Comet “Tales”
Essays, Poetry, Stories, Artwork, and More

The Creative Arts Magazine of Marionville Elementary and Middle School Students
2014-2015
Foreword

Welcome to the third edition of Comet “Tales,” the literary magazine that celebrates the creativity of Marionville students in grades 3-8.

Thank you to all the teachers who submitted student writing and artwork. Our previous two issues were limited to examples of classroom assignments. This year we also invited students to submit their own creative work, regardless of whether or not it fulfilled a specific school assignment. We hope you enjoy the publication.

A link to an electronic (full color) version of this publication is available on our school website: www.marionville.us.

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The Question
Erin Blevins, 6th

My is heart pounding like a drum. “Bum. Bum. Bum. Bum! Bum! Bum!” Fright crawls up my back. My heart sours like a sailboat in the ocean on a windy day. I grab the courage to walk up to him. I look in his eyes. I ask, “Will you go out with me?” I am a kitten curious to see what he says. He looks at me and says, “Yes.” The weight of the world slides off my back. I smile.

Positive & Negative Space: Olivia Hopkins, 4th

Family Fun at the Amusement Park
Gage Clevenger, 6th

A few years ago on the way to Silver Dollar City, my sister was saying I would fall out of Wildfire when we went upside down. First, my mom, sister and I road two roller coasters and some water rides. Finally, we got on Wildfire. I felt like a kangaroo getting chased by a lion. I was so scared. Then it took off. On the way up the big climb, all I could hear was, “Click, click, click, click.” Then came the big drop. At an 85 degree angle it feels like you might fall out of the seat! Everyone started screaming bloody murder. It was louder than a fire truck siren! I felt like I was on the moon each time I went upside down. Out of all the roller coasters, Wildfire was the best.
Universal Theme
Logan Shepard, 7th

Many people experience the same emotions and feelings. This is an example of a universal theme. Universal themes are themes that recur. *The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson* and *Abuelito Who* have the same universal theme. In *The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson* the grandfather is old and sick.

In *The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson*, the old grandfather tries to eat but food falls from his face. The grandfather dropped and broke their clay bowls. The father and mother did not like this so they made him sit in the corner and use a wooden bowl.

The next day the grandson was playing in the floor with small wooden planks. The mother asked what was he building. He said he was making a wooden bucket to feed them with when they get old. The mother and fathers eyes filled with tears. The parents then let the grandfather sit at the table and eat with them from that day forward.

In *Abuelito Who*, The grandfather is depressed. The grandfather locked himself in his upstairs bedroom. He sleeps all the time. He sleeps all night and day. He is too sad to come down stairs. Even though the boy hardly ever sees his grandfather, he still loves him.

The universal theme of the two stories is, even though that people get old, you need to love and cherish your time with your family, because one day, they will not be there to love any more.

Newton’s Laws of Motion
Comic Strip: Rylee Moseman, 7th
My Favorite Kind of Pizza
Elizabeth Poe, 6th

As I walked into the kitchen, my nose caught something—my mom making my favorite pineapple pizza. Once I bit into the slice, an instant party of flavor goes off into my mouth. The rough texture of the crust and the teeth marks where I bit into the pizza beg me to eat more. The crackling and crunch are from it just getting out of the oven. I bite into the pizza again. I felt earlier that we just had to be together and we were. I’m so glad my mom made pineapple pizza. When I took my first bite, I was in love.

Crying
Tatum Vanderpool, 6th

My parents told me the news, the news that changed my life. I couldn’t believe he was gone. My heart was shattered, as if it were glass. I walked away into my room and closed the door. My vision became unclear. I had so many tears in my eyes I couldn’t see. The sound of sobbing was louder than my own voice in my head. I banged my hands against the wall, stomped my feet on the floor, and pulled my hair violently. Some of the salty tears streamed down my face into my dry mouth. My nose started to become stuffed. The tears burned my face, and I screamed as loud as I could. I fell to my knees in agony and cried even harder. I knew then that nothing was ever going to be the same, not without my dear brother, ever again.
Newton’s Laws of Motion Comic Strip: Cleo Yager, 7th

All Kinds of Love
Erin Blevins, 6th

Love comes in many shapes and sizes. Love is not just boyfriend and girlfriend. Love can be family, friends, or even your pets. Love does come in many different forms, whether you are a foster, you have a nanny, or your family is big or small. Love is truly all around you. All you have to do is find it. But love comes with many different emotions, such as the nervousness you feel when you see someone you like. Love can make you cry, laugh, sing, dance, or go crazy. Love may just be the best thing in the world because it is truly amazing.

My Favorite Pet
Ivan Jimenez, 6th

A pet that I would want is a husky puppy because it would look like a pile of snow. It would smell like a field of fresh flowers. It would sound like a yawning baby kitten. It would taste like furry cotton candy. It would feel like the softest cloth in the world. It would make me feel so happy. It would have different colored eye. It would be so excited to play ball. In conclusion, a pet that I want would be a puppy husky.

Turkey: Elizabeth Ross, 3rd
**Hippo**  
Kiora Alaimo, 5th

Fat and chubby  
Always hungry  
Don’t get too close or else  
Bye Bye to you

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**No Barney**  
Isaiah Marks, 6th

I would rather ride a shark than hug Barney.  
Heck, I would rather kiss an eel than hug Barney.  
I would rather swim in an icy pond than hug Barney.  
I would rather eat a butterfly than hug Barney.  I hate Barney!

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**The Last Tick**  
Aidan Evans, 6th

We all sat there like statues staring at the clock. No one glanced when a pencil was dropped. It was as silent as a ghost town. The only sound was the ticking of the clock. The teacher broke the silence by saying, “Have a great summer.” But soon enough, the room was silent again. As everyone looked at the clock and waited for the last tick, all of a sudden the bell rang. We all ran like the fastest jests. There were empty locker doors tripping kids, who fell like dominoes and were run over like road kill. Soon they came to the stairs and jumped all five steps like gazelles jumping a log. Finally, they came to three halls and split like logs into three groups: walkers, riders, and cheese wagons. Once everyone got home, they took their bags off, got their papers out, and started a World War III snow ball fight.

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**Wolf**  
Hanna Nolf, 6th

When I finally woke up, I realized I was awoken by a wolf. His fur was the softest thing I had ever felt. It was softer than a hummingbird’s feathers. His fur was like fresh laid snow, polished sparkling crystals, and a newly polished diamond wedding ring. The moonstone necklace around his neck reminded me of the clearest starry night. His crystal-like fur smelled like almond and vanilla. My own skin smelled like an ocean breeze. I could taste the spirit under his crystal-like fur as if it was my own. The almond and vanilla flattered my taste buds as I breathe in and out against his chest. My heart skipped a beat the more I fell in love with the beautiful crystal-like wolf. My happiness and love was so strong it took my breath away. I made a promise to him that I would never leave him.
The following 3 documented essays were local winners in the Daughters of the American Revolution annual writing competition. The category was Historical Fiction. This year’s topic was “A Child’s Journey Through Ellis Island.”

Anna Kotze’s Journey
Emily Harris, 7th

December 28, 1892
Dear Jean,

I must admit when we said our goodbyes back in Queenstown, I did not want to leave Ireland. I am not saying I do not and will not miss you, but I do think that it is good that we are going to America to see Grandmother before her last day because, as you know, she is sick. It will be good to see Grandfather, too.

