A COLLECTION OF WRITING BY THIRD GRADERS
from BRET HARTE, MALCOLM X ACADEMY, AND STARR KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
826 VALENCIA • Spring 2021
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THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL
We dedicate this book to our teachers and tutors, who guide us through dark caves and mysterious forests, encouraging us to find our own path. We also want to celebrate our classmates, who keep us company when facing the scariest of dragons, and remind us how important it is to stand up for one another.
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Throughout this section, our students show us that friends and family help us answer life’s most pressing questions. How do you find a treasure chest full of wishes? How can a monkey friend help us make slime that glows in the dark? How do you make manticores your pets? Enjoy these tales of our students’ sage advice and life lessons learned from younger sisters, griffins, and mermaids.
Do you know why the phoenix was named Shilah? Shilah was from the colorful mountains with a little bit of snow by the town. The mountains were red, orange, and yellow, like fire. It was kind of warm inside and the outside was very cold. Phoenixes get fire-breathing powers from their mothers.

Her name was Shilah because she’s very shy. She had orange, long feathers. She’s very pretty. She had orange stripes and her wings were red. She liked to play with other phoenixes. She became brave by facing her biggest fear. Shilah was from the mountains by the town called the New Town. There was a dragon who was reddish-orange and could breathe fire and ice. It was really big, like as big as a house.

One day, the dragon attacked the town and was planning to set the town on fire. The people in the town were scared and frightened. Shilah faced the dragon with her one power, being brave. She was afraid of the dragon because it was so big. She became brave because she was worried that the dragon would come attack the town. She conquered her fear and left the cave to face the dragon, even though she was scared to.

She tricked the dragon into going for water and then she pushed him in and put out the dragon’s fire, so he only had ice powers left. The dragon thought he still had fire powers so he tried to use the fire power on the town, but because he only had ice powers left, he put out his own fire. The people in the town were happy that Shilah had saved the town from the dragon. She wanted to be the protector of the town and protect people now that she was super brave. She wanted to protect other people so she flew around and waited for the dragon to come back. When the dragon came back, she faced him again. She became the greatest hero of them all.
How to Have a Magical Day with a Friend

Airon Minor • age 8
Malcolm X Academy Elementary School

Do you want to see how I wake up and start my day?

First, you wake up in the morning, wash your face, brush your teeth, get dressed, and go downstairs. Eat breakfast: a delicious salad with fruit, and orange juice. It’ll make you feel the happiest.

You’ll need to go see the beautiful sunrise outside. Get up at five o’clock. Make sure you go to sleep at seven or eight the previous day.

Then, you get in the car and drive to pick up your friends. I pick up Ms. Michelle, Tatiana, Zi’yen, and Mr. P at their houses.

We go to the park first, then we leave to get some drinks. I like to have a chocolate milkshake because chocolate is the color of my skin. Everyone else gets their favorite milkshake. Then we go to the store and buy our favorite things, like ice cream. We also get brand new toys. It will make you happy and feel good.

Then, you go see your mom. Say, “Hi, Mom” and chill with her and watch TV.

Be nice and have a happy day. Go to sleep and then your dreams come true like being a magical princess.
Have you ever gone to the beach? I went to the beach. The sand was too hot, so I went for a swim. My Mommy and Pepe were sitting on the sand. There was a big wave that came. I was about to drown, so I started to swim my way back toward sand. I was freezing cold. I ran to Mom and Pepe to get my towel so that I could get warm.

First of all, my mom enjoys going to the beach. I felt cool in the water when the big wave came because my sister taught me “duck and jump.” So I felt pretty safe.

I decided I don’t want to go to the beach ever again because it is way too much water to have fun in.

But I survived.
WHERE DO MANTICORES COME FROM?

KALANI FAALOGOIFO • age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

Have you ever wanted to know what manticores are? They come from eggs. Females have black eggs and red stripes. Males have red eggs and black stripes. The eggs have to go somewhere very hot and cold to hatch, and they hatch in ten hours. Their parents have to hunt for them until they are four to five years old. The parents help the cubs hunt for prey and start going to bigger and bigger prey when they grow. The parents help them until they grow older and older. They have to be fifteen years old to hunt by themselves.

The female and the male cubs have to stick together next to the cold water and the hot volcano. The males stay next to the volcano, just in case predators come for the cubs. The females stay next to the cubs so the cubs don’t get snatched. The children and the manticores both live inside big molten rocks. Some rocks are small, and some are big. The moms live inside of the big rocks, and the males live next to the females in the other big rocks.

When something comes near a manticore’s lair, they will attack and hunt down the creature, and threaten to push them into the hot water because they live next to a volcano. Manticores have a memory of an elephant. They won’t rest until the predator is gone. When manticores are born, they are mostly red but their eyes start out blue, and when they are teenagers, their eyes are green. Once they turn into adults, their eyes will turn red.

Three kids see three manticores and they become friends. They ride the manticores all the way home.

They were flying through the sky, and then one person saw the three manticores and went to go tell the king and queen. “I found three manticores who kidnapped three children, and they thought that they were actually taking them home.” All of the guards came to the three manticores. They shot arrows, cannons, swords,
and used horses because they run so fast. The manticores try to protect the children, but the manticores got taken. The kids went to rescue the manticores. They kept the manticores forever as pets.
CÓMO USAR UNA PATINETA MÁGICA

CARLOS SAGASTUME LAINÉZ · age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

1. Encuentra un hada de color verde y naranja en un parque. El hada se llama Rosado.
2. Al hada le encantan los animalitos. Le voy a dar un conejo blanco chiquito.
3. Después, le damos el conejo y nos da la patineta mágica. La patineta es de color rojo con negro y por abajo hay un dibujo de un dragón.
4. La patineta me deja volar. Me deja volar a otra parte del mundo.
5. Necesitas practicar todo el día. Es como usar una patineta normal.

HOW TO USE A MAGICAL SKATEBOARD

1. Find a green and orange fairy in a park. The fairy is named Rosado.
2. The fairy loves animals. I’m going to give it a small white bunny.
3. After, we give it the bunny and it will give us a magic skateboard. The skateboard is red and black and on the bottom, there is a picture of a dragon.
4. The skateboard lets me fly. It lets me fly to another part of the world.
5. You need to practice all day. It’s like using a normal skateboard.
Where do unicorns sleep? In a magic world called Magic Land, where all the animals are different colors, there is a magic mountain. The mountain’s color is white and it has sparkles and it is really big like an elephant. The mountain turns horses into unicorns and it also gives them powers to fly. Unicorns live on the mountain and horses try to find the mountain to turn into unicorns.

This is a unicorn. His name is Rain because he has a rainbow horn. He lives in the mountains and eats grass, and his power is to fly and fly so fast like a cheetah. Also, when the unicorn was little, he couldn’t walk, but when he was growing up, his mom taught him to walk. But he was getting bigger, and started to walk how his mother taught him. His mom taught him how to walk and trot. Next, he started to have superpowers and the mom was so happy that she started to fly.

Then he separated from his family. Then he saw a mountain that was white with sparkles and he got closer to the mountain and then got more and more superpowers. So then he left and started to fly and went home. Then the next morning he went to the mountain again and the mountain was not the color white, it was pink and there were no more sparkles! He got closer again and then nothing happened so then he started to walk. But then a rainbow appeared and he was looking at it when he was walking. But then he got lost, but then remembered he could fly. Then he started flying and he flew for a long time.
Finally, he got home. The next morning, he said that he was not going to the mountain because he didn’t want to get lost again. Then he decided to go no matter what would happen. He went to the mountain, but then his mom was there. He got so happy because he finally got to see his mom for the first time in two years. Then they started to live together, so they all went to the mountain together, and all the unicorns got superpowers, and also the mother did too.
HOW TO FIND A TREASURE FULL OF WISHES

DAISY AGUILAR • age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

First, go to a place like a magical beach.
Second, how to go to the magical beach? Drive a car.
Third, let your parents drive. There might be traffic but be patient.
Next, get a magical shovel.
Go to the left, and the sand will have a bright red X. That’s where you will see a hole.
Then, find an old box and see what’s inside. The treasure box will be golden.
After you see what’s inside, you take whatever you need home.
Last, you see a fairy godmother and you go to her and wish for good luck.
I was six years old. It was 2017. My mom, dad, and sister were there. When she came home, my mom was taking care of my sister. She was crying a lot. By the time we got my sister, we were living at my grandma’s house. My grandma got to visit her and see her. When she came home, she was happy. She was smiling.

My sister crawled a lot and drank a lot of milk. She had stuffed animals and she slept a lot. My mom taught me how to change my sister’s diaper and how to comb her hair.

I felt happy that I had another sister. Now she is older and she is growing. If you ever have a newborn baby sibling, take care of her or him.
HOW TO GET A MAGIC SPELL FOR FINDING A UNICORN

SHAUNIE WILSON - age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

First, the magic spell will be at a secret place. It looks like a scary place that’s all black inside, and you have to get a person to help you out. The person looks like an alien with three eyes and is really green.

Then, you can find the person in the secret place, and if he’s not there, you can grab the potion. But you still need to find him within two hours, otherwise you turn into an alien.

If you find the alien, then you will not be an alien when you come back there again. But if you don’t catch him in two hours, you’ll stay an alien for the rest of your life! He travels all over the world from San Francisco to Oakland.

After, you go to his house and get the mapping tablet to find the unicorn. You bring the unicorn with you to find the alien, so you won’t turn into the alien.

“No cheating on the tablet,” the alien says, but you use the tablet anyways. You don’t want to be an alien.

You love the unicorn but do not love the alien. He is mean because he turned you into an alien and he took your unicorn where she’s not supposed to be.

After you find the alien, you and the unicorn go to get some lunch and you give her an ice cream, a burger, french fries, some barbeque chicken wings, two Sprites, and some fried onions.

Then you take the unicorn back to your house. Your parents would say, “What is that doing here?!”
Can mermaids breathe underwater? Naomi comes from her parents, Queen and Kevin. Naomi’s parents come from transformation fish. Transformation fish give birth to mermaid eggs. There are red, purple, green, and white eggs. Naomi’s was red, purple, and green.

In a special house under the sea, two mermaids, Naomi and her mom Queen, need to hunt for a special house. They’re hunting for a special house because they need a special house to put all the stuff for holidays and special days in. They also need to hunt for a special store to decorate the house. Next, when Naomi and Queen finish shopping, they need to find a map to find the fish that creates the parents.

