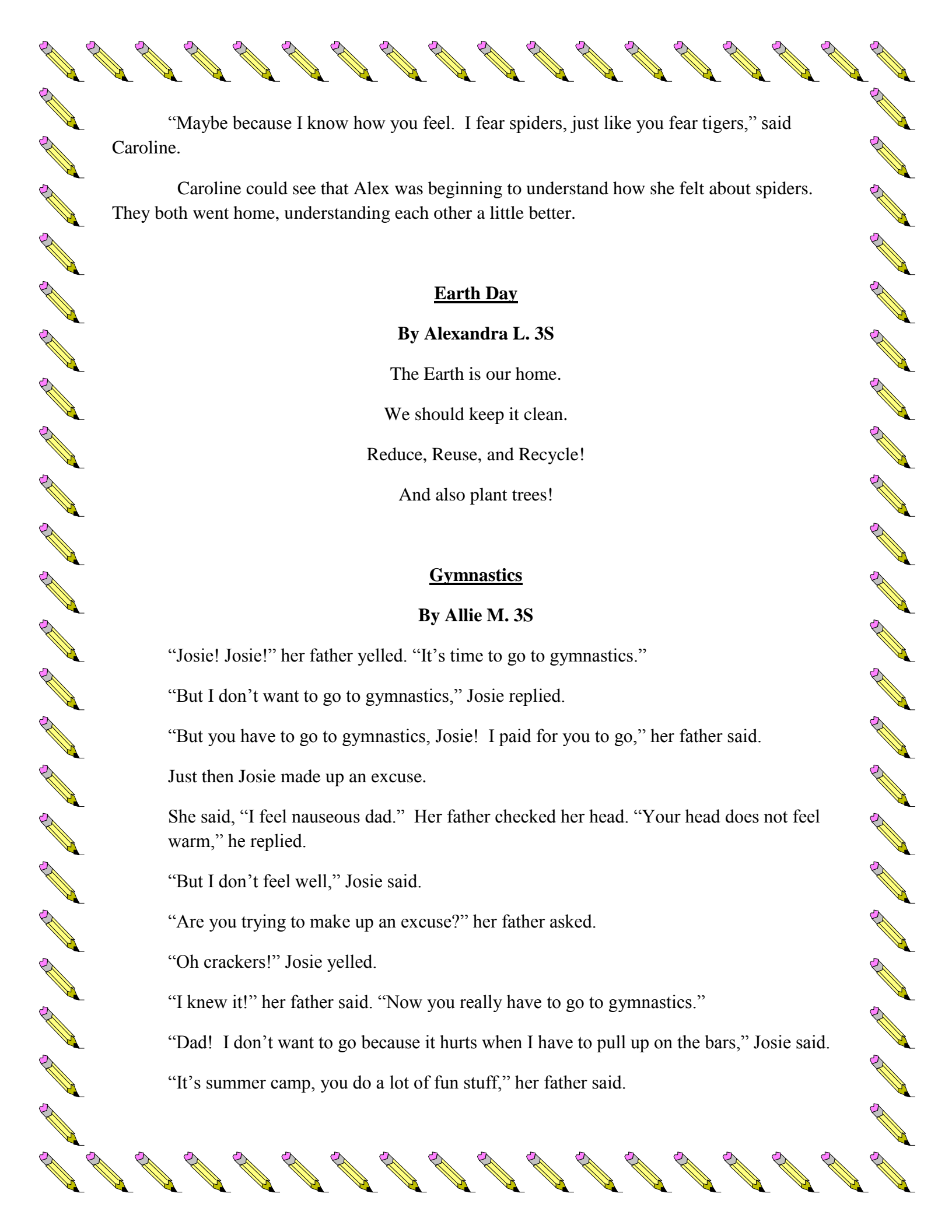
"OK. I guess I will give it a try," said Alex.

Once Alex and Caroline got to the tiger show Caroline said, "It'll be ok Alex." She started to feel bad about what she was doing.

"PLEASE, can we leave!" asked Alex.

"No. Not until the show is over," said Caroline. Caroline and Alex took their seats.

Then, the show started. Caroline noticed that Alex shivered. Alex pulled Caroline's arm closer to him. Caroline couldn't take it anymore. She grabbed Alex and left. Alex asked, "Why did you do that to me?"



“Maybe because I know how you feel. I fear spiders, just like you fear tigers,” said Caroline.

Caroline could see that Alex was beginning to understand how she felt about spiders. They both went home, understanding each other a little better.

### **Earth Day**

**By Alexandra L. 3S**

The Earth is our home.

We should keep it clean.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

And also plant trees!

### **Gymnastics**

**By Allie M. 3S**

“Josie! Josie!” her father yelled. “It’s time to go to gymnastics.”

“But I don’t want to go to gymnastics,” Josie replied.

“But you have to go to gymnastics, Josie! I paid for you to go,” her father said.

Just then Josie made up an excuse.

She said, “I feel nauseous dad.” Her father checked her head. “Your head does not feel warm,” he replied.

“But I don’t feel well,” Josie said.

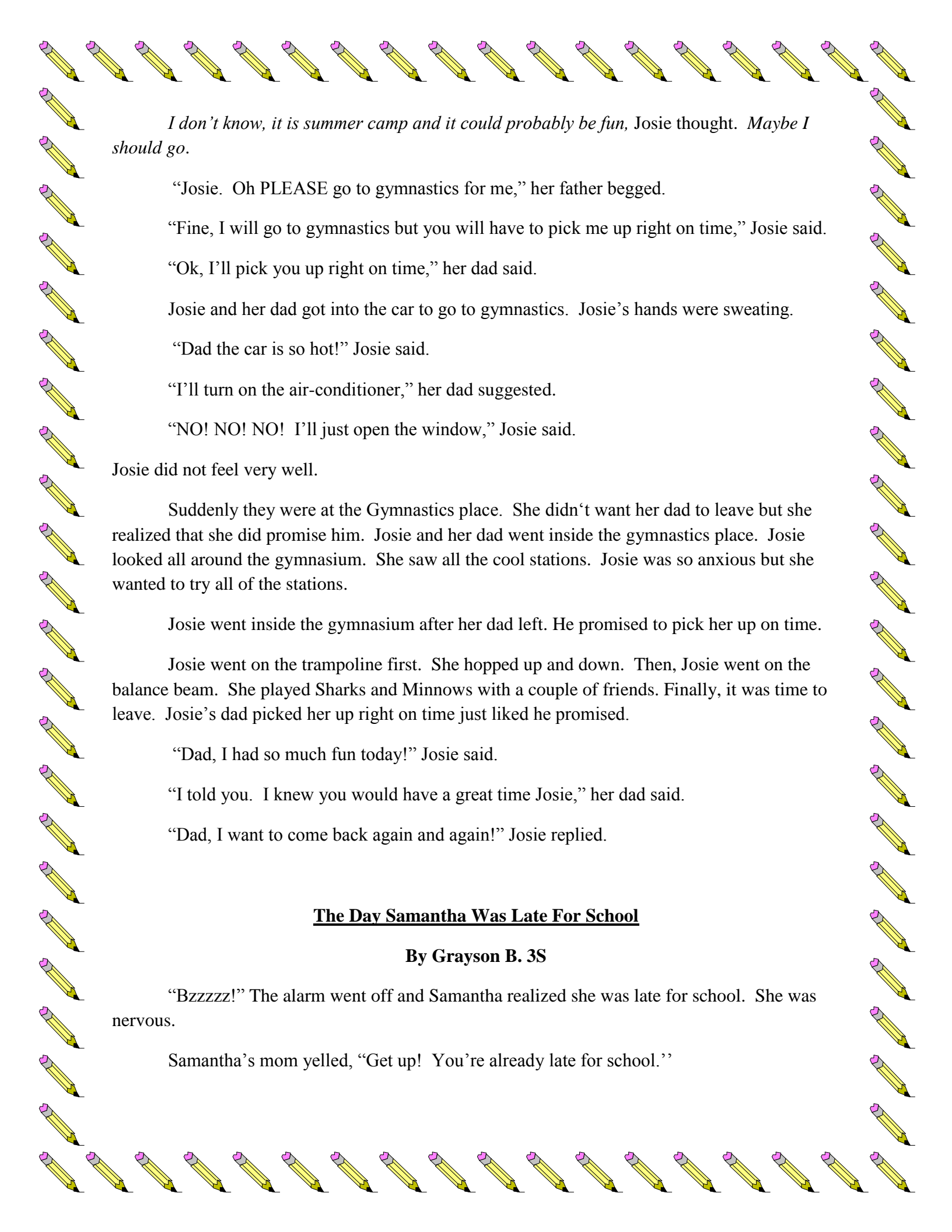
“Are you trying to make up an excuse?” her father asked.

“Oh crackers!” Josie yelled.

“I knew it!” her father said. “Now you really have to go to gymnastics.”

“Dad! I don’t want to go because it hurts when I have to pull up on the bars,” Josie said.

“It’s summer camp, you do a lot of fun stuff,” her father said.



*I don't know, it is summer camp and it could probably be fun, Josie thought. Maybe I should go.*

“Josie. Oh PLEASE go to gymnastics for me,” her father begged.

“Fine, I will go to gymnastics but you will have to pick me up right on time,” Josie said.

“Ok, I'll pick you up right on time,” her dad said.

Josie and her dad got into the car to go to gymnastics. Josie's hands were sweating.

“Dad the car is so hot!” Josie said.

“I'll turn on the air-conditioner,” her dad suggested.

“NO! NO! NO! I'll just open the window,” Josie said.

Josie did not feel very well.

Suddenly they were at the Gymnastics place. She didn't want her dad to leave but she realized that she did promise him. Josie and her dad went inside the gymnastics place. Josie looked all around the gymnasium. She saw all the cool stations. Josie was so anxious but she wanted to try all of the stations.

Josie went inside the gymnasium after her dad left. He promised to pick her up on time.

Josie went on the trampoline first. She hopped up and down. Then, Josie went on the balance beam. She played Sharks and Minnows with a couple of friends. Finally, it was time to leave. Josie's dad picked her up right on time just like he promised.

“Dad, I had so much fun today!” Josie said.

“I told you. I knew you would have a great time Josie,” her dad said.