We boarded the ship September 13, 1892. Moving onto our ship, the SS Nevada, I have to say, was pretty horrid. People were pushing and shoving, small children were crying, and mothers were shouting at their kids to quit running off. My mother was quite fidgety, and Father was trying to calm her. Marie and I were the calmest children there. Being my little sister, I figured she’d be running with the other children, but I assume she was frightened. While boarding the ship, Father told us about Ellis Island. Ellis Island is America’s immigration station (Barron). It is about a mile off the shore of Manhattan Island and in the upper New York Bay (Barron). Ellis Island is the destination in which we discover whether we may become U.S. citizens or not. Immigrants must go through health and mental inspections, and people are detained if they do not pass one of the inspections. We could even be sent back to Queenstown.

After we were all aboard, I met a quite kind girl our age on the ship. Her name was Augustine Elliott. Augustine was second class, just like us. She was tall, beautiful, and funny. The Elliott family was very kind to us and were Mother and Father’s first adult friends since Ireland. Every morning, Augustine and I would meet on the dock and spend the whole day together. Marie even tagged along some days.

One day, it was announced that we would be arriving to Ellis Island in the extent of 4 days. Mother, Father, Marie, and I were all desiring to arrive to New York. Grandfather had mentioned Grandmother’s sickness was getting worse swiftly. I had been fond of the ship ride. I really had, though I had been anxious about Grandmother’s health. Mother had often acted as if it were all okay to not distress us, but I knew she had worried just as much as I had.

In the early morning of September 29, immigrants aboard the ship had crowded the dock. Screaming, shouting, cheering, men we tossing their hats in the air, women were raising their youngsters in the air to see what everybody had been eager to see for what seemed like eternity. Children were ushering and shoving, trying to get the ship’s walls, to see the hulking woman covered in green, touching the fog of the low, morning skies. We had finally been arriving at Ellis Island.

Disembarking the ship was not too difficult. For the first time in weeks, everybody in my sight was merry and gracious. When we got to the inspections, there were people smiling, frowning, and others were shaking. Mother was one of the others. She was very on edge. Father collected a surely thick stack of papers and eyeballed the commissioners’ stamps. A tense-looking man shouted ‘NEXT!’ and Mother jumped in fear. Father gave me a small jostle and said “Go on.”. I stood in front of the tall man as he bent down and pulled out his buttonhook and turned up my eyelid. Mother flinched more than I had.
After the eye man had looked over the rest of my family, we quickly passed through the mental exam and made our way to a gentleman’s desk in which Mother and Father answered questions such as “How old are you?” and “Do you have any money?” The man stamped Father’s stack of papers just as the other men had. This time, Father had fairly grinned. We had made it through all the inspections and questioning.

After a long while of questions, shaking, and being inspected, Ellis Island had become our Island of Hope. We had spotted the Elliott family and we told all about each other’s examining experience. The Elliott family had been staying in New York as well. We had all been heading to Manhattan. All of us had purchased tickets to reach our final destinations past Ellis Island.

When we had arrived in Manhattan, Mother, Father, Marie, and I were going down a paved street when on the side was a house at which we had been awaiting to arrive. Father arrived at the door first. Mother knocked, and Marie had held my hand. The door creaked open. A grey-haired, tall, thin man stood in the doorway. It was Grandfather. We all hugged, cried, visited, and talked to Grandmother for hours.

We are still awaiting to know if Grandmother may be well again. It will be my pleasure to continue to write to you and keep you up to date on her health. We all love and miss you all in Queenstown, Ireland, and wish to see you soon.

Love,
Your Cousin Anna Mae Kotze
(Works Cited omitted for space.)

Soccer Game
Silvia Mayorga, 4th

Soccer has defenders
Our time to kick
Certain to win
Courageous
Entertaining
Remember to spread out
October 14, 1892
Dear Yuri,

I am writing this letter from Albany, New York. I figured that since you are curious that you would enjoy hearing about my journey through Ellis Island. I experienced many life changing experiences, some good, but most bad. It was all worth it in the end.

As you know, Russia is being attacked from all corners. We had to move in with grandma because they burnt our house to ash. After the burning, we kept getting word about many Jewish Russians getting killed. We knew that if we stayed any longer in Russia, they would kill us too. We have been hearing about a special place called Ellis Island. The Pogroms kept getting stronger. We had to go to Ellis Island (“Scholastic”).

We loaded up anything we needed onto the horse wagon grandma owned. Luckily, grandma bought a horse a few years back for grandpa, but he is dead now. We hooked up the wagon to a custom harness on the saddle of the horse. My mother loaded us up in the wagon. We started to travel towards the closest seaport. My sisters and I fell asleep. When we woke up, a huge steam engine ship crowded with people from all over Europe, it sat there in the water like a humming beast. We hurried off the wagon and grabbed our stuff. We ran for the boat as fast as we could. Mother paid a few rubles and got on the boat. Finally, we got out of Russia.

We were headed for Ellis Island. It was very cold during night. In the distance, you could see small white glaciers floating around in the ocean. Mother told us to head for our beds, even though it was only a few covers we packed for laying on the floor of the steerage of the boat. In the morning, everyone headed for a small mess hall in the center of the boat. I got a small bowl of meat and crackers. The meat was nearly raw and the crackers were stale. We headed back to the steerage after breakfast. On our way, we seen people hanging their heads over the railing and letting out the most horrid sound. They were getting seasick and puking all over the boat. The smell was gut wrenching. If seasickness didn’t get me the smell will.

It had been about five days on the disgusting boat of puke when we heard a man let out a very loud cheer, soon many others started to do the same. We rushed to the deck. When we got up there, we could see a huge statue, larger than anything I have ever seen. I had heard stories about this statue. It was a symbol of American freedom. Behind the island the statue sat on, was another island behind it. My mother told me it was our destination, Ellis Island (“Scholastic”). We came to a stop at New York Harbor. A smaller ship came and boarded next to our boat. I watched as different immigrants boarded the small ship. We did the same. My older sister Vega, told me it was called a barge, and that she learned that from eavesdropping on a first class passenger. The barge floated toward Ellis Island. Soon, we were on the docks of Ellis Island. My mother grabbed my arm and told me to stay close, and that she didn’t want me to
get lost. Men in uniforms were doing medical exams on different people. Everyone passed the small exam. Now our journey through Ellis Island will begin.

Officials were motioning people to a large building. Other officials were handing out numbered identity tags. We walked into the large brick building and sat our bags down. We had to leave them so they could go through inspections. We then went up steep stairs. These stairs were leading us to a registry room. The registry room was so big everyone called it the Great Hall. Long metal rails separated everyone from each other to go through medical and other inspections such as the six second physical. In the inspections, they made us go through further exams (“Scholastic”).

We had made it to the medical examinations. They were testing people for a bad disease called trachoma that affects your eyes. They did the worst thing they could ever do to my eye. They used a small tool to flip my eyelid and look for irritation and redness. The small tool was called a buttonhook (“Scholastic”). As we walked away we could see tears in mother’s eye. I noticed she had an E written in chalk on her shoulder. The E stood for eye. That means she had something wrong with her eyes and she needed further examination. We walked into a room without mom because she was in quarantine. The man asked each of us twenty-nine questions. We each passed the test (“Scholastic”).