The map leads them to a special light blue-colored ocean. They are looking for their dog Louis, who was lost. The map is inside their house, secretly hidden in the garage. The person who lived in the house before Naomi’s family that lives in the ocean told them about the map and where to find it. Kevin was exploring the house and he found a secret paper which led to the garage. They go to the garage and they find the map. They follow the map to find the dog, who was stuck on an island in the ocean.

Mermaids can breathe underwater. When they swim, they can only go underwater, and they can breathe underwater. Once they swim to the island, Naomi and Queen follow the dog’s footsteps to find the dog. They follow the dog’s footsteps, but then the footsteps finish in a park, and the dog is not there because the dog is somewhere else. The dog is on top of a tree. The police call him and they find the dog on top of the tree and then give the dog back to Naomi and Queen, the owners. The dad goes to find the fish who created the dad and the mom.

They live happily ever after.
MI VIDA CON MI MAMA

PAMELA AGUILAR AGUIRRE · age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

¿Saben que yo sé cómo hacer las cartas? Pero que es mejor la fiesta o hacer cartas a mano? Yo llevé ropa a la escuela porque había una manguera para mojarnos.

Los maestros pusieron las mesas y pusieron un bebe San Valentín en la mesa. Los maestros llegaron con comida como pizza y soda.

El postre era como una gelatina y el pastel que trajo mi mama. También nos mojamos con la manguera.

La fiesta se acabó a las cuatro de la mañana. Estaba muy feliz porque era el último día antes de que estuviéramos en cuarentena.

Fui a la casa.

MY LIFE WITH MY MOM

Do you know that I know how to make cards? But which is better, a party or making cards by hand? I took clothes to school because there was a water hose to get wet.

The teachers set the tables and put a baby Saint Valentine on the table. The teachers came with food, like pizza and soda.

The dessert was like a jelly and the cake that my mom brought. We also got wet with the water hose.

The party ended at four in the morning. I was very happy because it was the last day before we were quarantined.

I went home.
HOW TO USE A MAGICAL WAND
CALLED THE STAR WAND

HASANI JOYNER · age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

First, you have to go to a pond, any pond. You have to go to a pond to place something around the pond.

Then, you have to place four different kinds of candy around the pond. This will open up something in the pond.

Next, the pond will open up, and there is a space in the middle of the water!

The wand is inside the space! You can reach inside to grab it because there is glass blocking the water to keep you dry.

When you grab the wand and activate it, you will feel something you can’t even compare to anything else.

Then, you have to go to one secret place in a forest. Go to the oldest branch in the forest to find it. There will be a fairy there.

The fairy will hand you a small book, but then it will get bigger.

You have to read the book, and that is how you are taught to use the Star Wand!
Have you ever wondered where scientists went to find griffins? I wonder if they’re real.

First, there was a forest. There were secret animals in it. Half of the trees fell down and there was this big hole in the tree. Scientists went to go see. The scientists wanted to create a video about the griffins to protect other scientists. There was a tree on the top and a cave on the bottom, and the scientists saw the griffins. The griffin was making space for the babies because they had too many babies.

The griffins were mad because the manticore, werewolf, kelpie, and chimera kept saying they wanted friends. They took them for a ride to the park, so they could play with all of them. The mother griffin was feeling mad when their babies were with their friends for a long time, for two years. They couldn’t talk to her because they didn’t have a phone. When they came back home, they had to sleep in the basement because they were grounded.

The scientists used all the information from the video to make their own new kind of griffin! Instead of an eagle face, it had an elephant face.
First, the tree is in the forest in the middle of the mountains. To get to the forest, you have to find an old stairwell in the back of the mountain and go up the stairwell.

Next, the tree is gray and it’s the tallest one.

Then, to get the glue, you need the help of a black little monkey. You ask the monkey, “Monkey, can you please get me the glue by using parkour?”

After, the monkey has to do parkour to go up the branches, and that’s how to get the magic glue.

Fifth, you need to get the activator, and there is a dragon that is in his cave and it’s very dark.

Later, you need to go slowly because he might wake up and scare you.

Then, you touch a brown button that feels like rock. You have to do parkour next. So now that you did parkour, you have the activator. When you did the parkour, it was super scary!

After, get the special mixer from the special market in an old forest.

Next, you go past a river and go to a place with mud.

Finally, with the mixer, the glue, and the activator, you now mix it all together. When it is all mixed, you play. When you touch it, you glow in the dark.
EVERYONE IS ALLOWED TO EAT HERE, EVEN MONSTERS

From playing with classmates and meeting unicorn cats, to feeding giant snakes their favorite food of mac and cheese, these stories tell us of wonderful places and new friends. Whether you’re welcoming a new sibling to the family or flying through green bamboo alongside magical pandas, one thing is for certain: love comes in many forms.
HOW TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD OF GAMES

EMMANUEL SMITH-EVANS • age 8
Starr King Elementary School

How will we get anybody to defeat the big bully?
First, build a path to a planet with soft, cute stuffies. I like how they are so small and put on their cute faces. Use them for pillows because if you use hard things, it’ll be hard to fall asleep and you’ll be crying.

Next, find a way to build a mansion. That way if anybody else on the planet needs a room, you’ll let them stay—mostly homeless people. Use games like PS4 because they’re mostly rectangles, and if you put them down, they’re just like a square. You can stack them too. Bring a generator and a TV so you can play them. We can all play Fortnite together.

Then, build a path to another food planet. They grow pizza, pancakes, waffles, bananas, vegetables, and snacks. Everybody is allowed to eat here, even monsters. You build a path to the food planet so then you do not starve to death.

Last, search around the planet to see who was stealing the games. You do not find it on the food planet, so then you asked if the aliens could help you. The aliens help you because they like to play games too.

After, you find it on the board planet. Everything is board games. You can play board games, any kind you want. You take the games back and ask, “Why did you take the games?”

They say, “Because we didn’t have anything to do and our planet is all white.”

Finally, invite them to your planet, because there are plenty of games. Now, they can come back to your planet and use some games.
The hospital looked big and there were a lot of rooms with beds and doctors and people that were sick. There were doctors talking about a person.

I went to the room to see my sister and she was so little. She looked like a baby doll and her hands were so tiny and she was in a cradle. The doctors gave her a little blanket. I felt happy because I had a sister. The doctors gave food to my mom and my mom gave me apple juice. And one doctor said to my mom, “What is going to be the baby’s name?”

My mom said, “The name is going to be Angela.” My mom and my sister went to the house and I was happy because I was back in my house with my sister and my mom. I played with my sister but not too hard because she was so little. I made her laugh. I gave my tablet to her and she watched baby stuff. When my little sister laughed I would feel happy because she was my sister and she was so little.

I love this memory because I love my sister and it is important to me because God gave me a sister who is so pretty with curly hair.
First, find a rainbow for the unicorn cat and dog food. You’ll find a rainbow in the sky.

Second, pour the regular food in a regular bowl for the cat and dog. It will make a shhhh sound when you pour it.

Third, wait for them to eat the food. It should take one minute!

Fourth, get two cages, a dog, and a cat cage. When you catch them, you can take care of them. Wash the dog and the cat. The unicorn cat likes to bathe in rainbow water. The dog is almost like a regular dog.

Fifth, bathe the cat and dog. Bathe them in a tiny pink bathtub. If it’s too big, you’ll slip and fall.

Sixth, dry the cat and dog with a rainbow towel. Make sure it’s big so you can dry both the dog and cat.

Seventh, go to the rainbow market. Get a bunch of wishes in a treasure chest. Wish for toys for the cat and dog. They will pop down from the clouds in the sky, then they can play!

Next, wish for a bed for the cat and dog so they can sleep. This bed will be medium-sized. There should be two of them, or else the cat and dog will fight.

Then, wish for a bed for you to sleep in. This bed can be a big bed just for you.

Then, sleep until tomorrow.

Then, wish for a house.

To be continued . . .
Where does this story take place? In the lair, and it’s a secret hideout.

It’s about Mr. Wolf and Mr. Lion (Nicholas). We team up together to fight the bad guys. Then we go to Mr. Wolf’s hideout to play some video games, exercise, and race each other.

Mr. Cat is a bad guy because he turns people into zombies. Mr. Cat is mad because he lost in a race against Mr. Wolf and Mr. Lion (Nicholas).

In the lair and its secret hideout, there are two cars. One says “Mr. Wolf” on it, and one says “Mr. Lion.” And there’s a water pool. It’s all inside a cave, like Batman.

We try to save the day by turning everybody back into humans and then face Mr. Cat. We say to Mr. Cat, “It’s okay, it’s just a race, and we are sorry for making you mad.”

Mr. Cat says, “Okay, I’ll turn back to being nice, and be with everybody again.”
SINCERE’S SIXTH BIRTHDAY

SINCERE PERKINS • age 8
Malcolm X Academy Elementary School

Did you know that Legoland has cars for kids? “Sup Damone? Sup Sincere? Do you want to go drive?”

“Yes, let’s go.” And then we saw D’Mahni in the car. Then we went to go play with the Legos.

We got on a ride together and rode to the Lego house. We snuck into a room. There were no people in there. The ride was called Life or Death. They said they were gonna throw us to Jurassic Park. It was super scary so we ran all the way back. We kept running. My grandma was running with us and a T-Rex smashed Legoland. I said, “Nooooooooooooo, no!” I was shocked. I cried and cried when the T-Rex hit a Lego. The T-Rex was in pain and we left him. I felt bad for the T-Rex. Come on.

But it was all a dream. The Legoland part was real, but I sleepwalked. I feel a little sad about the T-Rex because I don’t know what they did with it. It died in my dream because it stepped on a Lego. Going to Legoland felt very nice.

I went back to sleep that night. Then, I had a nightmare. I didn’t see anyone or anything. It was closed. It was empty. It was abandoned. So I tried to find the exit. The exit was guarded by alligators. The alligators smelled like raw stinky eggs that were expired, from 1918. I climbed over them, but the alligators bit my shoe. That was my favorite shoe. I got it and I ran. When I looked at my shoe it was chewed. I didn’t know anything when I woke up. I was still sleepwalking, but then I woke up. When I woke up, I felt very scared and sad at the same time. First, I was very scared because of the alligators. Second, I was sad because of the T-Rex. It scared me so I will never forget it. Never sleep if you go to Legoland on your birthday!
I would ask the snake, “What do you like to do?”