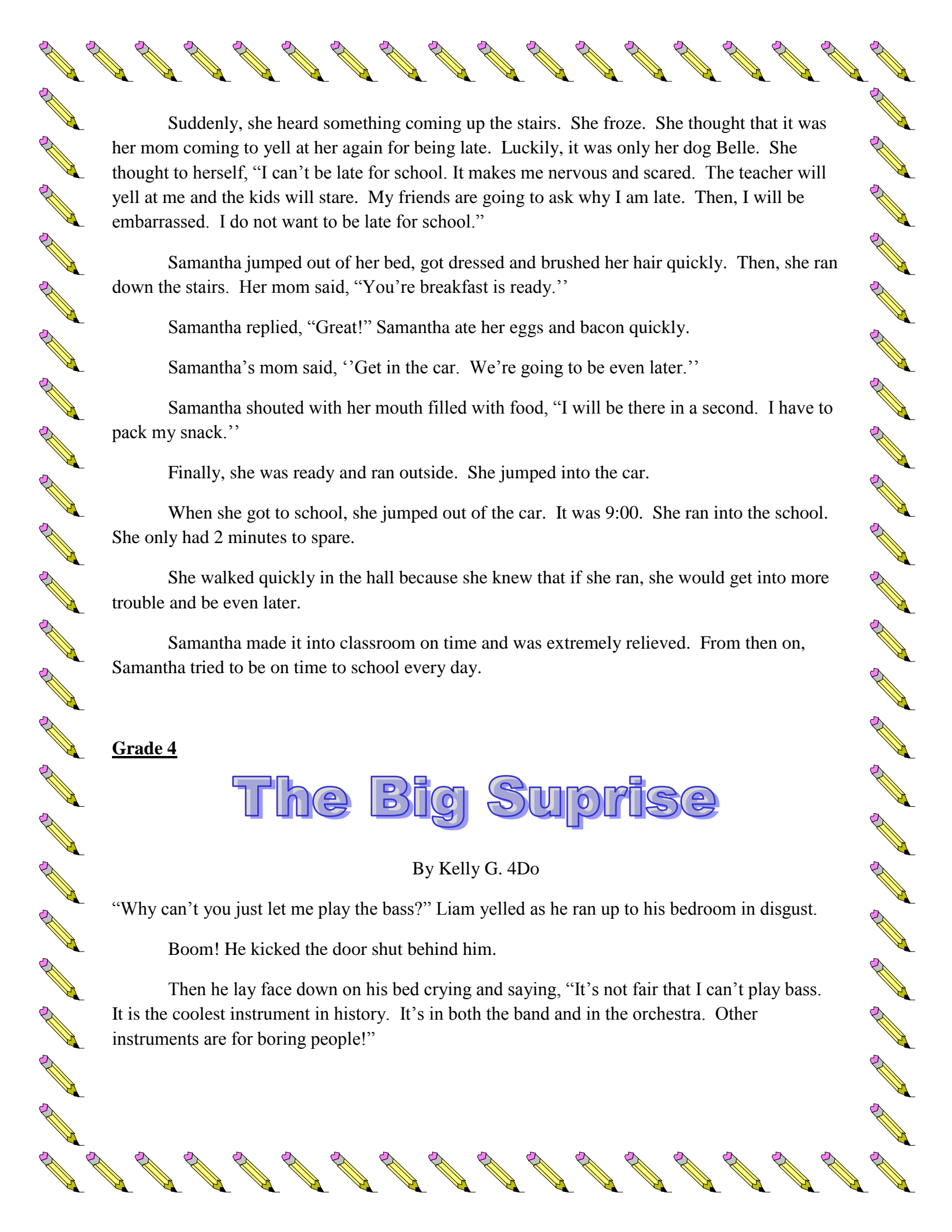
“Dad, I want to come back again and again!” Josie replied.

### **The Day Samantha Was Late For School**

**By Grayson B. 3S**

“Bzzzzz!” The alarm went off and Samantha realized she was late for school. She was nervous.

Samantha's mom yelled, “Get up! You're already late for school.”



Suddenly, she heard something coming up the stairs. She froze. She thought that it was her mom coming to yell at her again for being late. Luckily, it was only her dog Belle. She thought to herself, "I can't be late for school. It makes me nervous and scared. The teacher will yell at me and the kids will stare. My friends are going to ask why I am late. Then, I will be embarrassed. I do not want to be late for school."

Samantha jumped out of her bed, got dressed and brushed her hair quickly. Then, she ran down the stairs. Her mom said, "Your breakfast is ready."

Samantha replied, "Great!" Samantha ate her eggs and bacon quickly.

Samantha's mom said, "Get in the car. We're going to be even later."

Samantha shouted with her mouth filled with food, "I will be there in a second. I have to pack my snack."

Finally, she was ready and ran outside. She jumped into the car.

When she got to school, she jumped out of the car. It was 9:00. She ran into the school. She only had 2 minutes to spare.

She walked quickly in the hall because she knew that if she ran, she would get into more trouble and be even later.

Samantha made it into classroom on time and was extremely relieved. From then on, Samantha tried to be on time to school every day.

## Grade 4

# The Big Surprise

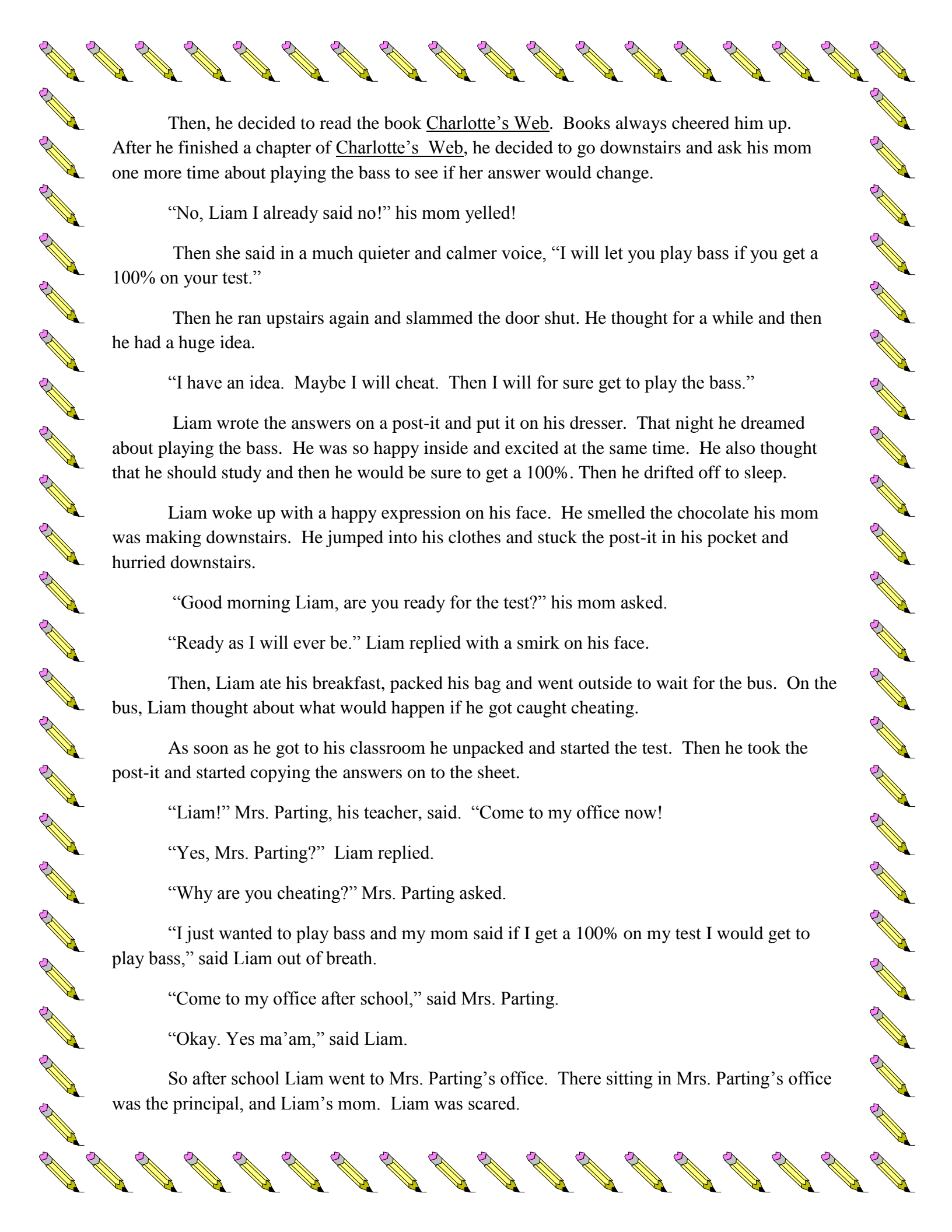
By Kelly G. 4Do

"Why can't you just let me play the bass?" Liam yelled as he ran up to his bedroom in disgust.

Boom! He kicked the door shut behind him.

Then he lay face down on his bed crying and saying, "It's not fair that I can't play bass. It is the coolest instrument in history. It's in both the band and in the orchestra. Other instruments are for boring people!"





Then, he decided to read the book Charlotte's Web. Books always cheered him up. After he finished a chapter of Charlotte's Web, he decided to go downstairs and ask his mom one more time about playing the bass to see if her answer would change.

"No, Liam I already said no!" his mom yelled!

Then she said in a much quieter and calmer voice, "I will let you play bass if you get a 100% on your test."

Then he ran upstairs again and slammed the door shut. He thought for a while and then he had a huge idea.

"I have an idea. Maybe I will cheat. Then I will for sure get to play the bass."

Liam wrote the answers on a post-it and put it on his dresser. That night he dreamed about playing the bass. He was so happy inside and excited at the same time. He also thought that he should study and then he would be sure to get a 100%. Then he drifted off to sleep.

Liam woke up with a happy expression on his face. He smelled the chocolate his mom was making downstairs. He jumped into his clothes and stuck the post-it in his pocket and hurried downstairs.

"Good morning Liam, are you ready for the test?" his mom asked.

"Ready as I will ever be." Liam replied with a smirk on his face.

Then, Liam ate his breakfast, packed his bag and went outside to wait for the bus. On the bus, Liam thought about what would happen if he got caught cheating.

As soon as he got to his classroom he unpacked and started the test. Then he took the post-it and started copying the answers on to the sheet.

"Liam!" Mrs. Parting, his teacher, said. "Come to my office now!"