As we ate, a boy named Tantum walked over to us to ask what was wrong, probably because we looked sad. Vega told him. I could tell that already, a special connection had been made between two. All of us traveled to three more rooms. We didn’t even know if mom was still on Ellis Island. Vensa asked where mother was. I told her mother was busy at the moment, when suddenly Vensa started to smile. I looked behind me and there was mother. Mother had made it. She said that they found a piece of dirt in her eye. As we walked out of the fourth room, we rejoiced. We had made it to America, away from the burnings and pogroms. Vega even has a guy friend. Finally, we were safe, in the land of the free.

Your Cousin,
Nikoli
(Work Cited omitted for space.)

Two Haikus: Isaac Newton
Mattie Wright, 5th

Stuck needle in eye
Born in sixteen forty two
Didn’t get married

Believed Alchemy
Did apple fall on his head?
He was a GENIUS!

Two Haikus: Albert Einstein
Devin Bailey, 5th

Born in Germany
Said E=MC²

He had crazy hair
He was a world-wide genius
Inspired people
Maeve’s Letter
By: Sara Thompson, 7th

May 23, 1892
Dear Coleen,

Greetings my dear cousin. Life here in America is different from Ireland. I hope you’re doing well. I recommend you to come to America soon; try to bear the boat ride through.

I remember the boat ride like it was yesterday. When mother, father, Fiona, and I went on the boat, it was a step to my whole new world. I needed to wash up, but no baths were available onboard (Moreno). Father fetched us bathing water, but the water was as frigid as the air that swept through the windows at night. The soap was a horrid sight, covered in foam and dead skin.

I stayed in a room with Fiona in a part of the ship called steerage. Even without the luggage, there was barely room to sleep (Moreno). The food was worse. Every night, a cold soup and stale bread (Lynne). The soup tasted like the mood of the ferry; miserable.

By ten days or so, mother said we should be at Ellis Island in the morning. I was so pleased, knowing that we had survived the boat ride. Everything seemed perfect.

Cries of cheering and screaming woke me up. I shook Fiona until her dreamy, cornflower blue eyes opened. I grabbed her petite hand and went to the deck. Both of us were on the deck barefooted and in our night clothes. I lifted her over the rails as a tall woman parted the clouds of fog. My eyes fooled me, as this was no woman, but a statue of a new hope. She shined like a million dollar diamond, though there was not a glance of sun anywhere.

Mother and father were calling our names behind us, ready for inspection. I grabbed Fiona’s hand while we stood in a mile long line after we docked. The higher classes were left off quickly because of their pocketfuls of money, but we had to drop off our luggage. After dropping off our luggage, all of us had to wait in another long line for the examinations.

I could see a grand staircase in front of me, while waiting. Father said to climb up the stairs quickly and show no lameness. I was worried Fiona would disappoint father, but little did I know that was not the issue. Climbing up the stairs while doctors watched on the sides was called a “six second physical.” When I stepped foot on the first stair, Fiona grabbed my hand tightly. I could see fear in her eyes. We both practically ran up the stairs, showing the doctors we were not ill.

When our family all reached the top of the stairs, we sat on a large bench, along with other families. Everyone was waiting to enter the legal examinations at the commissioner’s call of “next.” It was finally time for my legal examination. I sat in a room, moldy and brown, from the lack of cleaning. A man asked me a series of questions (Moreno).

“What is your name?” He asked
“Maeve O’Kelly.”
“Where are you from?”
“Queenstown, Ireland.”

Then the man handed me a paper; it said “accepted.” I could not leave to go to the medical examinations without my family, so I waited at a bench off to the side. Parting the crowd; and knew it was Fiona. She had also passed her legal examination.

We stood in the medical line together, with mother and father further in line. Without a doubt, I knew none of my family was ill. When it was my turn, the doctor said that I needed to open my eyes wide. He used a tool called a buttonhook, which is a curved blade of metal with a handle, used to check for trachoma (Marcovitz). I felt a burning pain for a
minute, followed by temporary blindness. He said that I was clear and to head off. I saw Fiona walking around alone, looking upset. I told her that she should not worry a bit.

Finally, we found father. He said that mother was under quarantine, but she is fine and should be out soon. After an hour, mother greeted us with a pale face. On her jacket’s shoulder, an “E” was written. I knew that meant she had eye problems (Moreno). She said that she could not enter America with her eye problems. Father assured her that we would all be fine. Then a man in uniform approached us; and took mother away to the Board of Special Inquiry, showing us a moldy room.

It was if the island was surrounded by my tears. Ellis Island was a nightmare disguised as a daydream by newcomers. That night, I had a dinner of tasteless rye bread and crinkly dried prunes. I kissed Fiona goodnight, letting her know that I would always protect her.

In the morning, I was woken up by my shoulders being shaken. I begged for more sleep. When I finally opened my eyes, I saw that it was mother. She looked healthy, practically glowing.

Mother told me that the doctors made a mistake and to and meet her in the line to the ferryboat leading to New York. Since Fiona had been eavesdropping, there was no struggle waking her up. It was even easier meeting up with mother and father in line.

Now we live in a state in America called New York. It is not far from Ellis Island. Mother says that we live in a city called Brooklyn. I miss you, please visit soon.

Sincerely,

Maeve

(Works Cited omitted due to space.)
“POP! POP!” The impact of the tetherball against a hand. You can hear the sound of wet sand plopping into the box from my little brothers building sand castles. The grass is slippery and wet from rain the night before. You can hear the sound of squeaking as our little brothers walk over to us in the grass.

“DING!” The sound of metal hitting metal, a sign that I beat my sister at tetherball, once again. My brothers start yelling and cheering. They each want to play me to see if they can beat me, even though I am a foot taller than both of them.

“My turn! My turn! I wanna play! I bet I can beat you!” Jacob, the older of my two little brothers yells.

“No! I want to!” Nathan, the youngest of all four of us argues.

“How about you play rock paper scissors to see who goes first then the other one can go,” I suggest.

“Yeah. You guys will both have a turn, don’t worry,” my sister, Makailah, chimes in.

“Time to come inside!” our grandma yells from the backdoor.

“Really?! We were getting ready to play!” Nathan and Jacob whined.

“Guys we will have time to play later,” I say. A whiff of steaks permeates through the air, from the kitchen, causing us to start racing to the door. I walk in and see baked potatoes, butter, sour cream, salt, pepper, and finally the delicious, juicy steak. Everybody digs in and sits at the table.

After dinner, we go upstairs and play. At first we play hide and go seek. Then, since our cousins are over, we go into the basement and play the “scare game”. We invented it ourselves. We turn all of the lights off and hide in the clothes and around things, including beds and dressers. I hide under the staircase. It is so quiet, you can hear the people upstairs walking around, the soft thud as they walk around. When I say “go” everyone starts walking around in the dark. You can hear their shuffling feet as they dodge obstacles and feel around so they don’t run into anything.

I scream and scare my cousin, Shannon, who is just around the corner. I run away and hide again. Then the lights turn on, and my grandma comes down the stairs, telling us that we are being too loud. Disappointed, everybody goes back upstairs and outside.

I remember going outside with my grandpa to help dig the hole for our new tetherball. He then got the blue wheelbarrow and put water and concrete mix in it. I remember the smell. It smelled horrible, like paint and a bunch of other chemicals.