He would say, “I like to play tag!”

My snake was created in an egg six inches big. The egg was white and had snake stickers on it. Someone was driving in a car on their way to the jungle and hit the egg and it cracked open! A giant snake came out! It was three inches tall. Next, the snake went over to the water because the snake can’t be out of the water. It went to the deepest part of the ocean where no one could find it, and stayed there for nineteen years. Finally, he came up for fresh air and then was 1,500 feet long! I went to meet him at the hole where he came up from the water, and I gave him some food. I gave him a hundred bananas and a hundred coconuts that I got from the jungle. He needed a lot of food because he was big and needed to get fat! Then he went back in the water. He learned he had magical powers by saying the magic word, “Abracadabra!” He could teleport and be invisible. The first place he teleported was Car City, where he started chasing people to try to get food from them. He was really hungry because I forgot to feed him! He was trying to get mac and cheese from the people in Car City because mac and cheese is his favorite. It tastes good, so he came up to me and said, “I want more mac and cheese.” So I gave it all to him!

Then, he said, “Abracadabra” and teleported back to the water! He fell asleep for ten minutes but woke up because he heard a tree fall. He left the water to go check what was happening. I was trapped under the tree that had fallen! He used his tail to lift the tree off of me, and I gave him more mac and cheese because he saved me. This mac and cheese was special because it was his favorite kind and also gave him special powers that made him more friendly. I put a wetsuit on to go underwater with the snake. We played tag together underwater, which made me feel so happy.
ME AND MY BFFS

SA’MIYAH BRADLEY • age 10
Bret Harte Elementary School

I said, “Do y’all wanna play gymnastics with me?” We started playing gymnastics. We had another recess so we started doing cartwheels and learned how to do backflips, but that was kinda hard. After, we started on our cartwheels and backbends.

Then we started playing with our other friends. I was in second grade, outside playing hide-and-seek with my friends, Kalani, Shaunie, Je’cai, Manny, and Hasani. They’re my best friends and they like to play gymnastics. We play gymnastics together a lot. We hid by the grass. It had some white stuff, just a little small line, but it’s really fake grass. It’s my favorite memory because I was with my friends and I was with my old teacher.

First my sister did a cartwheel and she asked me, “Do you want me to teach you?” and I said no. I put my arms straight and just flipped and my sister said, “Nice job, now you gotta do it faster.” I tried to do it a fourth time and I did it!

I told my mom me and my BFF’s were just playing gymnastics, and then I said bye, then I went to my class.
HOW TO SUMMON
YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITY

GENESIS PATTON • age 9
Malcolm X Academy Elementary School

1. Go to any zoo in San Francisco. This is important because that’s the best place to travel with the celebrity.
2. Find a vending machine in the zoo. You have to pay $12.42. When you pay the $12.42, the vending machine starts to smoke.
3. The potion comes in a jar with a cork. You take out the cork and you drink it. It’s so good, you don’t want to stop drinking it.
4. The spell should be with the potion in a yellow box that says, “Drink or Don’t.” It makes you feel good about everything you’ve done in your life.
5. You have to say the magical spell for all celebrities: “One, two, go go, I shall see and you shall come.”
6. You have to drink the potion and spin two times, and then you say the special magical spell to summon Beyoncé: “Beyoncé you shall come to my presence. And I shall see and you shall see as well.”
NEW SOCCER

NEHEMIA S AMBROSIO VELASQUEZ  •  age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

The park had a lot of things. It had climbing and monkey bars. We played on half a field because the other kids wanted to play on the field. We wanted to play on the whole soccer field. We told our teacher we wanted to play soccer. In the soccer field, there were two goals. It’s green, red, and white there. On one side, there’s the park. On the other side, there’s the class. When I was playing soccer, I just heard a lot of noises of talking and playing in the park. I played with my friends Bryan and Reynaldo. We kicked the ball, made goals, and celebrated a lot of times. It felt good. I felt strong because I won a lot. I felt tired when I went back to class.
Who will win? This story happened when I was seven. The basketball game was somewhere far away, but it was close to D’Mahni’s house. D’Mahni walked to the game, but we had to drive to the basketball courts. The building had a really nice gym that was upstairs, and we could see the lake. The building was seven floors and the gym was at the top but the basketball court was at the bottom. We saw something run past us in the basement, but we didn’t know what it was, so we turned on the lights and opened the door to get out. Suddenly, the lights turned off and the door closed.

_Boing! Boing !_ D’Mahni was bouncing the ball and then he shot it, but missed. I was interested in playing basketball, and excited to get my shot. After that, D’Mahni was by himself and was looking around for us, but then he went to the gym and he found us. Andrew, Sincere, and I were working out and that’s where D’Mahni found us. We made a bet that whoever could make a dunk gets $5, but no one won.

Then we made another bet. Whoever picked up the thirty-five pound weight would get $20. No one could pick it up. We all kept the money since no one picked it. Sincere tripped on the weight and fell. The manager was there but didn’t say anything. D’Mahni also tripped on the weight and got a running nose. I hit something and hit my head on the floor.

I woke up in my bed at home. I was stressed after a long day without winning. I was excited because I was home and close to my bed. After waking, I watched TV and ate an apple, a pear, and a banana, then went back to sleep. The first sound I heard when I woke up was my little brother running around yelling.
Primero tengo que ir al bosque encantado. En el bosque puedes encontrar frutas de oro y ramas de plata y un camino de oro y de plata.

Segundo necesitamos una casa de hada y un panecito de fresa y pan de chocolate. Es el favorito del hada. El hada se llama Fresita Rosita.

Después, tenemos que encontrar el hada. El hada tiene un vestido de color de rosa, su piel es del color naranja y su cabello y su zapatos de arcoíris. Le gustan todos los colores y hace muchas travesuras.

Cuarto, le voy a dar regalos con su color favorito. Los regalos que le voy a dar a el hada son un conejito rosa y unos cuadernos arcoíris y un lápiz arcoíris.

Después, el hada me va a completar mi deseo. Mi deseo es convertirme en un hada pero no voy hacer travesuras como el hada.

Para volverme otra vez humano, tengo que encontrar una manzana dorada.

La manzana está en un árbol dorado. El árbol está pequeño y es más fácil para agarrar la manzana.

Finalmente, como la manzana dorada y termina el deseo que me completó el hada. Me sentí feliz porque convertirme en un hada es difícil.
HOW TO FIND A FAIRY

First, I need to go to the magic forest. In the forest, you can find golden fruits and silver branches and a golden and silver road.

Second, we need a fairy house and a strawberry muffin and chocolate bread. It’s the fairy’s favorite. The fairy’s name is Fresita Rosita.

Then, we have to find the fairy. The fairy has a pink dress. Her skin is orange, and her hair and shoes are rainbow. She likes all the colors and does a lot of mischief.

Fourth, I am going to give her gifts in her favorite color. The gifts I’m going to give the fairy are a pink bunny and some rainbow notebooks and a rainbow pencil.

Then, the fairy will complete my wish. My wish is to become a fairy but I am not going to be mischievous like the fairy.

To become human again, I have to find a golden apple.

The apple is on a golden tree. The tree is small and it is easier to grab the apple.

Finally, I eat the golden apple, and the wish that the fairy completed for me ends. I was happy because becoming a fairy is difficult.
Did you ever wonder where water animals came from?

It’s an orange planet. When you get closer and closer, it’s water. The planet is full of water. The planet is big like the size of Earth but there’s one thing. There was a creature in the water, and a human. In the water, there was a kelpie and the human saw that there were two black eyes. The kelpie was about to attack the little girl.

The kelpie was just born and it was a baby. The human saw the black eyes of the kelpie. The human ran up to the shore. The kelpie ran up to the human, who was scared. The kelpie chased the human girl. The girl got tired because they were running too much. They were running for two hours without water. Suddenly, the kelpie stopped and the girl stopped. They became friends because the human girl reached to the face of the kelpie. The human girl touched the kelpie. The kelpie was happy they were friends. The girl said her name to the kelpie, “My name is Charlie.” The girl said, “Hey, let’s find out your name.”

The kelpie said, “My name is Transformer.”

Charlie was happy. Transformer was also happy.
Did you know that sea monsters come from the moon? Once, millions of years ago, Pedro was on a green and blue moon. Then he tried to run away from the moon, but there was no escape because the sea monster was blocking the door. The sea monster had lasers coming from his eyes. He shot Pedro with them and Pedro became infected. First, his eyes became green, then his head grew, then his teeth became sharper and he grew a tail that looked like a snake. Then he grew to 150 meters, even bigger than the original sea monster. Pedro’s mom was scared because Pedro didn’t come home. His brother and dad were also worried. Pedro wandered around the planet Exe and found a magical green potion. He drank it and got sleepy. He slept for 2000 years and when he woke up, he was a normal boy again.
HOW TO LEARN TO FLY WITH MAGIC PANDAS

GISELLE ESPINAL MORENO • age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

I was little and saw the pandas. After, they took me in and I lived with the pandas.

Living with the pandas made me feel like I was a panda! They gave me normal food to eat, and I slept in a bamboo bed.

I could fly because the pandas made me a potion so I could fly. The potion tasted like orange juice!

After I drank the potion, I felt wings in my back. The pandas told me, “You can fly now!”

The pandas remembered where to go to be able to fly.

The pandas showed me how to fly, and I flew to their secret bamboo place.

This is a secret place in the bamboo. It’s green and super large. When you’re flying above the bamboo, you can see the secret place, but no one on the ground can see the magic pandas.

I took them to Honduras and after I showed them everything, they ate some food there and we went shopping for clothes and more food.