"Yes, Mrs. Parting?" Liam replied.

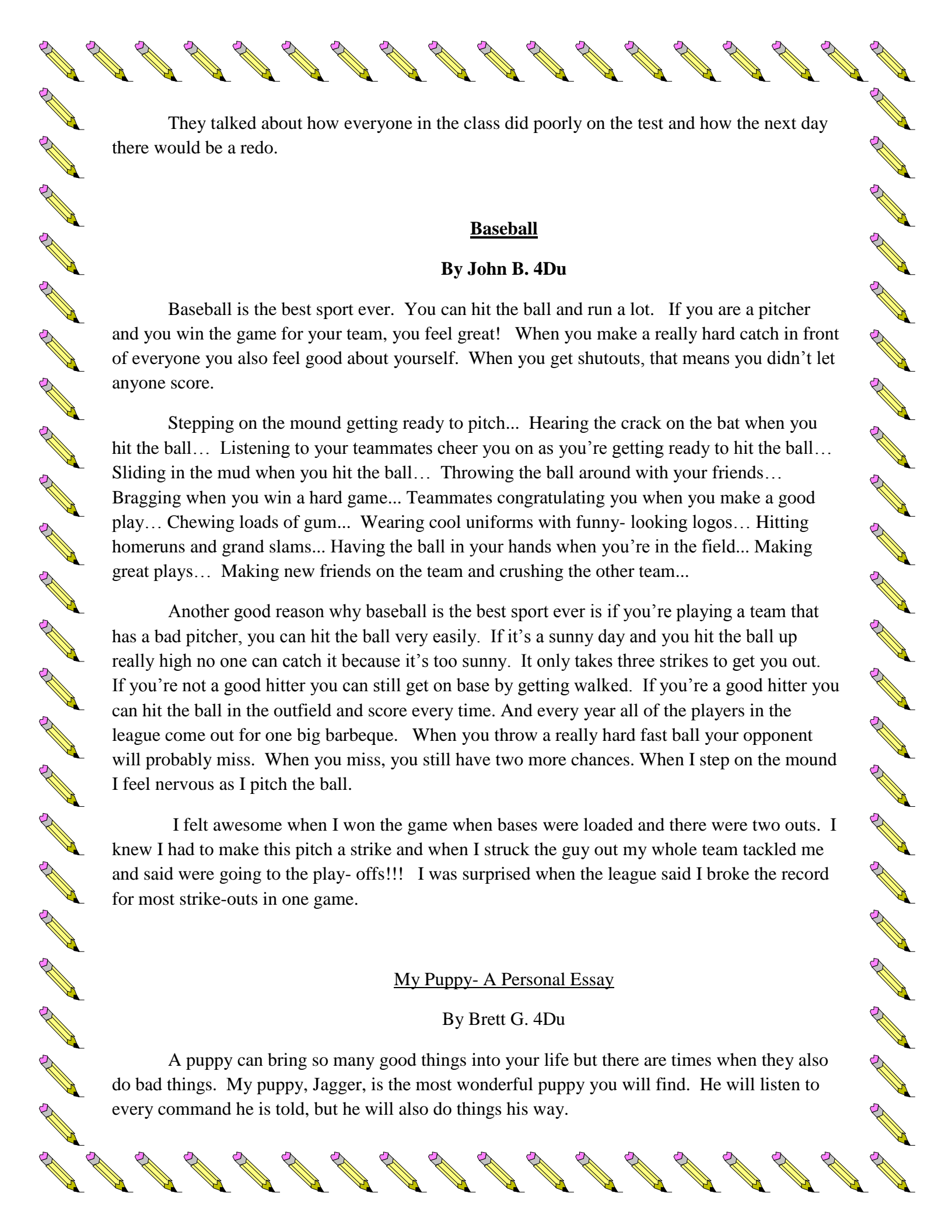
"Why are you cheating?" Mrs. Parting asked.

"I just wanted to play bass and my mom said if I get a 100% on my test I would get to play bass," said Liam out of breath.

"Come to my office after school," said Mrs. Parting.

"Okay. Yes ma'am," said Liam.

So after school Liam went to Mrs. Parting's office. There sitting in Mrs. Parting's office was the principal, and Liam's mom. Liam was scared.



They talked about how everyone in the class did poorly on the test and how the next day there would be a redo.

## Baseball

By John B. 4Du

Baseball is the best sport ever. You can hit the ball and run a lot. If you are a pitcher and you win the game for your team, you feel great! When you make a really hard catch in front of everyone you also feel good about yourself. When you get shutouts, that means you didn't let anyone score.

Stepping on the mound getting ready to pitch... Hearing the crack on the bat when you hit the ball... Listening to your teammates cheer you on as you're getting ready to hit the ball... Sliding in the mud when you hit the ball... Throwing the ball around with your friends... Bragging when you win a hard game... Teammates congratulating you when you make a good play... Chewing loads of gum... Wearing cool uniforms with funny- looking logos... Hitting homeruns and grand slams... Having the ball in your hands when you're in the field... Making great plays... Making new friends on the team and crushing the other team...

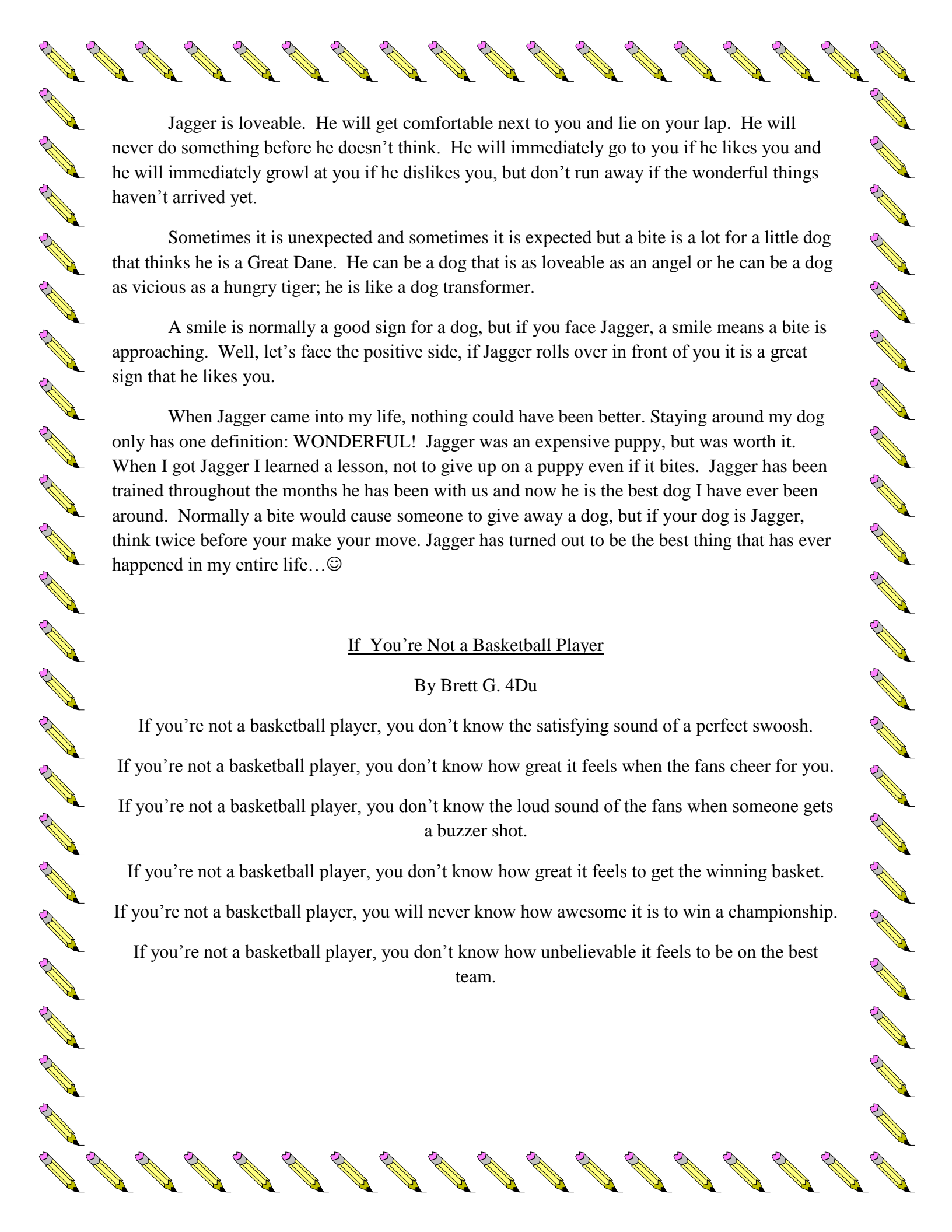
Another good reason why baseball is the best sport ever is if you're playing a team that has a bad pitcher, you can hit the ball very easily. If it's a sunny day and you hit the ball up really high no one can catch it because it's too sunny. It only takes three strikes to get you out. If you're not a good hitter you can still get on base by getting walked. If you're a good hitter you can hit the ball in the outfield and score every time. And every year all of the players in the league come out for one big barbeque. When you throw a really hard fast ball your opponent will probably miss. When you miss, you still have two more chances. When I step on the mound I feel nervous as I pitch the ball.

I felt awesome when I won the game when bases were loaded and there were two outs. I knew I had to make this pitch a strike and when I struck the guy out my whole team tackled me and said were going to the play- offs!!! I was surprised when the league said I broke the record for most strike-outs in one game.

## My Puppy- A Personal Essay

By Brett G. 4Du

A puppy can bring so many good things into your life but there are times when they also do bad things. My puppy, Jagger, is the most wonderful puppy you will find. He will listen to every command he is told, but he will also do things his way.



Jagger is loveable. He will get comfortable next to you and lie on your lap. He will never do something before he doesn't think. He will immediately go to you if he likes you and he will immediately growl at you if he dislikes you, but don't run away if the wonderful things haven't arrived yet.

Sometimes it is unexpected and sometimes it is expected but a bite is a lot for a little dog that thinks he is a Great Dane. He can be a dog that is as loveable as an angel or he can be a dog as vicious as a hungry tiger; he is like a dog transformer.

A smile is normally a good sign for a dog, but if you face Jagger, a smile means a bite is approaching. Well, let's face the positive side, if Jagger rolls over in front of you it is a great sign that he likes you.