The first time we put it in the ground, some of the neighbor kids came over and played it with us. The string would get stuck sometimes, and the ball would also fly off if you hit it way too hard. We put it in the middle of the fenced in backyard. In the far corner we had a garden. You could smell the fresh tomatoes when the wind blew. I remember picking the green beans and tomatoes with my grandma when they were ripe. You could tell the tomatoes were ripe when they were bright red. The green beans were ripe when they were big and, of course green. We barely ever bought tomatoes or green beans from the store. Everybody preferred home grown. Even though we didn’t live in the country, we had a pretty big garden.

“Oh! Don’t you just love the smell of fresh tomatoes?” my grandma asked.

“Yes, but I prefer to be tasting it.” I smile.
“Well then, let’s go eat us some tomatoes.” She returns the kind smile. Sometimes I think of the time I helped plant the seeds for the whole garden.

“Breanna! Breanna!” My little brothers are shaking me back to the present world. “Sorry, I was thinking about the time we planted the garden,” I gesture my hand toward the corner of the fence, where there are huge bushes with green beans blooming.

“Well, we are playing Red Rover. So anytime you want to pay attention, we need another player,” my smart-aleck sister says, mocking me in a way.

There is a cold bite in the air, but it feels good. I stand in the line with my family and we hold hands. My hand is starting to get clammy from the heat of my cousin’s hand. After a little while of yelling and laughing, I look over and notice how tan our house really is. I can feel the squish of the grass as I walk around in the damp grass. I notice our sandbox lid is still open from my little brothers earlier. There is a little lizard scuttling around. I run over and try to be as quiet as possible. I bend over, sizing my target.

“BAM! Gottcha! Look guys I caught this lizard.” I feel the sliminess of the back. Everybody runs over to see if I actually caught one. “Really? Nuh uh!” my sister yells from behind my brothers and cousins. “Yeah huh!” I yell back to her.

“Yeah she did.” My brother Jacob argues with Makailah. “Let me hold it then!” she yells. “NO! You didn’t believe me!” I yell at her. Just as I say that I let the lizard drop on the ground. It squirms around for a second and then darts off back under the sandbox.

“Time to come inside! It is getting cold,” my grandma tells us. “Okay!” we all shout.

When we go inside, we go back downstairs to the basement and run around. We play lots of games, like hide-n-seek and the “scare game”. We also love to play red rover and tag. The windows in the basement start making pound noises. Just quiet ones as the rain falls outside. I bring my radio downstairs and turn it on. My two little brothers, younger sister, and two younger cousins sing and dance to it, while I just laugh at them.

Not long after the radio is brought down the parents yell at us to turn it down. We decide to put on a show for them later and get our roller skates out. We all have a good time performing for the parents and skating around while they laugh at us when we fake fall. Then the rain gets louder and we have a power outage. Now the parents laugh even harder as we fall, only this time not on purpose.

Architectural Structure: Miles McMillian, 5th
Do Sharks Deserve A Negative Reputation?
Elena Rodgers, 7th

A person’s chance of being killed by a shark is very slim. In fact, a person’s chance of being killed by a shark is one in 11.5 million (Reilly). It is true that sharks bite people, but most shark bites are accidents. Sharks don’t deserve a bad reputation.

Although several people have been bitten by sharks, most people don’t die. Sharks mistake humans for seals or other prey (Guynup 912). Also people participating in board sports such as surfing look like seals to a shark (Reilly). Even if a human does get bit by a shark, the shark usually swims away and doesn’t return for another bite (Reilly).

The features of a shark make people afraid of sharks. For example, the shark’s teeth make people think that sharks are evil creatures. In real life, sharks use their teeth to catch fish and seals. Also, most people are afraid of the shark’s size. Some sharks are really big, but they don’t even bite.

Humans are even more likely to be killed by everyday objects than by sharks. People are actually more likely to die from ladders or chainsaws than from sharks (Reilly). Humans are even more likely to die from digging a hole than a shark (Reilly). But the most surprising thing that people are more likely to die from is a vending machine falling on them.

Clearly, Sharks don’t deserve a negative reputation. They just bite people on accident, and if a person does get bit by a shark, it’s usually one bite. Just because sharks look scary doesn’t mean they are bad.

Works Cited

Dewey Decimal Sign 133.1
*Ghosts*: Lake High, 5th
Wasps and Yellow Jackets
Eagan Cryer, 6th

Wasps are less violent than you think. Most wasps are a solitary, non-stinging variety. Wasps are actually related to yellow jackets. Wasps and yellow jackets both have a waist-like part called petiole. Petiole separates the abdomen from the thorax. Wasps and yellow jackets are omnivorous and can grow about 1.5 inches long. Yellow jacket adults bring food to their young. In return, the young emits sweet secretions that the adults consume. Wasps and yellow jackets usually build nests that look like honeycomb, paper, and concrete. These nests are made of papery abodes and wood fibers they scraped off with their hard mandibles. Despite their looks, wasps and yellow jackets are not as threatening as you think.

Source

Backpack Replacement
Isaiah Marks, 6th

Backpacks should be replaced by iPads in schools. School leaders say that iPads are powerful and versatile tools that are virtually changing the face of education. Along with that piece of information, iPads are revolutionizing the way we work with computers, making it easier to leverage databases. Those were the pros of iPads, so now to the cons of backpacks. Recent research shows that backpack injuries send about 5,000 kids to the emergency rooms each year! Physician David Marshal says children with scoliosis or a stress fracture can get even worse because of heavy backpacks. Sure, you could try rolling bags, but they are extremely dangerous to maneuver on stairs. I challenge you to talk to your teachers and principals to replace backpacks with iPads.

Sources

Why Not to Start Smoking
Kirsten Franklin, 6th

Smoking is a bad habit. It can harm you and others around it. Cigarette smoke is made up of over 7,000 chemicals, 69 of which can give you cancer. Smoking costs a bunch of money. A pack of cigarettes every day for a year would cost up to $1825.00. Smoking can kill you. Your brain becomes used to the nicotine in cigarettes and craves it. The nicotine in cigarettes can cause cancer, lung disease, emphysema, and heart disease. Smoking is an expensive habit that can kill you. Do not start smoking!

Sources
Grade 4: Diary covers and entries inspired by the Wimpy Kid Series

Friday:
Today my sister Lily hid behind the chair and said hi. My sister can be annoying. My dad bought me to work with him and he bought Jimmy Johns. It was a giant sandwich, giant soda, giant pickle, giant cookie, and a little bag of chips. On my birthday I got a lizard named Stripes. She/she has dots, but I call him/her Stripes.

Bailey Pollard

Feb. 27:
I am so happy for sports because sports give you good exercise and that kind of stuff. One day I was playing basketball and made a hoop. Another day I was playing soccer and made a shot. It was cool. I love sports!

Kristyn Smith

August 24:
Today me and my friends were being cool and we were doing funny stuff like staring at each other and crossing our eyes.

Morgan Brammell
Universal Themes
Ty Bick, 7th

The Universal Themes is in all kinds of literature. For example the “The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson” and “Abuelito Who.” The story and the poem both talk about old people and all people getting older.