After, I took them to San Francisco and we went to my grandma’s house. I told my grandma about my friends. The pandas gave her a hug. I felt happy because they love my grandma and me. They showed her how to fly by giving her the potion.
“Este bosque nunca cumple deseos malos,” or “This Forest Never Grants Bad Wishes,” is about the places we adventure to—far and wide, fictional and real. Whether we’re finding flying motorcycle parts in the desert, going to Magical Florida to find Bigfoot, or hiking on a mountain, our students understand that life isn’t just a destination. It’s a journey. Enjoy the ride.
COMO NADAR EN EL LAGO MÁGICO

JORDAN GARCIA IQUI · age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

PASO 1: Te pones el traje de baño.
PASO 2: Después, necesitas aprender cómo nadar.
PASO 3: Más tarde, hay una playa en medio del bosque. Tienes que caminar como media hora hasta llegar.
PASO 4: Hay peces mágicos de color arcoiris. Cumplen deseos.
PASO 5: Hay bastantes árboles con manzanas y uvas. Debes comer la fruta, entonces vuelven a salir las frutas y nunca se acaban.
PASO 6: Luego, descansas en una silla. Esa silla es mágica porque una cosa que quieras de tomar o comer va a aparecer. Ese bosque solamente puede cumplir 200 deseos al día.
PASO 7: Más tarde, si quieren, nadas. El bosque es mágico porque nunca es de noche y porque este bosque nunca cumple deseos malos. Otros animales entran en el bosque, y ellos son los dueños.
HOW TO SWIM IN A MAGIC LAKE

**STEP 1:** You put on your swimsuit.

**STEP 2:** After, you need to learn how to swim.

**STEP 3:** Later on, there’s a beach in the middle of the forest. You have to walk about half an hour to get there.

**STEP 4:** There are magical rainbow fish. They grant wishes.

**STEP 5:** There are enough trees with apples and grapes. You have to eat the fruit. The fruits come out again and they never run out.

**STEP 6:** Next, rest in a chair. That chair is magical because something you wanted to drink or eat is going to appear. That forest can only fulfill two hundred wishes a day.

**STEP 7:** Later, if you want, swim. The forest is magical because it is never night and because this forest never grants bad wishes. Other animals enter the forest, and they are the owners.
How does the hydra grow two heads? It began on a hydra planet surrounded by a force field, but some aliens broke the force field. They had a spaceship so strong, it could break through anything. Next, the laser broke through their shield by accident, and it lasered through the entire planet! The hydras had some spaceships, so they left. They found a planet and called a repairman to fix the planet.

The scientist was a spaceman. The scientist saw the hydras and he tried to make his own, but couldn’t. It took four years for him to become a mad scientist. He created a potion in case his head got cut off. If a human’s head gets cut off, it would grow one back. But there was a second potion that grew two heads back. He accidentally slipped on a banana peel and the two-head potion was right behind his back, and it slipped into the reactor that makes hydras.

After, the mad scientist ran next door to his indestructible house. He pushed the button once he was inside to activate the machine. The ground shook. Once the ground was done shaking, the hydra was born. The hydra quickly got big and started breathing fire on all of the houses!

Then, it saw the indestructible house. The scientist was calm. But the hydra broke the indestructible house. CRASH! BANG! When the hydra broke the indestructible house, they got so scared that they screamed.

But the scientist had sonic-speed potion. He had three friends and three sonic-speed potions, and one for himself, so they drank them. They ran to the other side of the world. They were happy that the hydra didn’t have enough speed to go there. The scientist made a fifth potion in case he had another friend, but the fifth friend didn’t work out. He only got three friends to be his friend!
So he accidentally dropped the fifth sonic-speed potion when they were at the indestructible house. Then the scientist realized it!

So then the hydra drank it and remembered where they had run to. Then, he ran to the other side of the world. And he found the four people, and they still had the super-speed potions. So they ran around and around the planet. The scientist learned never ever to create monsters!
HOW TO FIND AN ICE DRAGON

AJ NUQUI • age 10
Bret Harte Elementary School

STEP 1: Find the ice floor. You know what it looks like because it will snow.
STEP 2: You’re in the ice forest.
STEP 3: Look for the ice tree.
STEP 4: Climb the ice tree.
STEP 5: Press the button on the ice tree that leads to an ice cave.
STEP 6: Look for an ice path that leads to the ice dragon.
STEP 7: Walk on the ice path.
STEP 8: Walk for a short time alone.
STEP 9: Find the ice dragon in the middle of his cave.
STEP 10: The dragon becomes happy and you become friends.
The hotel was big and the letters on the hotel were red. The hotel was very fancy inside. Inside of the hotel that we went to, there were a lot of games in the lobby area.

We were staying at the house until it was time to go to Reno. We drove a car. It was really long, and we all fell asleep except for my mom. When we woke up, my stepsisters saw the sign Reno so they grabbed their phones and made a TikTok.

The hotel was in Nevada, and we only went there for fun. We drove a car there and it turned nighttime. And we were doing TikToks about it. I did a TikTok, and we had a TikTok where one of my stepsisters put the caption, “Going to Nevada.”

All I did was sleep, eat, go to the pool, play games, and that’s all. We played stay-away-from-the-monsters and get-away-from-goo-goo. Inside of the hotel, it was a maze. It was like, a lot of people inside, a lot of games, a lot of families, a lot of kids, and rooms and spas and food places.

After the hotel, we went straight to the house and started chilling there until my mom came to pick me up. I felt very sad because the hotel was super fun. My favorite thing at the hotel was when we went to the pool.
First, grab a bucket of water from your house, and you can check it off the bucket list.

Then, walk a mile to a village. When you walk a mile, you have to go out of town to go to the village. There are two paths to choose, the right or the left path. If you pick left, you’re fine. If you pick right, you might not last.

Later, you go to a village where Jack Frost was never seen.

Go to the lake.

You have to go to a house that’s right next to the lake.

You go inside the house and you find a staff and you read the note on the staff. The staff says, “RIP Jack.”

You put the staff into the ground and spin around with it three times.

And then, Jack Frost appears.

Once you find Jack Frost, you won’t be able to talk to people because you’re like a ghost, you become like Jack Frost.

There’s one ability that Jack Frost can do. It’s to freeze everything. Guess who you’re going to meet after you’re a guardian? You’re going to meet Sandman, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, and Santa Claus. You’re in the team.

Now you have to stop the Death Lord and his sidekick, Calico. The two of them have been together their entire lives and both of them were bullied. Now, they work together to trap people to make them into their minions, which they call Reaper Lords. The biggest minions are called Reapers. The Death Lord’s ultimate plan is to rule the world.
THE FIRST DRAGON

RAYDAN QURAISH • age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

How were dragons born? How old are they? Where do they come from?

Once upon a time there was a powerful bean in a volcano. The bean did not create the volcano. The bean came from the volcano. It was tiny and yellow-golden. When the bean broke open, the first dragon had its first breath because the volcano was hot. The first bean that ever cracked was big, but the second bean was tiny.

You could never crack the bean, but the smoke was powerful and the bean cracked. The smoke was like when you discover something new. It was hot and it was enough to break the bean. It was the only thing that could crack the bean. It was magical. It made the sound of an egg cracking. The bean broke because the smoke-fire was powerful. Something that’s weak can’t break it, but smoke is normal for the bean to crack. A dragon came out, and it was the same type as the ones that came from beans! The dragons had black and red stripes and then they flew to the top of the mountain. They never left. They had fun there, and they burned the grass, and then grew. They have fun just like humans when they play. The fun part for them is that they burn things a lot at the mountains. The dragon fire looked the same as the volcano.

After the dragon was born, then more dragons were born. Then one day, the volcano stopped out of nowhere! One day, the volcano was back on, but it didn’t create magical beans anymore!
Cómo buscar tesoro en el mundo de dinosaurios

Anderson Jeronimo Hernandez · age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

Primero, viajas al mundo en un avión. Segundo, los dinosaurios viven en el bosque. Tercero, los dinosaurios te ayudan a escalar. Cuarto, vas a encontrar el huevo en una cueva de osos (los osos son amigables). Quinto, busca un hongo para hacerte pequeño. Luego, hazte muy pequeño para esconderte. Después, busca una flor verde para hacerte gigante. Más tarde, hazte gigante para ganar el huevo que pesa mucho. A continuación busca un tesoro de oro. Finalmente, dentro del huevo de oro hay un bebé dinosaurio.

How to find treasure in the world of dinosaurs

First, you go to the world in an airplane. Second, the dinosaurs live in the forest. Third, the dinosaurs help you climb. Fourth, you will find an egg in a bear cave (the bears are friendly). Fifth, find a mushroom to make you small. Later, make yourself very small to hide yourself. After, find a green flower to make yourself giant. Later on, make yourself giant to win the egg that weighs a lot. Next, find a treasure chest full of gold. Finally, inside the golden egg there is a baby dinosaur.
I was eight or seven years old in 2019. I was in the hallway, then in class. My mom and her friend were there.

Everyone’s mouth opened, “He’s so cute.”

There was the smell of soap and we washed the puppy. He was black and white and really little, like as small as a corgi.

I wasn’t surprised because my mom told me about him, but my class was surprised!

I got to choose the name of my puppy, and I named him JJ.

To be continued . . .
First, you drive for nine hours to Magical Florida and set up camp in the middle of the forest. Magical Florida is different because it has a magical forest with animals that can talk to each other. Every night, a tiger knocks over every tree in the forest, but they grow back every day. The tiger gets tired from doing this and falls asleep, but you hear a big stomp . . . THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

Leave a box bear-trap on the green grass, with deer meat on it. Pretend to sleep on top of a cave in the magical forest. Then, you see Bigfoot right in front of the cave. Luckily, you have a camera set up and recording on your tablet.

After you see the footage, you hear someone talking and find your friend and ask them, “Why are you here?” You find out that they followed you into the magical forest.

You both climb the ten-foot-tall tree, but then Bigfoot starts pulling on the rope! His hands get stuck to the rope so you are able to capture Bigfoot and tell all the other animals to surround him.

You take him to the police with your gloves, give him up, and tell the police to keep Bigfoot in a caged cell with robots surrounding him.

You take Bigfoot to the zoo and let people see him. You make robots give him food everyday, and go on attack mode if he resists. You will give him magical ice cream, so he is nice to people.

Then, you include him as an animal.

Some random rich person buys Bigfoot as a pet and he lives in their home. Then, months later, you see Bigfoot riding a car underwater into San Francisco. A shark jumps on the car and a thousand more fish come out of the shark. He goes to Target and buys a large TV, then he watches Disney Plus with the fish.
THE WINNER OF THIS ROUND

DEE-ANTHONY SMITH • age 9
Starr King Elementary School

On a hot, sunny day, I was playing tag with my cousin Lawrence and running around a big lot of concrete. I was in class doing a math worksheet that had a lot of pages. We had to do three pages of work in order to go to recess. Before heading to recess, I ate a snack of crackers. It made me full and I had a lot of energy before playing tag.