When Jagger came into my life, nothing could have been better. Staying around my dog only has one definition: WONDERFUL! Jagger was an expensive puppy, but was worth it. When I got Jagger I learned a lesson, not to give up on a puppy even if it bites. Jagger has been trained throughout the months he has been with us and now he is the best dog I have ever been around. Normally a bite would cause someone to give away a dog, but if your dog is Jagger, think twice before you make your move. Jagger has turned out to be the best thing that has ever happened in my entire life... 😊

### If You're Not a Basketball Player

By Brett G. 4Du

If you're not a basketball player, you don't know the satisfying sound of a perfect swoosh.  
If you're not a basketball player, you don't know how great it feels when the fans cheer for you.  
If you're not a basketball player, you don't know the loud sound of the fans when someone gets a buzzer shot.  
If you're not a basketball player, you don't know how great it feels to get the winning basket.  
If you're not a basketball player, you will never know how awesome it is to win a championship.  
If you're not a basketball player, you don't know how unbelievable it feels to be on the best team.



**AUSTIN**  
**By Michael D. 4Du**

When most people think of the big old U.S.A they think of all 50 states, I think of Austin. Just from a good four years living there I realized just how great it was. Even after six years of living in New York, I still remember Texas.

When I lived in Austin sports were my life! For example, I didn't need to wait for snow to melt if I wanted to go outside because there wasn't any snow! In Austin, you usually didn't even need to put a jacket on because it was so warm! Austin was *always* warm, that was how it was!

When I lived in Austin, I could keep my pool open twelve months a year. Oh wait, there are twelve months in a year which meant you could keep your pool open all year long! Austin was so warm you didn't need to close your pool! When I got home from school there was never a net over my pool so if I wanted to I could just jump in! When I lived there I could swim at any time!

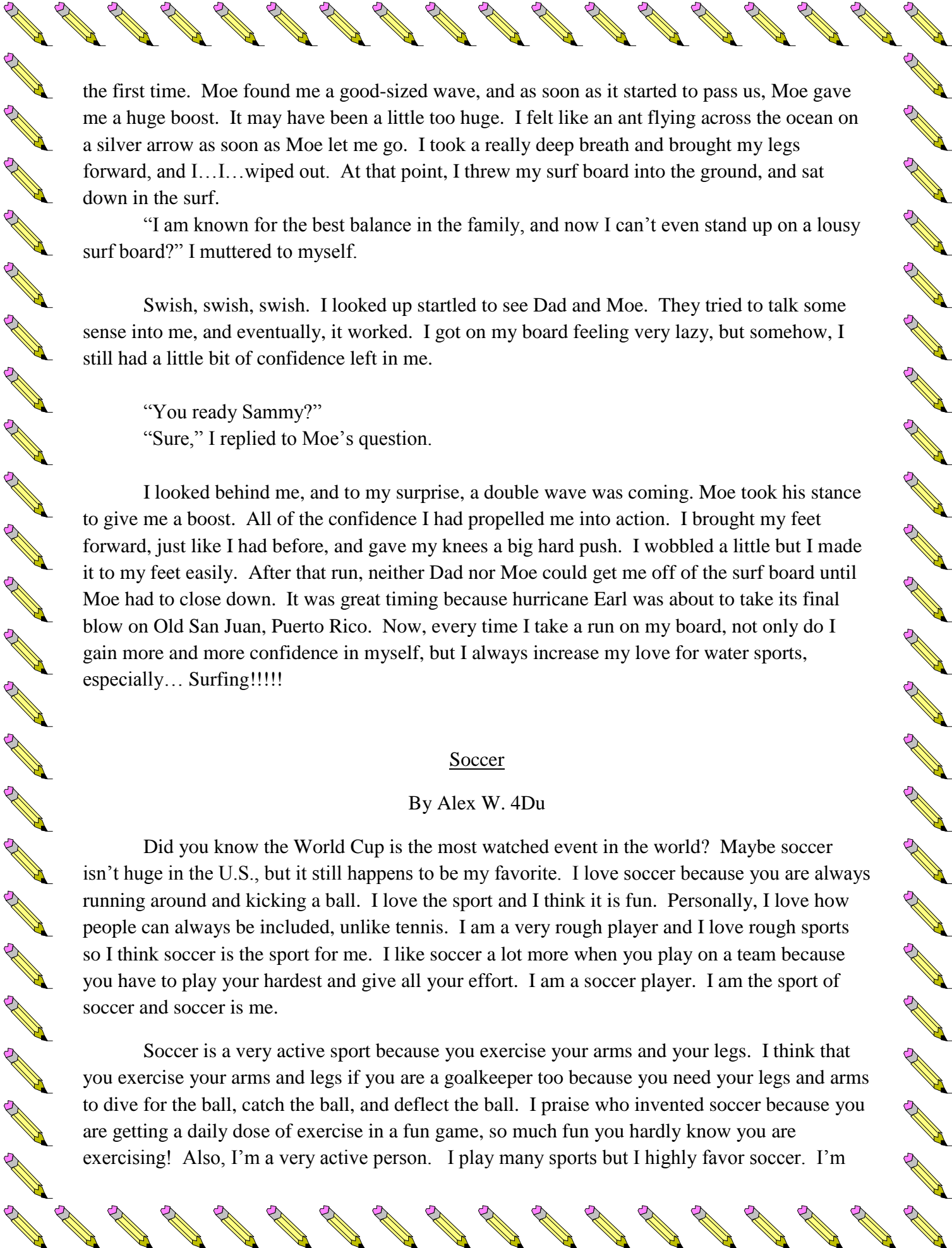
Everything about Austin was beautiful--its trees, plants, houses, sunsets, and its nice breezy winds all year long. Everything there was cheap too. There was no dirty snow lying around in winter, no frosty lawns, and barely even mud puddles. Austin is a part of me I'll never forget.

**Catch'n Waves**  
**By Sammy G. 4Du**

I am sitting in a chair with my feet in the sand, watching experienced surfers get crushed by huge, enormous, bulldozing waves caused by Hurricane Earl. I am in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. Just watching the waves scared me, and at the same time, I am thinking to myself, "Can I really do this?"

I finally swallowed my fear and told my dad I was ready. I took another glance at the surfers and decided that it might be a lot of fun. With my dad, I walked over to the surfing guy (Moe). We paid and lugged our yellow and blue surf boards back to the beach. Moe showed us how to stand up, and after that, we hit the ocean!!

I heard the swish of my swim trunks as I waded into the ocean and yelling and screaming from everyone who still had the guts to surf after being crushed multiple times. At first, Moe would push me into the wave so that I was able to gain enough speed and stand up without having a lot of balance, as well as preventing the board from tipping over. Obviously, I had to take in small waves until I had a little more experience, balance and getting used to surfing for



the first time. Moe found me a good-sized wave, and as soon as it started to pass us, Moe gave me a huge boost. It may have been a little too huge. I felt like an ant flying across the ocean on a silver arrow as soon as Moe let me go. I took a really deep breath and brought my legs forward, and I...I...wiped out. At that point, I threw my surf board into the ground, and sat down in the surf.

“I am known for the best balance in the family, and now I can’t even stand up on a lousy surf board?” I muttered to myself.

Swish, swish, swish. I looked up startled to see Dad and Moe. They tried to talk some sense into me, and eventually, it worked. I got on my board feeling very lazy, but somehow, I still had a little bit of confidence left in me.

“You ready Sammy?”

“Sure,” I replied to Moe’s question.

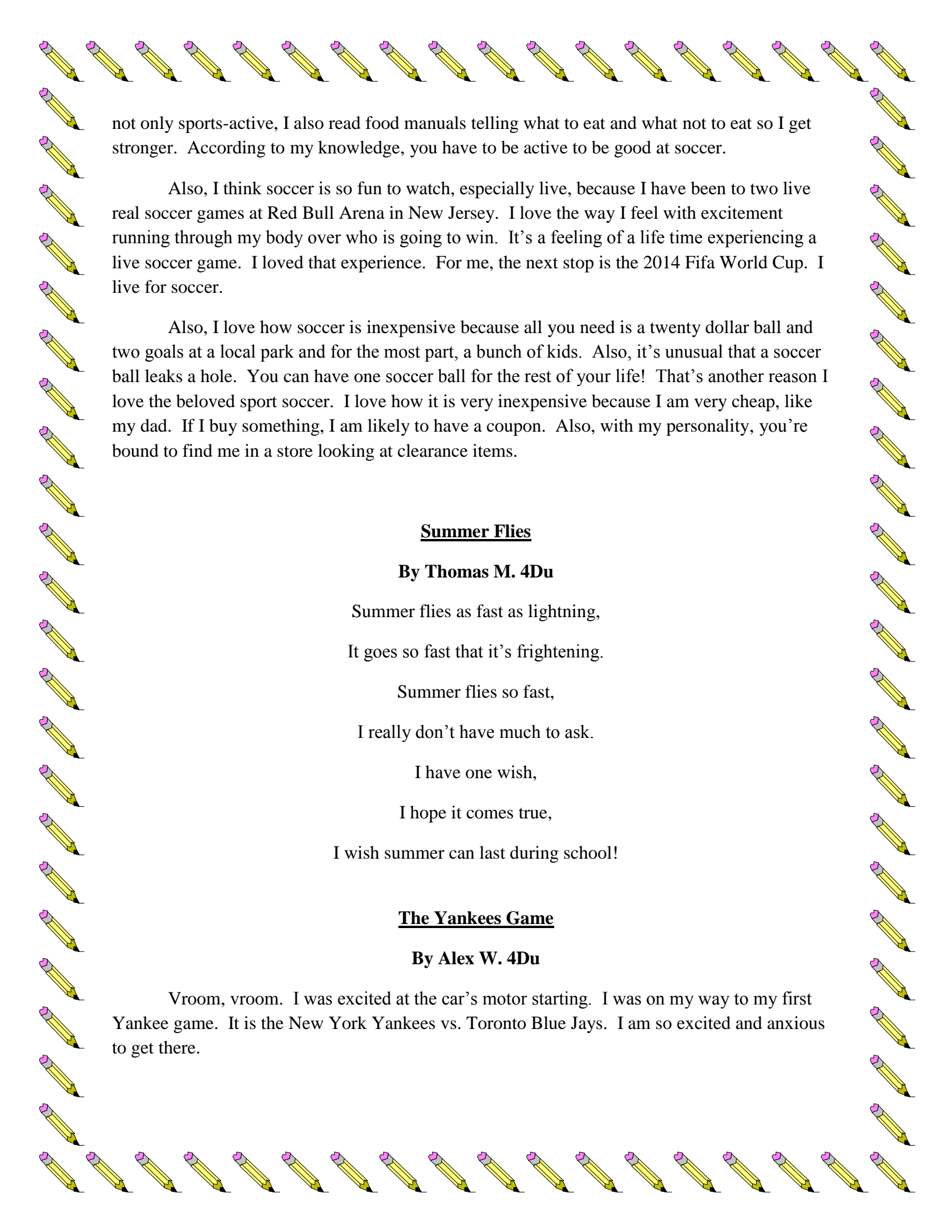
I looked behind me, and to my surprise, a double wave was coming. Moe took his stance to give me a boost. All of the confidence I had propelled me into action. I brought my feet forward, just like I had before, and gave my knees a big hard push. I wobbled a little but I made it to my feet easily. After that run, neither Dad nor Moe could get me off of the surf board until Moe had to close down. It was great timing because hurricane Earl was about to take its final blow on Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. Now, every time I take a run on my board, not only do I gain more and more confidence in myself, but I always increase my love for water sports, especially... Surfing!!!!