The story “The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson” is about an older man, a little boy, a mom and a dad. The story is about an older man that can’t function like he use to so the mom and dad treat him like he is a cat or/and a dog. They made him eat with a wooden bucket in the corner, So the little boy made a wooden bowl and the boy said “When you get old will make you eat out of this.” The lesson is we might get old and to treat others like they want to be treated.

In the poem “Abuelito Who” there was an old man and a granddaughter. She had to take care of her grandfather and he has Alzheimer’s. He is just trying to remember why he is old. He still remembers his granddaughter but when people get older they do not remember all things, but we should treat them like you would treat your son or daughter or like you would treat yourself. That is what this poem is all about.

The universal theme for both the story and poem is all people get older, just some do not function like they used to. So that means we should cherish him or her. Different or not we should treat others like we want to be cherished.

Haiku: Silver Dollar City
Taylor Hardin, 5th

Lots of games and rides
Perfect place for family
Smiles and lots of laughs

Eagle Poem:
Jaxon Gamble, 3rd

Eats Fish
An Eagle is a bird
great at flying
loves to fly
Everyone in America
knows it’s the United States symbol and bird
Accepting People Who Are Different
Meagan Owens, 6th

People are born different. Some babies are born with a birth defect and are very different from others. I think people should be nice to different people. Kids are bullied by other kids in school. People and kids that look different have hard times in school because they think nobody really likes them. Sometimes they feel alone; they cry sometimes. They sometimes are happy when people treat them nice and are kind to them. People can be sad because they are very different from their friends. I think people should respect and treat them the way they want to be treated. If you don’t want to be treated mean, then don’t treat them the same. Be nice to them and help other students. When someone cannot reach a book, ask them if they need help getting the book down off the shelf. Then they will say, “Thank you.” Then the student will tell you that you are not mean to me anymore. They will ask you to play with them. I know that you can always be nice even if people look different than you. Be nice and respectful to others.


Students Should be Allowed to Bring Their Cell Phones to School
Tommy Sowards, 6th

Students should be allowed to bring their cell phones to school. “Voice note recording is a function on cell phones. This is a benefit for students that would like to keep a good way to keep track of what they need.” If a student forgets things easily, but if he or she had a cell phone then he or she could use a voice recording on their phone to remember what to do for school. “Nearly every mobile phone has a built in calendar, very useful for students that want to mark test dates.” If student could have their cell phones in class, then they could mark test dates, so they could be prepared for tests. Cell phones can help students with class work. Students can use their cell phones to research things about an assignment they might be doing. That’s all the reasons why I think student should be allowed to bring their cell phones to school.

Exercise
Hanna Nolf, 6th

I think everyone should exercise because it is healthy for you. When you run, you put all your weight on your muscles and joints. Your muscles tear and heal, which makes them bigger and stronger. More blood goes to our muscles as well. Your lungs get stronger too, and your breathing rate increases. When you exercise your heart gets stronger and bigger. You reduce your heart rate, and your blood pressure decreases. Your brain will also be able to function clearer and better. Joints and bones become stronger because of pressure. I challenge you to get active today!

Newton’s Law of Motion: Michelle Terrill, 7th

I Wonder . . . Why Are Eyes the Color They Are?
Madyson Garoute, 6th

The human eye color originates from three different colors: brown, blue, and green. Darker colors of eyes are the most common. The darkening of the eyes occurs if melanin, which is a brown pigment, is not presented at birth. Melanin develops with age. Sometimes a baby’s eyes are blue, but can change colors. Most babies are born with blue eyes, but they can darken in the first three years of their life. The part of the eye that is colored is the iris. Because eye colors are not like mixing paint colors, they are not a mix of your parents’ eye colors. Each parent has two pairs of genes called chromosomes. Children can have different colors of eyes than their parents. But if both parents have green eyes, then most likely the child will have green eyes. Because of human DNA, we have different color eyes. If you do not like your eye color, you can wear colored contact lenses.
I Wonder . . . Which Vitamins Can Cure Cancers
Elizabeth Poe, 6th

Cancer is a very deadly disease, and is incurable. It can be prevented with one very simple task—taking vitamins. Vitamin D is probably the best vitamin there is to help fight off cancer cells. The vitamin D slows down the chance of having cancer cells grow. Sources say it is one of the most studied supplements for cancer prevention and treatment. Folate is also another cancer fighting vitamin. Although it is known as folate, it is scientifically known as vitamin B9 or folic acid. It can be usually found in breakfast cereals and in whole wheat products. Researchers don’t know how folate can prevent cancer, but some think folic acid keeps DNA healthy and prevents mutations that can lead to cancer. It is known to prevent breast cancer. Beta-carotene is another cancer fighting vitamin. Beta-carotene is usually found in oranges or green vegetables like carrots or kale. It can be a cancer fighting vitamin for breast cancer and it is known to “support” Vitamin D. The vitamin that is mostly found in dairy products is Vitamin E. It is known to help prevent some stomach cancers. Vitamin E can be found in many different things. Some of the items it can found in are eggs, wheat germ, liver, vegetable oils, and dark green veggies. In the end, cancer can be treated. Cancer may not end anytime soon and we may never find a cure, but it can always be prevented by taking vitamins.


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Illustration Brandy Detherage, 7th

Disappointment
Isaiah Marks, 6th

I am walking home from school and see a little green under a pile of leaves. The wind is whooshing past and I see a $100 bill. I leap forward, my hands frantically snatching air. My lunging hand misses and I feel lost in the world.

Positive Negative Space: Isaac Lane, 4th
Curse of Pompeii
Danielle Smith, 6th

In Pompeii, a young man by the name of Heroscus, was not only muscular and handsome, but single and lonesome. A job of six months a year, life in Pompeii for the young man was no different than the average Roman.

“Heroscus! Emperor Kascar is looking for worthy men in a death match in the arena. The reward is the hand of his beloved daughter, Lyriace.” Festus, a friend of Heroscus shouted, running through the crowd. A second later, Heroscus noticed him panting, out of breath.

“For me to participate in such is unworthy. But for the hand of the beauty, I shall gain victory for my looks and glory,” Heroscus answered, pondering if he should join.

“Festus, I shall join, although my training is little.” The lean Roman Festus nodded and shoved his way through the crowd, with Heroscus following behind him.

The arena was bustling with excitement to see the contestants. Kascar, in his throne, stared down, with Lyriace beside him. Heroscus looked up, then shook his head and stood in the row of warriors.

Kascar stood up, preparing for an announcement. “Romans of Pompeii, welcome to the annual Death Arena! Two out of 12 contestants will be chosen to fight as warriors. Winner of this match will receive my beautiful daughter, Lyriace… Loser, of course, will receive death and shall be judged by the god Okemus!” The crowd cheered in agreement, and Lyriace looked down at the men, curious of who her hand would go to. Heroscus looked in her direction, wondering if he’ll make it.

Kascar turned to Lyriace and whispered in her ear, “Gremesan will be the perfect man for you, he vowed to protect your life at any cost.”

Lyriace hesitated before replying, “But father, I will not marry that perverted man. Look at him, he’s hideous! My offspring shall not be mutated off his genes.”

Kascar bared his teeth in anger, “I have every right to kill you, but I would be committing a sin against the goddess of love, Palusia. If it is him you despite, then it shall be Gladious.”

Lyriace rolled her eyes at that foolish name. “You just like the G’s…” she retorted.