I saw my cousin Lawrence and I tagged him instantly to start the game. It wasn’t too long until I got tagged back. My cousin and I were also playing with three other students, Leagi, Emmanuel, and Edwin who are also in my class. I tagged Emmanuel, he tagged Edwin, and then Edwin tagged Leagi.

After this round of tag, we started to play hide-and-seek. I was the seeker of the first round, and I counted for thirty seconds. I found Emmanuel first because he was hiding right behind the bush. That is the easiest spot to look at because all the bushes have little holes between them. Next, I found Leagi. He was hiding under the play structure. He was shocked when I found him because he did not see me coming from behind. Leagi then helped me find the remaining hiders. Lawrence was moving behind the trees, and I ran to him and I said, “Found you!” So Edwin was the winner of this round, and the next round, I was a hider.

To be continued . . .
Where do magical carpets come from?

First, you go to shop for your magical carpet. You will find it at a carpet store.

Second, you buy it and you go outside to see how it works. As soon as you buy it, you will know how to use it.

Third, you get on it. You need to sit down. It is soft, but when you sit on it, it feels more hard.

Fourth, you tell it to take you to Disney. There are a lot of people there.

Fifth, you land there. It goes super fast so you can get there in ten minutes.

Once you get there, you go on rides. They sound like a train. You’ll realize you left your phone at home! You feel sad because you don’t have your phone!

You need to tell the magic carpet to go back home. You need to say, “Go back home, and I’ll let you sit out in the sun!”

When you get home, you realize you left your baby cousin too. Now that you made it home, you ask your mom for your phone, get your cousin, and return to the carpet to go back to Disney.

When you leave Disney, you feel really sad, but happy that you got to go back.
THE HIKE

NAYELI ARANDA NAVAS • age 9
Starr King Elementary School

How long is a hike on a mountain? On the hike, I saw a lot of yellow and purple flowers, and horses. There were a lot of big mountains, but I could not see them because I was climbing. The people riding the bikes were going really, really fast. This hike was far away from the car. I saw a tall, fat, brown horse. There was someone walking with the horse, and there was a horse camp. There were horseshoes around the hike.

After, I was happy, and my mom, dad, and sisters were happy too. Our hike started in the afternoon, and it was hot. The hike was six hours. It was tiring and my feet were hurting. We took a lot of pictures of flowers, and when we got on the top of the mountain, we took another picture. We walked and there were a lot of holes in the ground and we fell inside of them. It was fun.

Later, when we got to the top of the mountain, we jumped and took the picture. The view was very beautiful. We found a shortcut. It was really dark, but we found the car. We went to go eat some wings and a burger. We had a lot of drinks because we were really thirsty, so we finished our water. The hike was six hours and it was fun.
EPIC MOTORCYCLE THAT CAN FLY

ANTONIO GIVENS · age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

Go to the pyramid with lots of booby traps to find the first part. There’s going to be a lot of booby traps.

The next part is in an ancient desert where a villager lives. Look out for the dance-battle villager. He likes to dance-battle people.

Ask the ancient villager for a part and he’ll give you it. He will want to dance-battle you first. He’s really good, so you’re going to need to practice for a year.

To find the engine, there’s another pyramid with something else. It’s a mummy. He’ll take you to where it is and you’ll have to dig it up. Make sure you bring a shovel.

Use the shovel to dig up the engine.

The last two pieces are a wheel and the back pipes. There’s another village with the wheels in the back. You have to dance-fight all the villagers and they’re very good.

Put it together with a wrench and other tools from the ancient villager.

A secret button on the back of the motorcycle will unlock wings.
Have you ever wondered where the thunderbird’s powers come from?

Have you ever seen a thunderbird? Well, they are in the forest. The thunderbird gets their powers by eating thunder clouds. Also all thunderbirds’ power is that when they fly, their wings make a trail of thunder. So if you see a trail of thunder, that might be a thunderbird.

One evening, a regular bird flew through the sky. There was a storm. It saw something interesting in the sky. The bird kept on flying and flying and did not stop. The bird took a bite and the bird felt like something hit it with thunder. The bird felt so powerful and the bird looked at its wings. They were blue, and when the bird started to fly, it looked at its wings again. It saw a trail of thunder. The color was blue. It stopped flying when it was at the forest. It saw blue birds, four of them. The bird knew they were birds like itself, a thunderbird. The thunderbird in the forest was making noise and one of the birds made the same noise. The thunderbird in the forest heard the noise. The bird kept making the noise. The thunderbird saw them. The bird knew who it was. It was his mom, the bird’s mom! The bird remembered, its mom took a bite from the thunder cloud, then he did. The bird and his mom went to its nest.
HAMBURGERS SAVED THE DAY

With glowing watermelons, burgers at Applebee’s, and cherries that taste like tacos, the magical properties and communal nature of food take center stage. Read on to hear about the power of special apples, sausages that can help you befriend a sea monster, and beyond that, why do dragons love chili so much?
The Hamburger

Jeremiah Maga  •  age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

Have you ever wondered if hamburgers saved the day? CREEEAK! The kraken is trying to wreck our pirate ship, The Hamburger, because there are tasty smelling hamburgers in the ship. In the ship they’re making hamburgers to make money, but the kraken is hungry. That’s why she’s trying to wreck the ship, so the hamburgers can come to her.

First, The Hamburger tries to speed away, but the ocean waves are too big because of the kraken. What they try next is to grab their cooking pans and try to throw them at the kraken to make her go away, but she’s too strong!

To save The Hamburger and all of the hamburgers they make a deal with the kraken. Captain Burger says, “We will give all of our hamburgers away to save our salty crew and our juicy ship The Hamburger.”

The kraken was so happy, and the pirate crew said, “Thank you!” Hamburgers saved the day.
First, you have to get cherries from a special cherry tree. They are super big blue trees.

The second step is you have to climb a mountain to get the cherries. Make sure to have a pick to climb the mountain, and be careful.

After, you find the blue cherry tree and climb it. Throw a boomerang to get your cherries and make sure to catch them in your bag.

Now, you eat the light blue cherries that taste like tacos. Make sure to save the seed from the cherry to plant it again.

Finally, you grow big! Too big.

To go back to normal, you just drink three cups of bubbly green water.

You have to climb another mountain to get it. This time you take a truck.

You find a little green tree. There is a tiny green fairy in the tree. The tiny green fairy gives you the bubbly green water for free. You drink three cups of the water and you go back to normal!
Hey dragon, do you want to be my friend?

First, the dragon was named Lockjaw and the other dragon was named Fire. Fire was the mom and Lockjaw was the baby. I caught the egg on a trampoline and I put it in my room. Fire was looking for the egg and knocked on my door with her tail. She came to my house and said, “Where is my baby?” and I told her where her baby was. She told me she wanted to stay with me because I took care of the baby and then she stayed. She went to go buy some food for her son and me. She was cooking for us. The police came to my house because they saw a tail through the window.

They saw the tail from the window and knocked on the door. She flew away. She came back to get her baby and me. We went to my car to go to my bunker. The mom breathed out fire. It scared them. The police agent tried to chase us but we got in the car. The police almost got her with sleeping darts, but she got away. They kept missing.

I grabbed the baby and the baby could fly now. When the baby could fly, I told him to breathe out fire. He breathed out fire. It scared the police. The mom and baby slept.

But wait, I forgot my car! The car could breathe out fire and had protection on top and on bottom. They can’t touch the wheels, and in the front, you can’t touch anything.

The two police were trying to get the mom and baby. I was driving the car, and the police cut the side open but I fixed it. I had to put wood over it, then concrete, then metal. We drove to the bunker.

The dragons went upstairs into the bunker. The mom and baby wanted both dragon-style. A dragon-style has pretty stuff on it. The mom was tired, so they went to sleep. They came in the car the next day. I was still driving and driving. We were going to
drive to a different country. We slept in the woods and rested a little bit. When we rested a little bit, the mom joined us and made dinner. They ate all their food and I made the car wider. I didn’t want to do it because it took so long. So I let the mom and baby play for one minute because the police were still chasing us. They were looking for two missing dragons. One was a mama; one was a baby. One of the policemen spotted us and we drove off and went out of town. We were free! We’re family now.
I saw all of my family singing at my party. I smelled food and pizza. There were a bunch of presents and bags of candy, like chocolate and gummies. Then they were eating cake that had a picture of me. I was super happy because it was a picture of me and I was super excited that it was my birthday.

I was opening presents, like toys and clothes, and then the cat jumped on my back. I felt scared and I screamed! I was tired because the cat jumped on me and I ran away. And then I felt happy because the cat left.

It was important to me because it was my birthday, and I was six and turning seven. I felt happy and I want my birthday to happen again, but I don’t want the cat to scare me again.
CÓMO ENCONTRAR
UNA TOSORA MÁGICO QUE TENGA
COSAS MÁGICAS ADENTRO

SANDY REYES CASTELLANOS • age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

PASO 1: Volar y encontrar una isla. La isla tendrá árboles palmeras y estará cubierta con flores.

PASO 2: Encuentra comida. Busca por toda la isla y mirando por todos los árboles viendo si tienen comida o no tienen comida.

PASO 3: Jugar con un elefante en el mar.

PASO 4: En un barco, ir a otra isla y buscar un mapa que enseña dónde está el tesoro.

PASO 5: ¡Abre el cofre y aparecen las monedas!

HOW TO FIND A MAGICAL TREASURE
THAT HAS MAGICAL THINGS INSIDE

STEP 1: Fly and find an island. The island will have palm trees and will be covered with flowers.

STEP 2: Find food. Search all over the island and look on all the trees to see if they have food or don’t have food.

STEP 3: Play with an elephant in the ocean.

STEP 4: On a ship, go to another island and look for a map that shows where the treasure is.

STEP 5: Open the chest and the coins appear!
HOW TO BECOME IMMORTAL

ELRICH BLANCA • age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

First you go to the castle on the right, not the left, cause right is right. Go to the castle on the right, it is green and the left is pink.

Next, you will see inside, three wizards. Pick the one with the green robe and staff, not the red nor the yellow. You see, the wizards have different abilities. The red has the power to look like a dangerous animal, the pink has the power to protect people, and the green has the power to be immortal.

Then, the green wizard will give you a quest to battle The Destroyer. The wizards call it that because they want to destroy it and it destroys stuff. It is big and scary and black.

Before destroying it, you will need the Sword of God. The wizard will give it to you and then you will fight The Destroyer. It is a special sword so do not lose it.