## Soccer

By Alex W. 4Du

Did you know the World Cup is the most watched event in the world? Maybe soccer isn’t huge in the U.S., but it still happens to be my favorite. I love soccer because you are always running around and kicking a ball. I love the sport and I think it is fun. Personally, I love how people can always be included, unlike tennis. I am a very rough player and I love rough sports so I think soccer is the sport for me. I like soccer a lot more when you play on a team because you have to play your hardest and give all your effort. I am a soccer player. I am the sport of soccer and soccer is me.

Soccer is a very active sport because you exercise your arms and your legs. I think that you exercise your arms and legs if you are a goalkeeper too because you need your legs and arms to dive for the ball, catch the ball, and deflect the ball. I praise who invented soccer because you are getting a daily dose of exercise in a fun game, so much fun you hardly know you are exercising! Also, I’m a very active person. I play many sports but I highly favor soccer. I’m



not only sports-active, I also read food manuals telling what to eat and what not to eat so I get stronger. According to my knowledge, you have to be active to be good at soccer.

Also, I think soccer is so fun to watch, especially live, because I have been to two live real soccer games at Red Bull Arena in New Jersey. I love the way I feel with excitement running through my body over who is going to win. It's a feeling of a life time experiencing a live soccer game. I loved that experience. For me, the next stop is the 2014 Fifa World Cup. I live for soccer.

Also, I love how soccer is inexpensive because all you need is a twenty dollar ball and two goals at a local park and for the most part, a bunch of kids. Also, it's unusual that a soccer ball leaks a hole. You can have one soccer ball for the rest of your life! That's another reason I love the beloved sport soccer. I love how it is very inexpensive because I am very cheap, like my dad. If I buy something, I am likely to have a coupon. Also, with my personality, you're bound to find me in a store looking at clearance items.

### Summer Flies

**By Thomas M. 4Du**

Summer flies as fast as lightning,

It goes so fast that it's frightening.

Summer flies so fast,

I really don't have much to ask.

I have one wish,

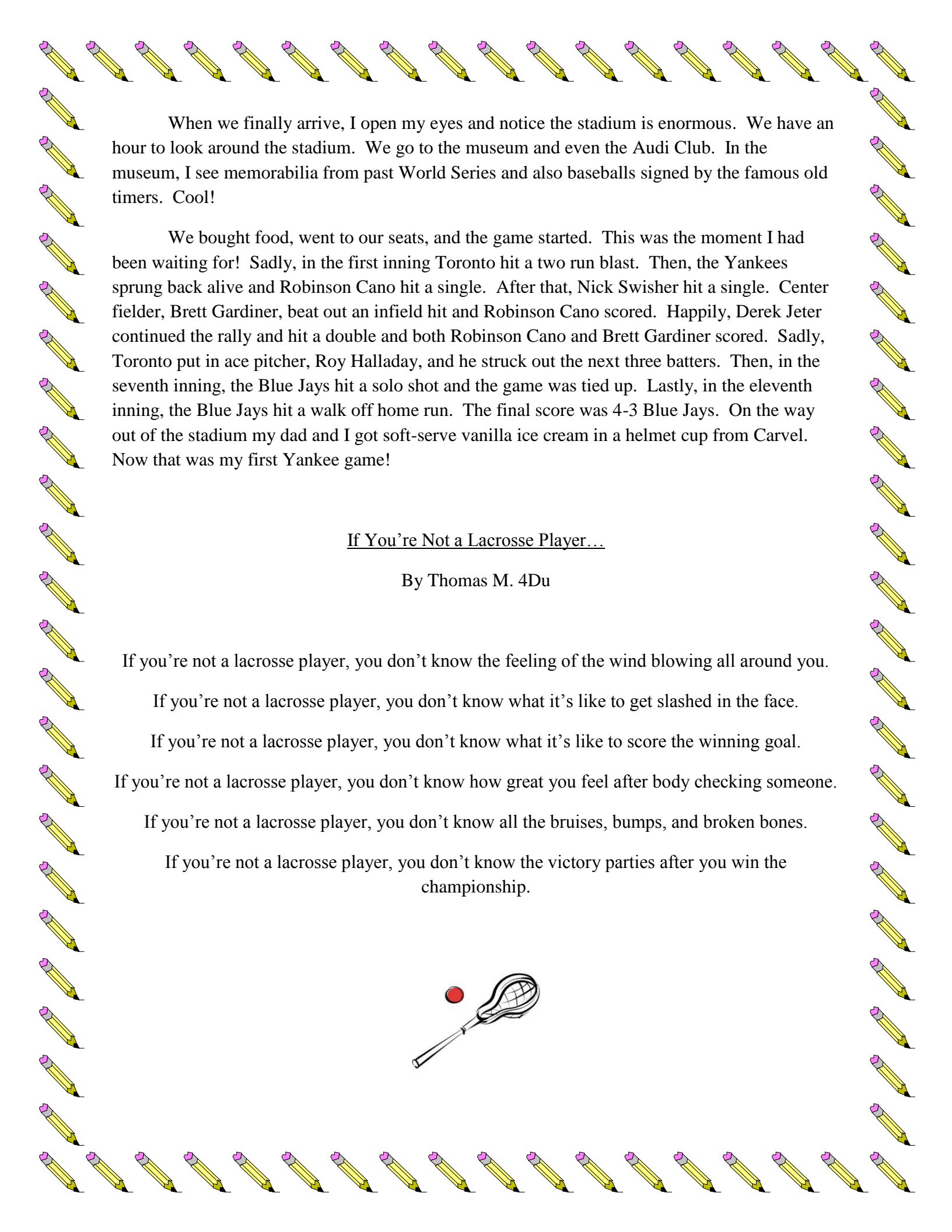
I hope it comes true,

I wish summer can last during school!

### The Yankees Game

**By Alex W. 4Du**

Vroom, vroom. I was excited at the car's motor starting. I was on my way to my first Yankee game. It is the New York Yankees vs. Toronto Blue Jays. I am so excited and anxious to get there.



When we finally arrive, I open my eyes and notice the stadium is enormous. We have an hour to look around the stadium. We go to the museum and even the Audi Club. In the museum, I see memorabilia from past World Series and also baseballs signed by the famous old timers. Cool!

We bought food, went to our seats, and the game started. This was the moment I had been waiting for! Sadly, in the first inning Toronto hit a two run blast. Then, the Yankees sprung back alive and Robinson Cano hit a single. After that, Nick Swisher hit a single. Center fielder, Brett Gardiner, beat out an infield hit and Robinson Cano scored. Happily, Derek Jeter continued the rally and hit a double and both Robinson Cano and Brett Gardiner scored. Sadly, Toronto put in ace pitcher, Roy Halladay, and he struck out the next three batters. Then, in the seventh inning, the Blue Jays hit a solo shot and the game was tied up. Lastly, in the eleventh inning, the Blue Jays hit a walk off home run. The final score was 4-3 Blue Jays. On the way out of the stadium my dad and I got soft-serve vanilla ice cream in a helmet cup from Carvel. Now that was my first Yankee game!

### If You're Not a Lacrosse Player...

By Thomas M. 4Du

If you're not a lacrosse player, you don't know the feeling of the wind blowing all around you.

If you're not a lacrosse player, you don't know what it's like to get slashed in the face.

If you're not a lacrosse player, you don't know what it's like to score the winning goal.

If you're not a lacrosse player, you don't know how great you feel after body checking someone.

If you're not a lacrosse player, you don't know all the bruises, bumps, and broken bones.

If you're not a lacrosse player, you don't know the victory parties after you win the championship.





**If You Are Not a Dreamer...**

**By Anna R. 4Du**

If you are not a dreamer you do not know what it is like to leave Earth and touch the heavenly clouds.

If you are not a dreamer you do not know what it is like to jump into another's body and control them.

If you are not a dreamer you cannot imagine golden retrievers licking your face in pleasure.

If you are not a dreamer you do not get to eat anything you would like and not change a bit.

If you are not a dreamer you cannot feel the warm hug of lost loved ones.

If you are not a dreamer you cannot live life as if nothing bad ever happened to you.