“And now, we choose the participants.” Kascar announced, ignoring his daughter’s comment. Heroscus braced himself for the impact of his name being called. Kascar scanned the rows of men, pondering through his decisions.

“Heroscus and Gladious, you lucky men. Which one of you will receive my daughter? Kascar announces as he signals for the remainders to exit.

Heroscus stared into the eyes of his opponent, Gladious, with taunt. In less than a minute, Gladious pulls out his sword and hurls towards Heroscus. Heroscus catches his eye, and manages to dodge the attack. With a sword of his own, Heroscus launches forward with a roar and slashes while Gladious is regaining balance, leaving a deep yet short mark in his arm.

Lyriace watches with a keen interest. But Kascar snarls at the attack. Gladious tries to counter, but misses in the focus of his arm.

“Curse that fool…” Kascar murmurs at the attack.

“A second ago you wanted me to marry him.” Lyriace comments with snicker.

“Silence.” Kascar orders.

Gladious jolts back in focus and strikes Heroscus, next following a stab in his stomach. Heroscus flings back and moans in pain, but still keeping balance and focus. Heroscus retaliates and sends Gladious to the ground, then taking the opportunity to stab him in the chest, finishing it off by cutting his opponent’s head off. Heroscus holds Gladious’s head high, blood dripping from it, rejoicing in victory. Lyriace claps, ignoring her father’s growl.

“May I receive my maiden now, Emperor Kascar?” Heroscus pleads, bowing in his glory. Lyriace looked at Kascar, only to see anger in her father’s eyes.

“I don’t want you to marry that man…” He murmurs. “Fine! She is all yours. Gladious was an ignorant man anyway…” At that, Kascar stomps away, still murmuring to himself.
Lyriace looks and runs down the stairs to meet her man. “May I ask for your name? I’ve seem to forget it,” Lyriace asks in a curious tilt of her head.

“Heroscus, my dear,” Heroscus answers with a bow.

“Heroscus… Such a heroic name you have. I’m Lyriace, incase you didn’t know. Come with me to my villa, I want to spend my day with you,” Lyriace gestures forward as she leads the way, ignoring the foul blood-stained scent on Heroscus’ clothes.

Heroscus looks around as he studies Lyriace’s villa from the inside.

“Well, this is my villa. My slave, Albina, should tidy it up soon.” Lyriace informs, giving Heroscus a quick tour around.

“Lyriace, I, umm…” Heroscus staggers, while bending on one knee, holding her hand. “Will you… Marry me?”

Lyriace looks in surprise. “Well, I was destined to marry you, but my father… He… Wouldn’t want me to marry you…”

“Come on! I plead you, I won the battle earlier! You must marry me, I will protect you with my life,” Heroscus pressures.

“My father has full control over me! I love him very much, because our villa is full of love, the goddess Palusia is important to us. Since you went against my father just to take me, you have upset Palusia; therefore, you shall be cursed to death when Palusia commands!” Lyriace warns as she stalks off, jerking her hand from Heroscus, while he stares in disbelief at the concept.

Heroscus walks into the forum to find Kascar in the midnight moonlight. “Kascar, sir, your daughter has…”

“I don’t need any explaining! Come!!” Kascar interrupts in anger. He takes Heroscus by the wrists and primes him in a cell, locking him up. “Lyriace told me it all, Palusia will punish you…” Kascar forewarns as the earth shook in a terrifying way. “You have cursed us all…” At those words, an explosion from the nearby mountain erupted and Kascar walked off, leaving Heroscus behind to die in a way no roman would image.

Ash rose to the sky in a huge cloud, blocking all moon and star light. Smoke poisoned the air, making it roughly hard for Heroscus to breath. Outside he could hear citizens rampaging in terror as the earth split and shook. What seemed like forever never ended, pebbles the size of beans rain from the mountain. “I have done wrong…” Heroscus realized as his jail and the forum collapsed on top of him. The bean-sized pebbles rained on top of him, burying Heroscus with the building crushing him. Palusia had buried alive Pompeii in horror...
I walk down the narrow sidewalk made from pebbles just outside the gates of Pompeii, the soft warm breeze blowing my long brown hair into my face. I brush my messy hair away and continue, the sound of my sandals hitting the hard ground, slightly annoying me. Still walking, I hear a familiar voice off in the distance behind me. But I couldn’t understand what it was saying. I continue to walk in peace. Suddenly, I hear footsteps a couple feet behind me.

“Camilla!” a familiar voice says.

What now?! I thought. I turn around in annoyance finding my best friend, Livia, behind me. When she caught up to me, she was breathing hard, probably from running all the way here.

“I went to your house. Your mom said you weren’t home.” She said trying to catch her breath. I sighed, the flashback replaying in my head from just earlier.

“Did you guys get into another fight again?” Livia asked. I could tell she already knew the answer.

“I hate her so much!” I admitted truthfully, rolling my eyes.

I began to walk back to the gates of Pompeii leading into the city, Livia following by my side. She began to speak about something random, but I wasn’t listening, I got too lost in my thoughts.

~Flashback~

“Why can’t you be more like your brother Felix?!” Mom yelled.

“Why is it always Felix?! I barked.

“All you ever do is talk about how you want to leave Pompeii!” She nagged. I rolled my eyes in frustration.

“I want to leave Pompeii because I want to travel. Don’t you understand? All my life I have lived in Pompeii. I’ve never been to any other cities! Mom, it’s like being trapped in a box all of your life! I need an adventure!” I complained.

Still, she stood there with no emotion showing on her face.

“I’m going out.” I informed, bumping her shoulder hardly as I exited past her through the doorway.

By the time we got back into the city, it was already dark. No one was on the streets.

“Hey, can I stay at your house tonight? I don’t want to go back to that.” I said moving my hands in exaggeration to the last sentence.

“Yeah, sure!” Livia gave me a friendly smile, which I returned.

“Oh, but one thing,” Livia mumbled. “Marcus is supposed to stay the night too.” Livia finished. She looked at me, almost looking sorry. Marcus is Livia’s boyfriend who she is obsessed with. Honestly, I don’t really like him and Livia knows that.

“That’s fine.” I answered.

As long as I don’t have to go back home to my mother, I’ll be fine. When we got to Livia’s house, Marcus was already there. I decided to go to bed because I had a long day. Marcus and Livia did the same. I slept on a spare bed and Livia and Marcus shared Livia’s bed. Later that night, I woke up to Marcus’ loud snores.

“Really?” I whispered to myself.
I propped myself up with my elbows and looked at Livia and Marcus in the bed on the other side of the room. How can she sleep through that!? I thought. I took the pillow my head was resting on moments ago and put it on top of my head blocking out any sound in the room. Just then I heard a loud rumble. This sound was loud enough to hear through the pillow. I sat up looking around the room. What was that? I thought.

“Livia?” I whispered. She didn’t move. I shrugged the sound off and just went back to sleep.

Hours later I woke up to multiple taps on the ceiling. I looked over to find that Livia and Marcus were awake.

“Is it raining?” I ask cluelessly.

“I don’t know?” Livia states.

“Let’s go check.” I say, standing up from my warm spot in bed. I walk to the window still in Livia’s room. This wasn’t rain at all. It was... Ash?

“Oh no!” Livia yells. My stomach starts to churn as I watch the strange black substance fall from the sky.