Last, when you’re done, the wizard will give a spell to become immortal. You have to say, “Hohoho merry wizard,” and then that is it. You are immortal.

THE END.

But wait! Do the wizard and person become friends? Well yes. Okay good. They’re happy they became friends.
“How do you take care of your teeth?” I asked the sea monster.

It all started in the sea. When the cavemen were alive, they trapped all the sea monsters in a crack in the Earth. There was a baby sea monster that was here long before the dinosaurs. The baby sea monster, named Diny, ate rocks to survive while he was trapped in the crack in the ocean. The other sea monsters all found a way out but didn’t tell Diny and his mom, Mrs. Diny, so they were trapped there even longer! It’s really hard to open a crack in the Earth when you only have flippers. A lightning bolt hit the ground one day and opened up the crack, and Diny scared all the cavemen away. Diny got earrings to protect himself. The cavemen were too scared to talk to Diny because he had sharp teeth that were bigger than megalodon sharks. The sea monster tried to save the dinosaurs from the meteor, but he failed and the dinosaurs were gone. Luckily, Diny gave one dinosaur the power to breathe underwater so they could always be together. Then, he was very hurt so he went back to the sea and said, “Mom, I tried to save my friends but I couldn’t do it.”

Eight years later, he met me! After he met me, I gave him huge sausages that made him so happy he didn’t even want to eat them! He wanted to keep them forever and ever. He never ate the sausages and kept them as a reminder of me and him. He looked for his mom but couldn’t find her. He thought his mom abandoned him, but pretended that his mom got lost in the secret woods.

Whenever he got hungry, his stomach rumbled so loud it shook the whole Earth. He got so hungry, that when he finally found some sausages, he was so happy that he wanted to explode. When his stomach rumbled, the people in the village woke up and knew he was coming! He ate people’s houses made out of sausages, but
they let him do it because they can always buy more sausages at the store.

The dragon was always trying to ruin the day! He was mean and all the villagers were scared of him. Diny said, “Get out of here dragon!”

But the dragon said, “No, it’s Diny versus dragon!” So they had a hot dog eating contest, and whoever lost had to vanish from the village forever. Diny won the contest by sucking the whole plate up like a vacuum! The sea monster protected all the people from the dragon, and if the villagers didn’t have houses, Diny let them stay in his safe-house-cave. The sea monster had to teach the dragon a lesson: to never mess with the people again or Diny will breathe fire to scare the dragon!

The villagers were so happy and wished Diny would never go extinct. They paid him in dinosaur money, which was a huge coin made out of real gold. He only took care of his teeth because he had the people that gave him the sausages, and they put stuff in the sausages to take care of his teeth, and in return, he lifted them up to build the top of skyscrapers.
How do you train to be a shark?

First, you should go to swim in the deep ocean. It can be any ocean. Wear a T-shirt, pants, shoes, and a jacket.

Try to find and talk to sharks. They hang out in caves where they have long seaweed on the top.

Give the shark food. The watermelon will glow red.

Ask the shark, “Do you have a shark potion so I can train to be a shark?” The potion will glow light blue. It will be healthy and taste like fruit.

When you drink the shark potion, you turn into a shark. You can swim with other fish.

When you come out of the water, you can turn back into a person. If you want to turn back into a shark, you just go back to the water.
MY FAVORITE MEMORY WITH MY DAD

ALEXSANDRA “ALEX” BASS • age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

Have you ever been to Applebee’s? Well, my family and I have. Let me tell you how fun it was! They have a lot of food. They have fries, burgers, and desserts. One time I went with my dad, my mom, my sister, and my brother. I love my dad. We went to Applebee’s because it was my mom’s birthday. We wanted to do something special for my mom and to also get out of the house because we had been stuck in the house all day. We went to the Applebee’s located at Fisherman’s Wharf. We also walked around Fisherman’s Wharf. We saw crabs. We saw a large pig in a cart, and the man was feeding and pulling on the pig. After watching the pig for a few minutes, we headed to Applebee’s. Once in Applebee’s, we were directed to a table right away. I looked at the menu and ordered my food. There were so many options! Hot dogs and burgers and shrimp. We decided we just wanted to order the burgers and fries. While waiting on our food, we drew and colored on the kid’s papermat they gave out to the children. Then our food arrived. The burger had lettuce, a bun, ketchup, meat, and cheese. But there were no tomatoes because I don’t like tomatoes. We didn’t order dessert but we had a good meal and time anyway. After we ate, we got up to leave to head to the car to drive back home. Once we got in the house, we all went straight to sleep.

We had the best time ever!!!
CÓMO CONVERTIRME EN UN DRAGÓN

WILDER RAMIREZ CASTANON · age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

PASO 1: Primero, me levanto de la cama y me gusta mucho comer chile. Cuando me despierto y voy a comer, como chile, por eso quiero ser dragon. Nunca más tendrá miedo a los demás. Cuando como chile no sudo porque quiero ser un dragón.

PASO 2: Después, voy a bañarme con agua caliente. Yo me voy a bañar con agua caliente y no me voy a bañar con agua fría.

PASO 3: Después de bañarme, me salgo de la casa y voy a buscar una cueva de un dragón.

PASO 4: Cuando encuentro la cueva, veo que el dragón no está y espero un rato para que venga el dragón.

PASO 5: Después de dos horas, vino el dragón y me dijo quién soy y porque estas en mi casa? Yo le dije que quiero ser igual como él.

PASO 6: Me dice como puedes ser un dragón si tu estas demasiado pequeño?

PASO 7: Y después me dice porque tu quieres ser un dragón? Quiero ser dragón para no tener miedo de los otros!
HOW TO TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO A DRAGON

STEP 1: First, I get out of bed and I really like to eat chili. When I wake up and go to eat, I eat chili. That’s why I want to be a dragon. I will never be afraid of others again. When I eat chili, I don’t sweat because I want to be a dragon.

STEP 2: Afterwards, I am going to bathe with hot water. I am going to bathe in hot water and I am not going to bathe in cold water.

STEP 3: After I take a bath, I leave the house and go to find a dragon cave.

STEP 4: When I find the cave, I see that the dragon is not there and I wait a while for the dragon to come.

STEP 5: After two hours, the dragon comes and asks me who I am and, “Why are you at my house?” I tell him that I want to be the same as him.

STEP 6: He tells me, “How can you be a dragon if you are too small?”

STEP 7: And then he asks me, “Why do you want to be a dragon?” I want to be a dragon so I won’t be afraid of others!
Have you ever wondered where centaurs came from? To know the answer to this, you have to go back three million years ago. There was a war that happened with the Aeries. The Aeries were big monsters with black fur and red eyes. They hated the centaurs. So the centaurs launched fire arrows at the Aeries.

The gods from the heavens tried to protect the centaurs by putting them into tiny eggs, which protected them like a magic shield. They sent these tiny eggs to a new planet so that the centaurs could have a safe home. Then these eggs hatched and the centaurs started their new home on Planet Centaur.

The centaurs’ favorite meal is golden apples, which taste like a magical cake. The apples grow on magical trees. If you find them in Planet Centaur, you wouldn’t be able to carry the apples. They are too heavy like big rocks. Only centaurs can carry them. They cut the apples up with a knife and put them all around the tables on Planet Centaur. They eat the apples for dessert and they give the centaurs more power.

To chop the apples, the centaurs use a special knife that is made out of special material. They mine the material underground in the mine. To create the knife, they need to have fire. They make the fire out of rocks and dry grass.

And they hunt for their food. They find special apples up in a big tree. They can barely climb the trees. The centaurs are happy at Planet Centaur because they’ve lived there peacefully for millions of years.
HOW TO FIND A REINDEER

ADRIANA VELASQUEZ LOPEZ · age 9
Bret Harte Elementary School

STEP 1: Get rainbow carrots. They’ll be on top of a rainbow. Rainbow carrots look like a rainbow. They are the shape and color of a rainbow, and on top of the rainbow, there is a green leaf, like on a normal carrot.

STEP 2: Ride a Christmas tree. You need a seatbelt. The tree is sideways and the point of the tree directs you where you are going. You are going to ride it to the North Pole.

STEP 3: Climb the biggest mountain in the North Pole and catch the reindeer with a glittery rope. Use the rope to climb the mountain, then use the carrots to catch the reindeer.

STEP 4: Now feed the reindeer the rainbow carrots. The reindeer was bored, but the rainbow carrots cheered him up.

STEP 5: Ride the reindeer to my house!
I LIKe FORTNITE
because it is really fun

JAYDEN PEREZ GUTIERREZ · age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

Did we get so many kills? Yes. Every Saturday, I start playing Fortnite. I just play it, I don’t really like going out. I play it in my room. I don’t have a microphone so I can’t talk with him. I invited my brother to Fortnite.

I saw a lot of houses and a lot of people. There were like one hundred people. I felt good because I love getting kills. At this Iron Man place, everyone went there. We just beat Iron Man and then we got his powers. I heard fighting from other people. I felt good because a lot of people went to Iron Man’s place. It felt good to play with my brother so I didn’t have to be alone. There was Iron Man and there were robots. We got Iron Man after we got all the robots. After we were done, we ate and then went back on. I don’t really play that much anymore.

I felt good. I felt good because I played with more friends, not just my brother. I like it because Fortnite is really fun.
HOW TO HACK A VIDEO GAME

ATLAS SEFO • age 8
Malcolm X Academy Elementary School

STEP 1: Find a computer. We need a computer to start the video game.
STEP 2: We have to be smart. So we go to school.
STEP 3: We have to read, write, and listen. And then we go to recess.
STEP 4: After school, we do homework to get smarter.
STEP 5: Pay attention to the teacher.
STEP 6: We need a keyboard and a mouse. We need these supplies so we can hack our video game.
STEP 7: We want to hack *Fortnite*.
STEP 8: We need to find a wizard who has a magical staff, with a pointy hat, a magical beard, and mustache.
STEP 9: You can find a wizard in a big castle. There are a lot of stairs, and all the way at the top, there lives a wizard. And we can give our wish, “We want to play *Fortnite*.”
STEP 10: Don’t forget to press to play. Start playing your video game!
It started off like this: he was a human and his mom and dad left him and he got really sad. He ate a piece of meat that had red and blue in it, and turned him into a half-fire and half-ice werewolf. He transformed into the werewolf by eating a piece of red and blue meat. When he went to bed, he started having really bad dreams and woke up and had hair all over his arms and legs! He had sharp teeth, pointy ears, and his fur was red, blue, and black.