**Grade 5**

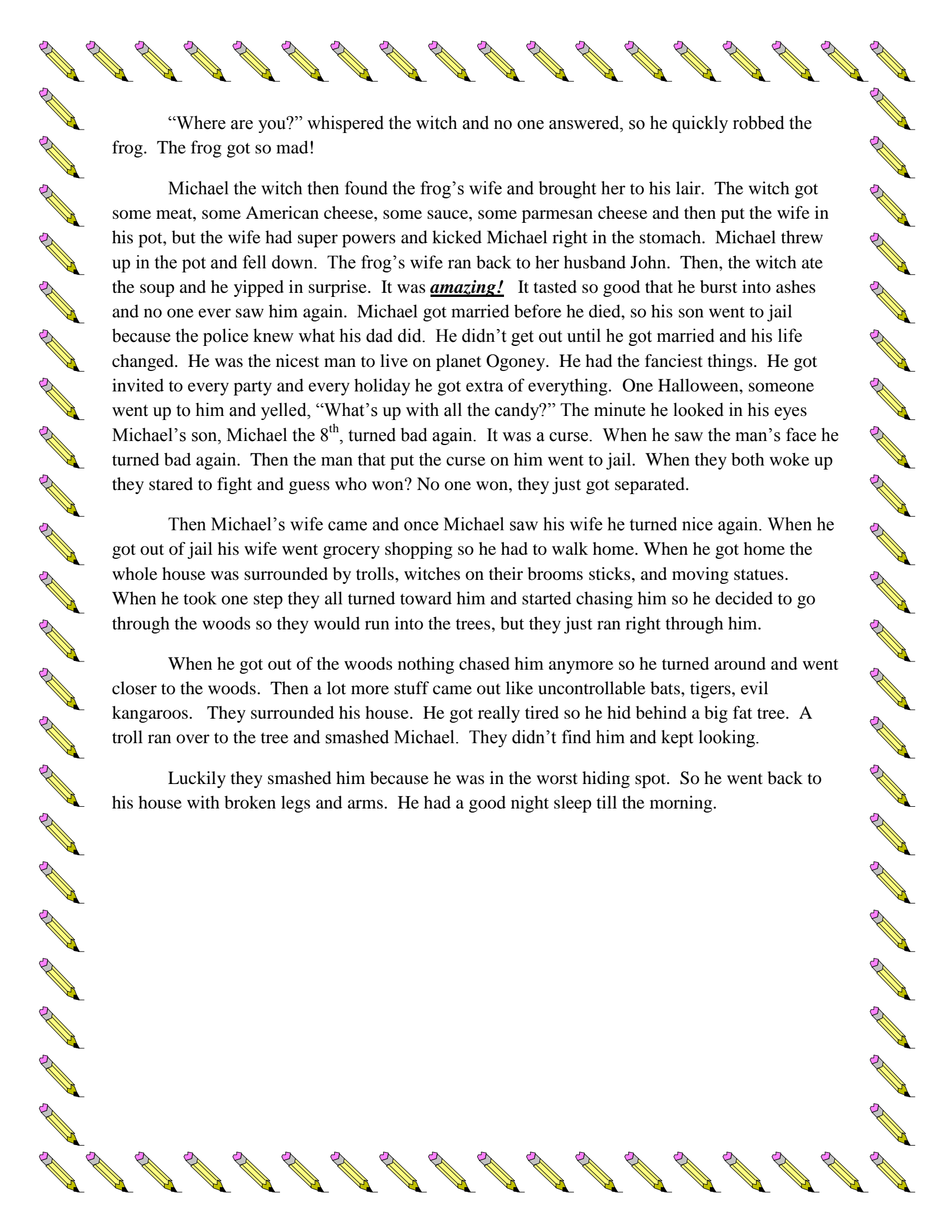
***Witch Story***

**By Liam K. 5B**

Once upon a time in the year three thousand, a frog named Frank got robbed by a blue, hairy monster witch. The witch took everything but his flying car. So Frank got in and went 8884 mph but he ran out of gas. So he flew down and broke his legs and arms. Frank luckily stayed alive, but the witch got away on her broom stick. Frank had enough money to buy his stuff back, but the next morning the same thing happened again. So he tried to move far away so that he wouldn't get robbed again. Then Frank died. His son John became famous when Frank died because his father was the farthest frog to ever move away.

John grew up but never got married so he was the last frog to live on Earth. Everybody on Earth was so mad because there were so many flies and no frogs to eat them. So all the flies ate all the food and the world came apart in two halves. The whole Milky Way got destroyed by flies. The blue hairy monster witch, Michael, flew out of the universe and into a different one. Then he found another frog to rob, but that frog knew what was going to happen because he heard on the news what Michael does to frogs. So he got out his ax and got ready to slice the witch. Michael the witch yelled, "**No, No, No**, don't slice me!" and the frog didn't, but the witch landed right on top of the frog.





“Where are you?” whispered the witch and no one answered, so he quickly robbed the frog. The frog got so mad!

Michael the witch then found the frog’s wife and brought her to his lair. The witch got some meat, some American cheese, some sauce, some parmesan cheese and then put the wife in his pot, but the wife had super powers and kicked Michael right in the stomach. Michael threw up in the pot and fell down. The frog’s wife ran back to her husband John. Then, the witch ate the soup and he yipped in surprise. It was amazing! It tasted so good that he burst into ashes and no one ever saw him again. Michael got married before he died, so his son went to jail because the police knew what his dad did. He didn’t get out until he got married and his life changed. He was the nicest man to live on planet Ogoney. He had the fanciest things. He got invited to every party and every holiday he got extra of everything. One Halloween, someone went up to him and yelled, “What’s up with all the candy?” The minute he looked in his eyes Michael’s son, Michael the 8<sup>th</sup>, turned bad again. It was a curse. When he saw the man’s face he turned bad again. Then the man that put the curse on him went to jail. When they both woke up they stared to fight and guess who won? No one won, they just got separated.

Then Michael’s wife came and once Michael saw his wife he turned nice again. When he got out of jail his wife went grocery shopping so he had to walk home. When he got home the whole house was surrounded by trolls, witches on their brooms sticks, and moving statues. When he took one step they all turned toward him and started chasing him so he decided to go through the woods so they would run into the trees, but they just ran right through him.

When he got out of the woods nothing chased him anymore so he turned around and went closer to the woods. Then a lot more stuff came out like uncontrollable bats, tigers, evil kangaroos. They surrounded his house. He got really tired so he hid behind a big fat tree. A troll ran over to the tree and smashed Michael. They didn’t find him and kept looking.

Luckily they smashed him because he was in the worst hiding spot. So he went back to his house with broken legs and arms. He had a good night sleep till the morning.



Christmas

By Thomas F. 5B

**C**elebrating with my family-giving and getting presents

**H**appily opening them under the evergreen tree

**R**oasting a delicious ham

**I** cannot wait until next year

**S**tockings hanging, filled with lots of goodies

**T**opping all the awesome presents I got in the past

**M**any desserts at the dessert table

**A**nd a big snowy mess to go sledding on

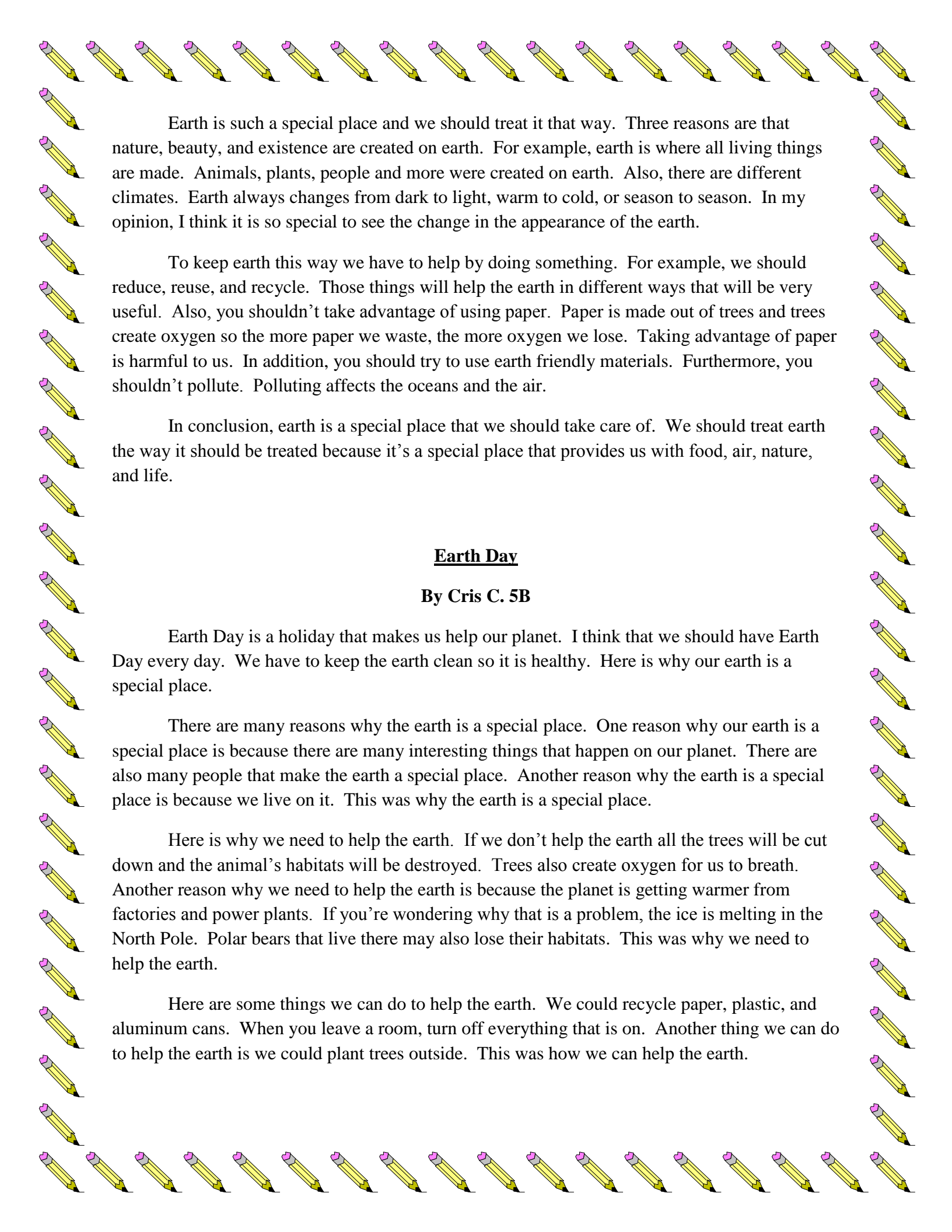
**S**eeing all the amazing presents, we start opening them!

The Special Earth

By Blake O. 5B

Earth Day is a special occasion celebrated in the month of April. Everybody can make a difference in a variety of ways. We can all prevent our earth from being polluted by using the three R's, which are reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Earth Day is a special day that shows us to take care of our beautiful earth. We all need to help the earth. One important reason is we live here. Hopefully everyone doesn't want our planet to be damaged. Also, we would want the people in the future to enjoy their life like we did. For example, if you were someone in the future, you would want to have the opportunity to have a great life and be able to see the beautiful nature that exists today on earth. In addition, we would want to enjoy and capture the beautiful scenery on our planet. Furthermore, all of us would want to live a longer life. Even though it is hard to notice, how we treat the earth affects us.