“We have to get out of here!” I yell.

“What about my parents!?” Livia yelled.

“What?” I ask.

“They went to my aunt’s house earlier, they never came back!” Livia said, her voice cracking as tears stream freely down her face.

“I’m sorry, Livia.” I mumbled patting her back as Marcus holds her.

“We need to leave now!” I say. I open the front door holding on to Livia’s hand, as she hold on to Marcus’. The hot air hits my face and the ash gets on my skin and in my eyes. I didn’t realize I was crying until I felt a tear roam down my face. The ash becomes thicker. I can’t see anything. I let go of Livia’s hand for a moment, seeing if I can recognize where to go. We were lost. Hot ash begins to cover the city of Pompeii. I turn around and see Marcus still holding onto Livia’s hand. He was leading her into a building. I followed behind them. The building I recognized as the old bakery.

“I can’t do this.” Marcus says. No one says a word. We sat in silence for a couple of minutes. Suddenly the ceiling starts to crack.

“It’s gonna collapse.” I say.

“Livia, you’ve always been there for me through everything. I’m glad I got the chance to be your friend.” I admit.

My voice cracks as I start to cry harder. Livia just smiles. Just the the ceiling gets weaker and cracks more.

“I’m glad I got to be your friend to-” Livia is interrupted as the ceiling collapses crushing us all. I never got to give Livia one last hug, or tell Felix and my mom I’m sorry. I will never get the chance to go on that adventure. Everything is gone. Just like me.

Panda Poem: Josie Bowling, 3rd
American History via Instagram

Dodge Schapeler, 8th

Tabatha Morrison, 8th

James Hammonds, 8th

Dakotah Melton, 8th
**People Are Not Poetry**  
Morgan Essary, 8th

People are not poetry  
No matter how you write them  
there will always be a darkness  
Inside them  
an unpoetic end  
to a stanza in its prime  
assault to the justice  
of each and every line  
you can write them tall and kind  
or even small and fair  
but at some point you will find  
people are not poetry

when your ink-stained fingers  
drag a pen over your words  
that create a perfect person  
the shadow of the paper  
the smudging of the letters  
will be a symbol  
dancing in your tattered mind  
saying  
people are not poetry

so rip the tattooed papers  
throw them far away  
erase everything in your mind  
you wish that you could say  
wash the words from your fingertips  
and let light into the dark  
confess what you’ve always known  
people are not poetry

only then will you be free  
of the debt you chose to have  
the writer’s curse  
of creating a perfect person  
out of a sinful doll  
wishing it to be true

---

**Haikus of Spring**  
Michael Gilliland, 4th

The thunder rumbles  
Constant pouring of the rain  
Then sight of rainbows

Searching everywhere  
Looking for those Easter eggs  
The baskets are full

Jumping in water  
Having a race down the slides  
Shooting water guns

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**Mona Lisa: Breanna Schapeler, 5th**
Feb. 27
I won against the hardest team today and I’m freaking out about it! We won the championship. We’re going to Sky zone and then we’re going to eat cookies and pizza. ... My mom just said I can’t have a phone. What a buzz kill.

Jaely Paige Gray

February 26
Today I beat my uncle at football. He wanted to play something else, so he picked Minecraft. We found a castle but we had to fight an army of skeletons.

Kaleb Kirby

Dec. 17, 2012
I love school because I learn new stuff every day. I turned 7 today. Oh, and about the test, I got an A+! See, I’m a NERD!

Jasmine Griffiths

August
Today we started loading up boxes and hauling them off to our new house in Marionville. I didn’t even get to say goodbye to my friends. We finally found the house in July. At least I will go back to Ash Grove every other weekend to see my Dad, Memas, and Papa.

Alexis Hardesty
Do Animals Have Intelligence and Feelings Similar to Humans?

Elizabeth Poe, 6th

Animals use many skills to survive in the wild, and it amazes us humans how they take the pressure to do risky tasks. Those skills come from intelligence and feelings. Dogs have feelings and they show their emotions about what mood they’re in. Birds, like crows, figure out ways to get their food. Animals are very loyal and show lots of respect. Animals have a unique intelligence that they show in different kinds of actions, and once people begin to see it, they are always amazed.

Animals have intelligence that proves what they are made of skill wise. From “Can Animals Feel and Think?”, the text reads “Some people think that animals are just ‘animals’ and that they have nothing in common with humans, but a growing body of research suggests otherwise.” Animals are not just another creature. They are more than that. With some research, scientists have proven that they can do things in an animal form that humans can do. For example, something simple like hunting for food. If we humans could it, which we can, animals can do the same, which they do. Also from “Can Animals Feel and Think?”, the author wrote, “There are plenty of examples to indicate that animals feel emotions such as fear, anger, joy, and grief.” When these animals show feelings, the stereotype “Animals don’t have feelings” is no longer true, although it never was. Say a dog just lost one of her puppies to a harsh winter storm. She will limp, showing depression. This is her way of showing feelings. “What these examples seem to show is that animals are more like us than we may have once thought.” We humans and animals have a lot in common. For example, when an animal needs to fight to protect, they will do anything to keep others, or themselves out of danger.

Animals also show intelligence in unusual though very interesting ways. From the essay “Bird Brains”, birds find ways to get their food. “When the lights change, the birds fly in front of cars and place nuts they picked from adjoining trees on the road. After the light turns green again, the birds fly away and cars drive over the nuts, cracking them open. Finally, when it’s time to cross again, the crows pick up their food.” This is one of the many things birds use to find their food. When they figure out these strategies, they end up accomplishing their goal. Also from “Bird Brains”, “The captive African grey parrot Alex is one of a number of parrots and macaws now believed to have the intelligence and emotional makeup of a 3-to-4 year old. “The level of intelligence among birds may vary, but no bird is truly stupid.” No matter what the circumstance is, all animals are intelligent in their own way.
Some people might say that animals have no feelings or intelligence whatsoever. However, animals do show obvious signs that they do have intelligence and feelings. From The Dog of Pompeii, the text says, “There was plenty of everything in Pompeii, if you do know where to find it- and if you had a dog like Bimbo.” A dog like Bimbo that has marvelous intelligence can help you find things. Just like Bimbo did in the story. From “Super Croc”, the evidence shows, “After spotting a meal, the giant hunter moved quietly towards the animal. Then-wham!” Super Croc used it’s instincts to find its food to survive. This is a way of showing how its intelligent. From “Should Wild Animals Be Kept as Pets?”, “Having any animal as a pet means being responsible, providing appropriate care and treatment.” As long as you treat the animal correctly, all will be well. This means that the animal will feel happy and safe.

With the skills that animals use, they show that they have intelligence and feelings in so many ways. Animals will show respect as long as their owners show respect. Dogs will show how they feel when they choose like it. With animal’s intelligence being shown, we can use it to learn more about those animals. The feelings can show how the animals act in certain moods. Try playing fetch with a dog. When they bring back whatever is being fetched back, show that they know you want that back. It’s all about the intelligence and feelings.

Illustration of the poem "Sleeping in the Forest": Nich Carrington, 7th
A Better School Lunch
Payden Blevins, 4th

I think Marionville Elementary Schools should have better school lunches. I have some suggestions for a better school lunch here at Marionville. I think the cook should add pumpkin pie, chocolate chips muffins, blueberry smoothies or apple juice, and hot wings.