First, it started in California at Juju’s house. I was with Mason and Juju, and Juju went outside and got lost in the woods, then a real werewolf appeared. He went into the woods and howled hecka loud and people came to investigate what was going on. We saw him and said his name three times, “Look at the Fireboy!” So then the werewolf started a fire, but when the police came, he turned the fire into ice so they couldn’t catch him. The police thought it was just winter.

We used meat to distract him, and crept out and escaped and went to tell someone about the werewolf. I colored the piece of meat red and blue to fake him out so he would think it was the meat he first ate when it turned him into a werewolf. He ate the meat so fast, but the whole time he was hiding behind trees and walking behind us. We all ran away to a neighbor’s house, then we were really panicking and said, “He’s chasing us!” The neighbor let us into his house, called the police, and they found the werewolf! They took the werewolf back to the lab and discovered he was half-human and half-werewolf. Next, they gave him some medicine to fall asleep, then shaved off all his hair and discovered who it really was . . .
It was the neighbor the whole time!!
He had snuck into an underground tunnel from where he was chasing us in the woods. He was very scared. Then, since we knew it was the neighbor, we snuck back into his house to figure out how he transformed and got the meat. It was scary knowing my neighbor was a werewolf because we used to go to his house every single day!
Looking to pick up a new skill? Travel to some new places from the safety of your home? Grab that green-apple-flavored potion nearby and venture forth. In this section, you’ll learn how to fly, how to jump into outer space, and even how to find some magic in everyday experiences.
In the story, I will be teaching you how to find a moon dragon.

First, you need to find the mythical moon. You know it’s the mythical moon because it has a dragon carved into the mythical moon.

Next, once you are on the mythical moon, you should check if you brought snacks because the air makes you hungry. There’s magic in the air that makes you hungry!

After, you should go to the moon market on the mythical moon because they sell masks so you won’t be hungry. The mask has magic powder in it. You use snacks to buy the masks.

Then, put on your mask and go to the mythical cheese fountain and make a cheesy wish. You have to wish for something that’s like cheese.

Later, you need to eat cheese and then your wish will come true, but you will see a note with it that says, “Enjoy, the moon dragon.” At the back, you will find the address to his cheese castle. They sell cheese at the market and you buy it with scales that are near the fountain.

Next, you can go to the address, but you can’t see the cheese castle because it’s invisible. It’s a cheese invisible castle!!

Now, write him a note that you are at the front of his cheese invisible castle.

Later, find the scales on the ground and give him the scales when he comes out.

Last, he will love you and now you can also turn into a moon dragon.
“How do you grow your heads? Do you have a tail?” I asked the hydra.

First, he was created by scientists in a lab. The scientists got bird eggs and did experiments on them.

Next, they started putting particles in the egg. After, the eggs kept growing bigger and bigger, then an egg hatched! A big hydra came out of the egg. It was purple with purple eyes and had six heads. It was as big as a truck!

After, the hydra roared really loudly and ran away from the lab.

Finally, the hydra tried to find a home. He traveled for one year looking for the ocean. Once he found it, he started living there all the way at the bottom of the ocean. The bottom of the ocean was dark and cold, but the hydra was excited to sleep for twenty years because it was so quiet. The hydra lived happily ever after and felt happy.
The first step to make a magic house is to get a magical wand.

The second step is to say, “Rainbow blast” to lock up your magic window so no one can break into your magic house. Next, you put Valentine’s Day decorations and two magic snowmen in the window by the door.

The third step is to say, “Pink magic blue blast” to make a ground and roof for your magic house. The bathroom and kitchen are pink, blue, and green.

The next step is to make a magic toy car. You put your hands inside your magic room and say, “Rainbow blue blast” to make the wheels and the windows inside of the car. To make the car, you have to use all the magic.

The last step is to play with the car. Make it fly around the magic room, outside in the backyard, and inside in the kitchen. Now people can come inside and live happily in their magic home.
Somebody said, “Do you want to ride dirt bikes?”
I said, “Sure.”
It was my cousin. So my cousin said, “Is that my dirt bike?”
We asked the mailman and he said, “I don’t know what’s in here.”
Then we got it and his dad said, “Bring it in the house.” It was
hecka heavy. We brought it in the house and my big cousin had to
get the gas. We were screwing the handlebars on and then we were
riding. My cousin came back. Then we put the gas in and turned it
on, but then he crashed into a brick wall. Then they had to leave to
get gas for the dirt bike. And then when they came back, we went to
the park and then my cousin fell and scraped his whole arm.
Then he said “I never want to ride again,” but he rides all the
time now.
So he fell and it was my turn. I was happy. Then when it was his
turn again, he fell again and then he had to take a break. His dad
put it on a gear and it was going way faster. Then I started driving
it and his dad said, “Hold the gas.” I held the gas and then I had
five more turns and then it was his turn. All of us went faster like
that because he was going really slow. When we were going faster,
my cousin was going really slow. My big cousin had to get some
more gas for the dirt bikes. His dad got some food. When his dad
came back, we went back and then he couldn’t ride on the street,
but he could still ride it if I was watching him. Then when we went
back to his house, my cousin asked his dad to ride it. His dad said
no, and he couldn’t ride it on the circle road.
Then he said, “Bring it in the backyard” because he was getting
bored and mad.
And then we went into the house to play *Fortnite*. I felt like it
was going to be my favorite memory because when I think about
it, it makes me feel happy and like I’m riding a dirt bike. I feel like
when I ride a dirt bike, I’m gonna beat everyone in a race.
Have you ever wondered how big a human would be compared to a thunderbird?

One day, there was this bird that wanted to fly. It walked a little bit and it fell into a blue kind of glue-like liquid. The animal over time, started changing and becoming strong. It turned into a thunderbird. It could create a great thunderstorm when the time was right, which is when it’s raining. It happened once or twice a week. The thunderbird has to create storms or it will lose its ability to create storms. Thunderbirds don’t eat worms like some birds.

The lab was behind a house and there was a tree next to it. The house was owned by the same people who owned the lab. The lab was smaller than the house, so people wouldn’t suspect them. The thunderbird looked purple, black, and blue. The thunderbird had big claws for its feet. It was as big as a one story building.

Next, the guy who got fired wanted to turn his boss into a frog or a bird because he got fired. The scientists were trying to turn humans into animals. The guy was trying to see if he could gather some humans and test it on them to make sure it’s perfect. When he was taking the garbage outside (because he’s also the janitor), it broke when he was trying to put it in the garbage can. It was a circle with a lid to screw on. It fell out of the bag and it broke outside of the lab. The boss got away and moved to a different country. He had cameras around the lab and heard about the guy turning him into a bird. The boss also told the other scientists about this guy turning him into a bird.

*To be continued . . .*
HOW TO FLY

MIKEL TAYLOR • age 8
Starr King Elementary School

STEP 1: You have to go to an enchanted forest and you get the berry-gum-blue potion and when you drink it, you fly.

STEP 2: First, go to an enchanted forest. You know it is enchanted because there are fairies there.

STEP 3: You need to meet the fairies and ask them, “Can I please get a potion, so that I can fly?”

STEP 4: Fairies live in treehouses. They live in treehouses because they don’t want anyone to see them.

STEP 5: You need to look in the trees to find a fairy treehouse. They’re shaped like fairies and are magical.

STEP 6: You need to ask the fairies for a potion. To have the fairies give you a potion, you need to make a distraction by throwing a rock on the ground so the fairies go look at what’s going on.

STEP 7: Next, when you hold the potion, you have to hold it with two hands because it is slippery and it smells like gum. It tastes like berry-flavored gum. It makes you feel weird.

STEP 8: Test to see if you can fly and if the potion works, you can fly. But do it again to make sure the potion works.

STEP 9: You fly out of the forest and fly and fly. When you fly it feels like fun. And now you can fly around the world!
En donde viven las sirenas? Las sirenas viven debajo del agua porque tienen amigas debajo del agua. Un día el huevo se abrió y estaba contaminado el agua por eso se convirtió en sirena. Se enojó y se salió de la playa porque se enojó mucho. Después se salió del agua porque se enojó mucho.

No se puede quitar las aletas. Salió del agua tenía mucha hambre y no tenía nada de comer. Y no aguantaba las ganas de comer y agarro un pescado y se lo comió y se salió del agua. Fue a una casa y se fue la magia. Se convirtió en una humana y se iba a la playa. Se convertirá en una sirena. Al final se convirtió en sirena porque se metió a la playa y allí se convirtió en sirena porque el agua estaba contaminada.

THE CONTAMINATED MERMAID

Where do mermaids live? The mermaids live under the water because they have friends under the water. One day the egg opened and the water was contaminated. Because of that, it turned into a mermaid. She got mad and left the beach because of how mad she was. Afterwards she got out of the water because she was so angry.

She couldn’t take off her tail. She got out of the water and was very hungry and had nothing to eat. And couldn’t control the urge to eat and grabbed a fish and ate it and got out of the water. She went to a house and the magic left. She became a human and went to the beach. She became a mermaid. In the end she became a mermaid because she went to the beach and there, she became a mermaid because the water was contaminated.
Do you know how the thunderbird got its name? The thunderbird makes thunder and that is why it’s called the thunderbird. It blends in with the thunder in the sky. A scientist wanted to make a griffin but he changed his mind and then he wanted to make a thunderbird. He used a potion and added a riding potion so he could ride it. The next day, he woke up and took a bath, and then he was outside and saw a boy. The scientist sat on a bench and the boy saw him and was curious. The scientist went back to his office to cry because he couldn’t make a griffin and the boy followed him.

>To be continued . . .
First, go out to a big open cornfield.
   Second, dig down until you find both of the potions, a flying potion and a magic potion.
   Third, pick up the potions. The flying potion looks like orange mixed with red. The magic potion is purple at the bottom, making its way up to blue.
   Fourth, drink the potions. They taste like strawberries and bananas.
   Fifth, fly out of the country and fly back in. Flying is fun!
   Go to New York!
   Play video games and get a potion to make you disappear. It is red and yellow and tastes like pineapple and an apple.
   Fly back as fast as you can.
   Last, you have to find another potion to go back to normal in the apple orchard. The potion tastes like green apples and has a green color.
¿Sabías qué tenía miedo de un perro? Yo tenía seis años cuando estaba en la playa en Guatemala. Estaba aprendiendo a nadar y también había unos juegos que yo jugaba allí con mis hermanas. Había una piscina mediana, y también una piscina grande y una pequeña. De repente, apareció un perro. Fue mi perro y es blanco y tenía quince años.