Earth is such a special place and we should treat it that way. Three reasons are that nature, beauty, and existence are created on earth. For example, earth is where all living things are made. Animals, plants, people and more were created on earth. Also, there are different climates. Earth always changes from dark to light, warm to cold, or season to season. In my opinion, I think it is so special to see the change in the appearance of the earth.

To keep earth this way we have to help by doing something. For example, we should reduce, reuse, and recycle. Those things will help the earth in different ways that will be very useful. Also, you shouldn't take advantage of using paper. Paper is made out of trees and trees create oxygen so the more paper we waste, the more oxygen we lose. Taking advantage of paper is harmful to us. In addition, you should try to use earth friendly materials. Furthermore, you shouldn't pollute. Polluting affects the oceans and the air.

In conclusion, earth is a special place that we should take care of. We should treat earth the way it should be treated because it's a special place that provides us with food, air, nature, and life.

### **Earth Day**

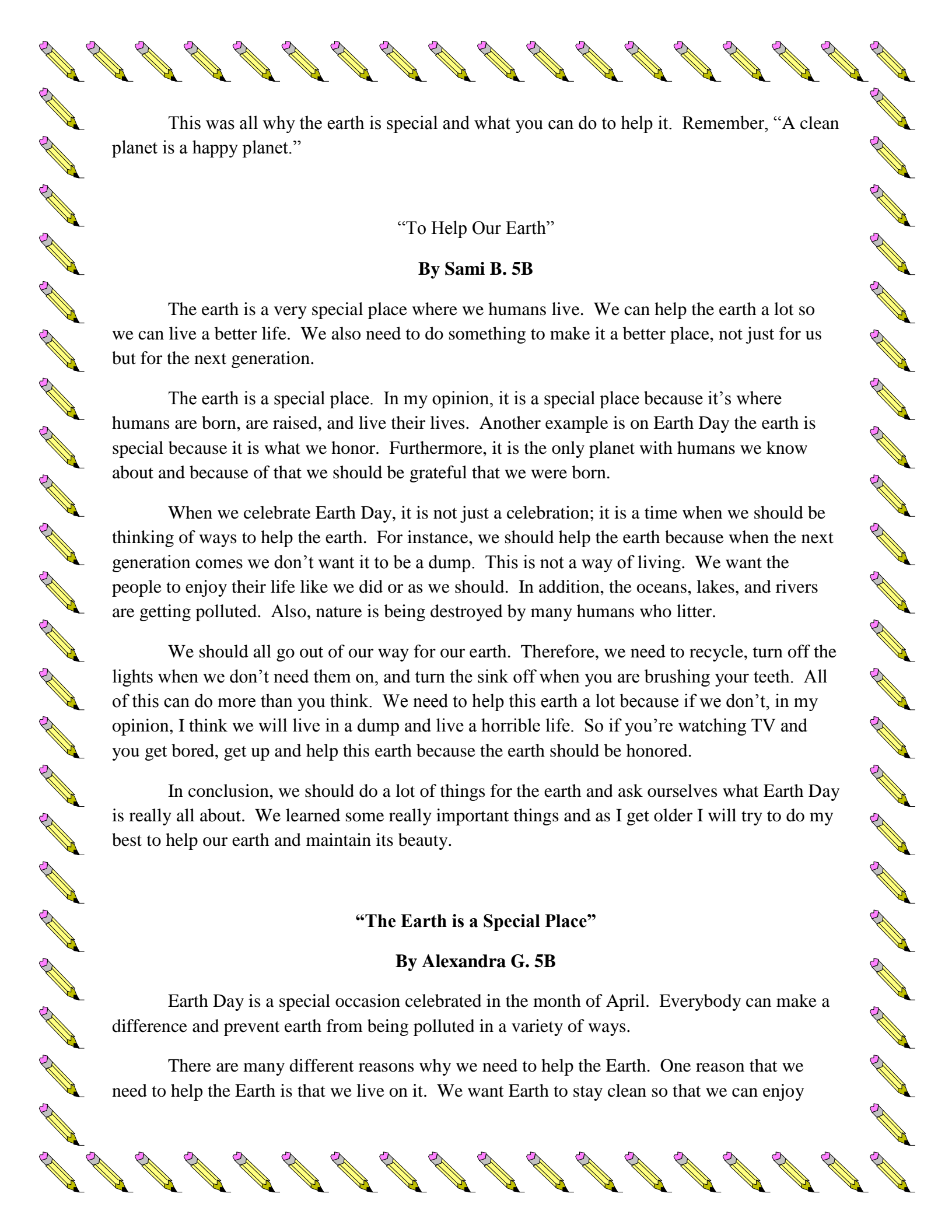
**By Cris C. 5B**

Earth Day is a holiday that makes us help our planet. I think that we should have Earth Day every day. We have to keep the earth clean so it is healthy. Here is why our earth is a special place.

There are many reasons why the earth is a special place. One reason why our earth is a special place is because there are many interesting things that happen on our planet. There are also many people that make the earth a special place. Another reason why the earth is a special place is because we live on it. This was why the earth is a special place.

Here is why we need to help the earth. If we don't help the earth all the trees will be cut down and the animal's habitats will be destroyed. Trees also create oxygen for us to breath. Another reason why we need to help the earth is because the planet is getting warmer from factories and power plants. If you're wondering why that is a problem, the ice is melting in the North Pole. Polar bears that live there may also lose their habitats. This was why we need to help the earth.

Here are some things we can do to help the earth. We could recycle paper, plastic, and aluminum cans. When you leave a room, turn off everything that is on. Another thing we can do to help the earth is we could plant trees outside. This was how we can help the earth.



This was all why the earth is special and what you can do to help it. Remember, “A clean planet is a happy planet.”

### “To Help Our Earth”

**By Sami B. 5B**

The earth is a very special place where we humans live. We can help the earth a lot so we can live a better life. We also need to do something to make it a better place, not just for us but for the next generation.

The earth is a special place. In my opinion, it is a special place because it’s where humans are born, are raised, and live their lives. Another example is on Earth Day the earth is special because it is what we honor. Furthermore, it is the only planet with humans we know about and because of that we should be grateful that we were born.

When we celebrate Earth Day, it is not just a celebration; it is a time when we should be thinking of ways to help the earth. For instance, we should help the earth because when the next generation comes we don’t want it to be a dump. This is not a way of living. We want the people to enjoy their life like we did or as we should. In addition, the oceans, lakes, and rivers are getting polluted. Also, nature is being destroyed by many humans who litter.

We should all go out of our way for our earth. Therefore, we need to recycle, turn off the lights when we don’t need them on, and turn the sink off when you are brushing your teeth. All of this can do more than you think. We need to help this earth a lot because if we don’t, in my opinion, I think we will live in a dump and live a horrible life. So if you’re watching TV and you get bored, get up and help this earth because the earth should be honored.

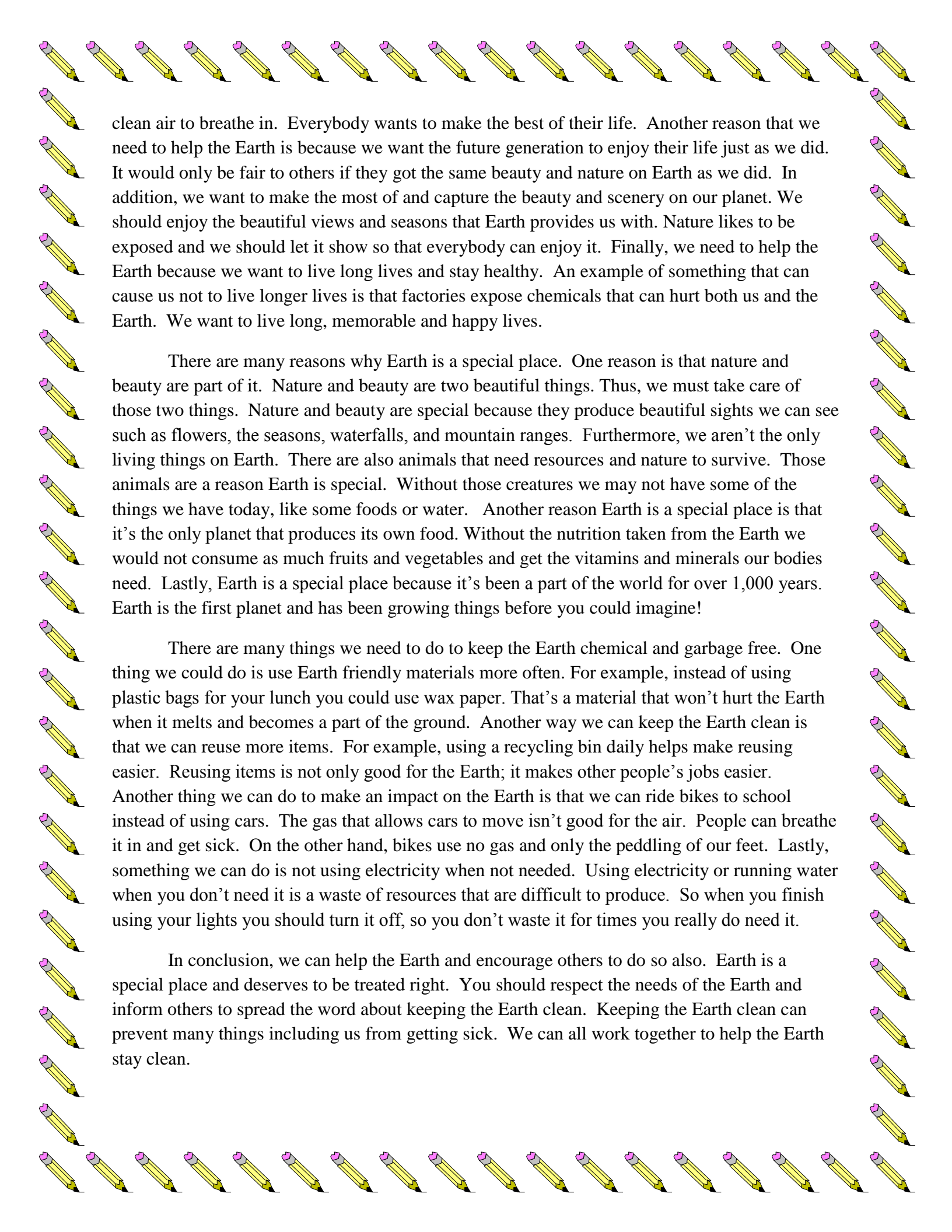
In conclusion, we should do a lot of things for the earth and ask ourselves what Earth Day is really all about. We learned some really important things and as I get older I will try to do my best to help our earth and maintain its beauty.

### “The Earth is a Special Place”

**By Alexandra G. 5B**

Earth Day is a special occasion celebrated in the month of April. Everybody can make a difference and prevent earth from being polluted in a variety of ways.

There are many different reasons why we need to help the Earth. One reason that we need to help the Earth is that we live on it. We want Earth to stay clean so that we can enjoy



clean air to breathe in. Everybody wants to make the best of their life. Another reason that we need to help the Earth is because we want the future generation to enjoy their life just as we did. It would only be fair to others if they got the same beauty and nature on Earth as we did. In addition, we want to make the most of and capture the beauty and scenery on our planet. We should enjoy the beautiful views and seasons that Earth provides us with. Nature likes to be exposed and we should let it show so that everybody can enjoy it. Finally, we need to help the Earth because we want to live long lives and stay healthy. An example of something that can cause us not to live longer lives is that factories expose chemicals that can hurt both us and the Earth. We want to live long, memorable and happy lives.

There are many reasons why Earth is a special place. One reason is that nature and beauty are part of it. Nature and beauty are two beautiful things. Thus, we must take care of those two things. Nature and beauty are special because they produce beautiful sights we can see such as flowers, the seasons, waterfalls, and mountain ranges. Furthermore, we aren't the only living things on Earth. There are also animals that need resources and nature to survive. Those animals are a reason Earth is special. Without those creatures we may not have some of the things we have today, like some foods or water. Another reason Earth is a special place is that it's the only planet that produces its own food. Without the nutrition taken from the Earth we would not consume as much fruits and vegetables and get the vitamins and minerals our bodies need. Lastly, Earth is a special place because it's been a part of the world for over 1,000 years. Earth is the first planet and has been growing things before you could imagine!

There are many things we need to do to keep the Earth chemical and garbage free. One thing we could do is use Earth friendly materials more often. For example, instead of using plastic bags for your lunch you could use wax paper. That's a material that won't hurt the Earth when it melts and becomes a part of the ground. Another way we can keep the Earth clean is that we can reuse more items. For example, using a recycling bin daily helps make reusing easier. Reusing items is not only good for the Earth; it makes other people's jobs easier. Another thing we can do to make an impact on the Earth is that we can ride bikes to school instead of using cars. The gas that allows cars to move isn't good for the air. People can breathe it in and get sick. On the other hand, bikes use no gas and only the peddling of our feet. Lastly, something we can do is not using electricity when not needed. Using electricity or running water when you don't need it is a waste of resources that are difficult to produce. So when you finish using your lights you should turn it off, so you don't waste it for times you really do need it.

In conclusion, we can help the Earth and encourage others to do so also. Earth is a special place and deserves to be treated right. You should respect the needs of the Earth and inform others to spread the word about keeping the Earth clean. Keeping the Earth clean can prevent many things including us from getting sick. We can all work together to help the Earth stay clean.



## Earth

**By Thomas F. 5B**

*Earth Day is a special holiday in April. The Earth is a special place. We need to take care of the Earth. There are numerous things we need to do.*

*The Earth is a special place. First, there are a lot of amazing animals. Some are dogs, cats, rats, bats, birds, loins, leopards, etc. Second, there are amazing plants. Some are roses, sunflowers, cacti, dandelions, oak trees, maple trees, etc. Third, the earth is a wonderful place.*

*We need to help the Earth. Pollution in the water is killing fish. Smoking and gas pollutes the air. Trees are getting cut down. If we don't help the Earth it will not be clean and healthy. We need to change a lot of things. First, we need to stop smoking. Second, we need to switch to electric cars. Third, we need to stop wasting trees. Fourth, we need to stop putting garbage in the ocean.*

*Everyone can keep the Earth clean and healthy. In April, we remember what we need to be doing all year round. It is special and we want to keep it in our thoughts each and every day. Will you help?*

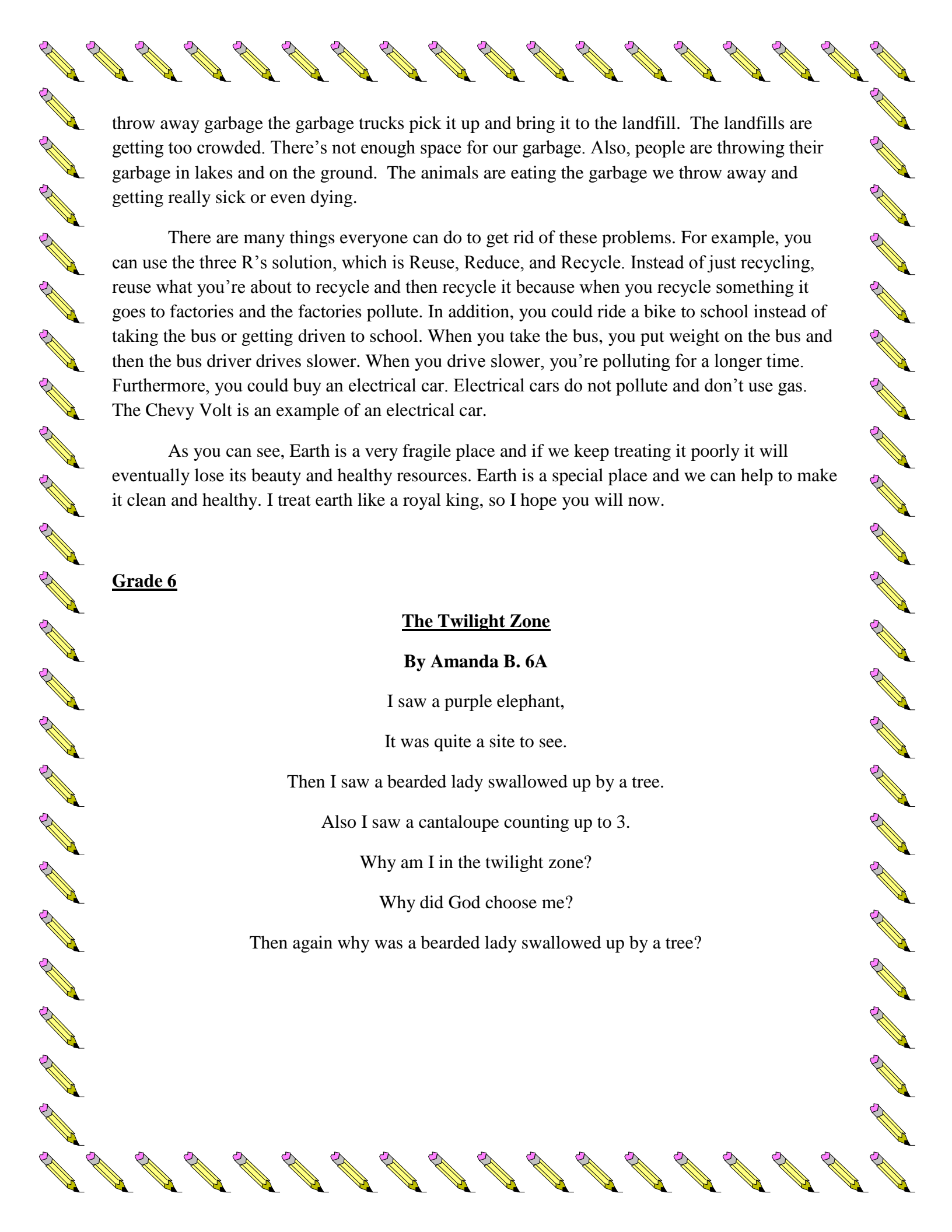
## The Amazing Earth

**By Liam K. 5B**

There is a very special holiday we celebrate in April, Earth Day. Earth is a very special place and we can help to make it clean and healthy for everyone to live on. There is only one earth, so we should treat it like a royal king. We need to help Earth. There are many things we can do.

Earth is a special place. For example, it is the only planet with life that we know of. Every other planet has rocks and craters. In addition, there are many really cool and awesome places to visit. The Grand Canyon and Mount Rushmore are some very popular examples. Furthermore, there are many amazing species. Lions, tigers and koalas are my favorite ones. Plants are also other cool species. There are many different kinds of plants. Also, there are many amazing kinds of food grown on the earth, such as snails in France to every kind of pasta in Italy.

We need to help the Earth. For example, there is a very limited supply of gas left for cars, trucks, planes etc. We get oil/gas from underground mines and now there is not a lot of oil/gas left in those underground mines. In addition, the air is getting polluted from factories, cars and trucks. The air is getting polluted and the pollution is cutting away at the atmosphere. The pollution is also creating global warming in cold places, like Antarctica. Furthermore, when we



throw away garbage the garbage trucks pick it up and bring it to the landfill. The landfills are getting too crowded. There's not enough space for our garbage. Also, people are throwing their garbage in lakes and on the ground. The animals are eating the garbage we throw away and getting really sick or even dying.

There are many things everyone can do to get rid of these problems. For example, you can use the three R's solution, which is Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. Instead of just recycling, reuse what you're about to recycle and then recycle it because when you recycle something it goes to factories and the factories pollute. In addition, you could ride a bike to school instead of taking the bus or getting driven to school. When you take the bus, you put weight on the bus and then the bus driver drives slower. When you drive slower, you're polluting for a longer time. Furthermore, you could buy an electrical car. Electrical cars do not pollute and don't use gas. The Chevy Volt is an example of an electrical car.

As you can see, Earth is a very fragile place and if we keep treating it poorly it will eventually lose its beauty and healthy resources. Earth is a special place and we can help to make it clean and healthy. I treat earth like a royal king, so I hope you will now.

## Grade 6

### The Twilight Zone

By Amanda B. 6A

I saw a purple elephant,

It was quite a site to see.

Then I saw a bearded lady swallowed up by a tree.

Also I saw a cantaloupe counting up to 3.

Why am I in the twilight zone?

Why did God choose me?

Then again why was a bearded lady swallowed up by a tree?