Fuimos a la playa el otro día. Hay cangrejos. Nos vamos a agarrar cangrejos. Papá dijo, “Ok, vamos a agarrar el cangrejo” y empezamos a agarrar muchos cangrejos. Cocinamos todos los cangrejos. Nunca como cangrejo y a mi me gusto mucho el cangrejo!

En la casa, estaba el perro. Y como el perro era nuevo, protegía todas las plantas para que el perro no comiera las plantas. Fui la primera vez a comprar frutas porque no había frutas en la casa. El perro llegó corriendo y el perro no agarró ninguna fruta. Agarramos las frutas y mi hermana mayor la agarró. Siiiiiii me gustan las frutas.
Did you know that I was scared of a dog? I was six years old when I was on a beach in Guatemala. I was learning how to swim and there were also some games that I played there with my sisters. There was a medium-sized pool, and also a large pool and a small pool. Suddenly, a dog appeared. It was my dog and he was white and he was fifteen years old.

We went to the beach the other day. There were crabs. We were going to catch crabs. Dad said, “Okay, let’s get the crab,” and we started to catch a lot of crabs. We cooked all the crabs. I never eat crab and I really liked crab!

In the house, there was the dog. And since the dog was new, we protected all the plants so that the dog wouldn’t eat the plants. I went to buy fruit for the first time because there were no fruits in the house. The dog came running and the dog didn’t grab any fruit. We grabbed the fruit and my older sister got it. Yeahhhhhh I like fruits.
First, go to a magic forest and find a magic frog. You will know the frog is magic because he has really long legs with a crown on his head.

Second, do not look the frog directly in his eyes. If you look him in the eyes, he will hop away.

I know you won’t like this, but you have to kiss the frog to get his powers.

After that, try to jump a little bit. The more you jump, the higher you will go. Jump fifteen times and you will jump into space and come back down.

When you get to outer space, you will see a bunch of stars and the moon. It will be cold because there is no oxygen in space, and you will need a coat.

Lastly, you will land without breaking your legs, like a frog.
I am going to tell you the story about when I went to the aquarium. Last year, me and my class got to go to the aquarium. We went to the aquarium by bus. The building was big and the glass tanks made it look blue inside. When we got to the aquarium, I felt happy and excited. My friend Matheuse’s mom came with us. She was a chaperone. There were four people in Matheuse’s mom’s group. We had a snack outside before we went in. It was cold. Then we went straight into the aquarium to see some cool fish. First, we walked in and saw some fish in big tanks. By the big tanks, there were octopuses, starfish, and sharks.

The first thing we did was put down our backpacks. It was kind of dark when we went inside. It sounded like whales. We saw some cool fish. Then we saw the workers feed the sea animals. They had a ladder and looked over and fed the sea animals. A sea animal would jump up and catch the food in their mouth. It was a big splash!

We walked through the whole aquarium. The teacher said it was time to go. The students listened and we went back onto the school bus. I felt happy because we got to see some cool fish. Everybody was happy. We talked about how we saw the cool fish and what the fish was called. Then we went home, and I told my mom about the cool fish that me and my classmates saw.
THE MYTH OF THE BABY DRAGON

DANIELLA MONROY • age 8
Bret Harte Elementary School

Why do a lot of people not like dragons?

The dragon parents left the egg in their cave. The color of the egg was white and it was as big as a Goldfish Crackers box! The dragons wanted to take the dragon egg with them but they couldn’t because it was too heavy. The dragons were talking about the siblings she didn’t know about because they were separated.

The good scientist was on patrol and picked up the baby egg to do some good experiments that wouldn’t hurt the dragon. They put it in a hot compartment as hot as the outside of a cup of noodles when they left to go get food for the baby dragon. The food was a special meal just for dragons, because if humans eat it, it will be like they just got bitten by a poisonous snake. The egg hatched and the bad scientists stole it! When the egg hatched, it sounded like the crinkle of a bag of chips. Then, once the bad scientists took the baby dragon, they started doing bad experiments. The bad scientists were bad because they don’t really like the dragon species. The dragons never did anything to the bad scientists because they were always scared, so the scientists always took advantage of them. The dragon was red with big blue eyes and it sneezed fire when it had a cold. It resembled a slim human from a young age. It was like any ordinary dragon but it already had scars on it when it hatched! The good scientists were shocked but they shrugged it off.

Once the dragon started to grow up, the bad scientist did worse experiments. When the dragon turned fifteen, the bad scientist gave her extra experiments. The bad scientists didn’t know it yet, but they gave the dragon teleporting powers! So then, the dragon teleported out, but she didn’t know where she was going. She ended up right in front of a house! The dragon wasn’t civilized, so she went into the house without knocking. Then, she saw the good
scientist and remembered him. (P.S. Dragons have a lot of memory space!) She told the good scientist everything the bad scientists did to her, and the good scientist called the police! The police arrived and took the bad scientist in for questioning. The bad scientist admitted he did something wrong to the dragon, and the police kept him in jail for two months. After he got out of jail, he realized what he did to the dragon, and all the trauma he caused. The dragon met up with the bad scientist and he apologized by saying, “I'm sorry, I will never underestimate or bully anyone ever again.” He decided to become a good scientist after the dragon accepted his apology.
First, find a book that looks strange.
Second, secretly take it. Don’t let anyone see you.
Third, secretly get out of the library. If they catch you, just hide the book and say, “I’m going to the bathroom.”
Fourth, pretend you’re going to the bathroom. Go to the park and go to the prohibited part of the park.
Fifth, find somewhere to hide. The teachers will want to find you since you took so long.
Next, run as fast as you can. When you see a forest, go in there then read the book. Do the magic spell. It is, “Oh powerful spell, take me to the fairies.”
Then, there will be a shiny eagle. He will let you ride him, but only if you give him treats.
After, get apples, a lot. This eagle will not help you if you don’t give him apples.
Later, the eagle is greedy. He will take you to the fairies. The fairies will give you magic, but give them tiny little treats. They are greedy too.
Finally, then you have magic and you can transform into anything and do magic of course.
ABOUT 826 VALENCIA

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

826 Valencia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting under-resourced students ages six to eighteen with their creative and expository writing skills and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around the understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.

826 Valencia comprises three writing centers—located in San Francisco’s Mission District, Tenderloin neighborhood, and Mission Bay—and three satellite classrooms at nearby schools. All of our centers are fronted by kid-friendly, weird, and whimsical stores, which serve as portals to learning and gateways for the community. All of our programs are offered free of charge. Since we first opened our doors in 2002, thousands of volunteers have dedicated their time to working with tens of thousands of students.
In the spring of 2020, as San Francisco schools transitioned to remote learning, we launched online versions of these core programs. To learn more about what our programs look like now, see our website: 826valencia.org

FIELD TRIPS
Classes from public schools around San Francisco visit our writing centers for a morning of high-energy learning about the craft of story-telling. Four days a week, our Field Trips produce bound, illustrated books and professional-quality podcasts, infusing creativity, collaboration, and the arts into students’ regular school day.

IN-SCHOOLS PROGRAMS
We bring teams of volunteers into high-need schools around the city to support teachers and provide one-on-one assistance to students as they tackle various writing projects, including newspapers, research papers, oral histories, and more. We have a special presence at Buena Vista Horace Mann K–8, Everett Middle School, and Mission High School, where we staff dedicated Writers’ Rooms throughout the school year.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING
During the school year, 826 Valencia’s centers are packed five days a week with neighborhood students who come in after school and in the evenings for tutoring in all subject areas, with a special emphasis on creative writing and publishing. During the summer, these students participate in our Exploring Words Summer Camp, where we explore science and writing through projects, outings, and activities in a super fun, educational environment.
WORKSHOPS
826 Valencia offers workshops designed to foster creativity and strengthen writing skills in a wide variety of areas, from playwriting to personal essays to starting a zine. All workshops, from the playful to the practical, are project-based and are taught by experienced, accomplished professionals. Over the summer, our Young Authors’ Workshop provides an intensive writing experience for high-school-age students.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
We offer a roster of programs designed to help students get into college and be successful there. Every year, we grant several $20,000 scholarships to college-bound seniors, provide one-on-one support to two hundred students via the Great San Francisco Personal Statement Weekend, and partner with ScholarMatch to offer college access workshops to the middle- and high-school students in our tutoring programs. We also offer internships, peer tutoring stipends, and career workshops to our youth leaders.

PUBLISHING
Students in all of 826 Valencia’s programs have the ability to explore, experience, and celebrate themselves as writers in part because of our professional-quality publishing. In addition to the book you’re holding, 826 Valencia publishes newspapers, magazines, chapbooks, podcasts, and blogs—all written by students.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH
From the beginning, 826 Valencia’s goal has been to support teachers. We aim to both provide the classroom support that helps our hardworking teachers meet the needs of all our students and to celebrate their important work. Every month, we receive letters from students, parents, and educators nominating outstanding teachers for our Teacher of the Month award, which comes with a $1,500 honorarium. Know an SFUSD teacher you want to nominate? Guidelines can be found at 826valencia.org.
826 Valencia’s success has spread across the country. Under the umbrella of 826 National, writing and tutoring centers have opened up in eight more cities. If you would like to learn more about other 826 programs, please visit the following websites.

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This year, 826 Valencia provided online weekly reading and writing support to third-graders from four classrooms in San Francisco’s Bayview and Potrero Hill neighborhoods. *The Greatest Hero of Them All* captures the joy, humor, and wonder of these students. From making friends with the most unexpected of creatures, to advice for gaining magical powers, to recounting cherished memories, students have continued to share their creativity while learning with us online during a time of great uncertainty. Our students show us that even while facing the toughest of challenges, there is a hero within us all, just waiting for the moment to be brave.

826 Valencia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting under-resourced students with their writing skills. Located in the retail space of TNDC’s affordable housing development, *Mission Bay Center* is a magical forest filled with sparkles and stars. Since 2018, we have provided individualized attention to students at *Bret Harte*, *Malcolm X Academy*, and *Starr King Elementary Schools* in Bayview and Potrero Hill.

Get involved at 826valencia.org