First of all, Marionville should add pumpkin pie and muffins because the cooks always have fruit and vegetables. The pumpkin pie would not be hard but soft with creamy whipped cream on top. The muffins would be filled with sweet chocolate chips inside of them. That is why I think Marionville should add pumpkin pie and chocolate chip muffins.

Next, Marionville schools could have something else to drink. Some suggestions I have are blueberry smoothies or apple juice. I think Marionville should add those item because all they have to drink is milk the kids need other options. Some kids get bored of drinking milk all the time. The blueberry smoothly would be made with real blueberries and milk, so it is healthy for all the kids. The apple juice will be made with real fruits and it will be cold.

Finally, they should add hot wings. I believe the school’s chicken is really soggy and burnt sometimes. Marionville schools never had hot wings before. I think hot wings would be really awesome opinions too. I really like hot wings. The hot wings would be made with mild hot sauce and you can dip it in creamy ranch dressing. I bet all the kids in Marionville will love the hot wings.

To conclude, these are all of my suggestions of why I think the Marionville schools should have better school lunch. I know all the kids will love all my suggestions on adding pumpkin pie, chocolate chips muffins, and blueberry smoothies.

Self Portrait: Emily Jenkins, 4th

How Your Team Wins
Lanie Williams, 5th

Bases are loaded
All up to you
Strike one
Everyone is counting on you
Ball goes past third base
All the players get home
Left field has the ball . . .
Leap off the bag and you get home!
Acrostic: George Washington Carver
By Jacob Johnson, 4th
Good person
Everyone called him the “plant doctor”
Or “The Peanut Man”
Rotate crops so soil doesn’t harden
Got farmers to improve their diets
Everyone still admires him
Carver is still important today
African American
Really awesome scientist
Very smart
Even used peanuts to make paint
Remembered forever with monuments

Acrostic: Thomas Hart Benton
Olivia Hopkins, 4th
Tons of Paintings
Hero to some
One famous mural is A Social History of Missouri
Mom’s name is Elizabeth Wise Benton
Art studio in Kansas City
Student at Institute of Chicago
Handsome when young
Artist from Neosho, Missouri
Rita Pacinza was his wife
Thomas is his kid’s name too

Acrostic: Charles Lindbergh
Melanie Tindle, 4th
Charles flew planes
He died in Hawaii
Airplane named “Spirit of St. Louis”
Rich
Left college to study flying in Nebraska
Ended his life with cancer
St. Louis business men gave him money for airplane

Acrostic: Susan Blow
Addison Biers, 4th
School teacher from Missouri
Unusual From others
St. Louis was where she lived
Also started teaching at a young age
Never married

Born in 1843
Loved children and teaching
Opened first kindergarten in 1876
Was happy about teaching

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Acrostic: Walt Disney
Kenzie Liebe, 4th

W as the creator of Disneyland
A rtist
L ung cancer killed him
T he creator of Mickey Mouse

D isney had a wife and two kids
I nspiring person
S mart
N ever gave up
E ncouraging
Y oung when he realized what he wanted

My Future
Elizabeth White, 4th

My future is going to be amazing. I will graduate school and go to college in 2023. I want to become a botanist, which is a scientist that studies plants and how they grow. The reason I want to become a botanist is because I love to garden and study how plants and trees grow. You have to find out what fertilizer is better for each plant or tree, and how much water you should put on the plants each day.

Botanists are a very helpful scientist. They help gardeners know what is best for their plants, and might figure out new things about how plants grow. Some knowledge I already know is that some animal manure is very good for fertilizer. Sheep manure is the best fertilizer for tomatoes. A lot of farmers and gardeners use cow and sheep manure for fertilizer. I know it sounds weird, but it’s true.

Botanists study plants and lots of other organisms, which are living things. Botanists study how different things affect the plant life so they can protect the plant life. They also might discover new plant species. Botanists work at zoos, laboratories, botanical gardens, etc.

To be a botanist you need to get a bachelor’s degree in botany. You need to remember to take English, mathematics, chemistry, physics, arts and humanities, social sciences, and biological sciences in college. In high school, take college preparatory courses in English, mathematics, biology, history, geography, and foreign languages. Get involved in science clubs or fairs and in hobbies such as camping and photography. You have to study a lot to become a botanist. Becoming a botanist is my biggest dream ever.

Dewey Decimal Sign 582 Plants: Taylor Hardin, 5th
A Better School lunch
Alan Jimenez, 4th

At Marionville Elementary School I believe there should be some changes to the lunch menu. They should have better food that would be amazing.

First, it would be delicious if ice cream is for dessert. Next, they should have “Taco Tuesday” because we don’t really get any tacos. They should do “Chocolate Friday.” That would be delicious. They should have three grilled cheese and with some pizza sauce. It tastes amazing. They should put some spicy chicken because some people like spicy chicken. They should have cookies every time we have lunch. They should take out the salad.

Then, they should take out BBQ on Bun and sweet potatoes fries. They could just do the original french fries. They should serve some pudding. They should take out BBQ and bacon beans. Fourth, they should put water if they don’t want milk. I don’t really drink my milk. I can tell that some people don’t drink their milk. If they don’t want their milk they can just drink water so they will have something to drink. Also, for the drink it could be fruit punch.

Last of all, they should serve soft tacos more often. With a bit of ranch it will make it taste fantastic. It tastes crunchy and delicious. I bet that some people would like it. That would be amazing if all of it happened.

Big Dogs
Shelby Webb, 5th

Early morning potties
Eating all the food
Keeping everybody up
All night having fun
Shedding all year

GLAD THEY ARE HERE!

Acrostic: Roger Tory Peterson
Yvette Willbanks, 5th
Roger saved a baby bird from a hawk
Often fed wild animals
Great at Illustrations
Every year protected hunted animals
Really good at bird calls
Taught kids how to paint
Often wrote about birds
Rode bike and exercised a lot
Young age learned to tell different birds
Protector of rare birds
Easy to teach
Taught boy scouts
Easy to impress
Really wanted to protect birds
Saved “priceless” animals
Overly excited about birds
Never hurt a single thing

Mondrian Style: Hannah Phillips, 3rd
**MAYA ANGELOU**  
By Alexis Brayfield, 5th

*My inspiration*  
Always wrote poetry  
Year 1928 she was born  
African American

Assaulted when young  
Nationally Popular Poet  
Great writer  
Even wrote when little girl  
Lively  
Optimistic  
Unforgettable

---

**Haiku: Henry Ford**  
Ethan Lindblom, 5th

Made fantastic cars  
Created assembly line  
Wife was Clara Ford

**Haiku: Omar Nelson Bradley**  
Michael Gilliland, 4th

Military man  
Commanded in World War II  
Was great general

---

**Haiku: Nathaniel Boone**  
Isaac Lane, 4th

He lived in Ash Grove  
Was the son of Daniel Boone  
Fought Indian War

---

**Mona Lisa:**  
Justice Murrell, 5th

---

**WALTER DISNEY**  
By Kolby Ghan, 4th

Walter’s nickname was Walt  
Animation artist  
Loved making cartoons  
The family now runs Disney Animations  
Early death due to cancer  
Red Cross truck was what he drove in WWI  
Donald Duck was one of his cartoons  
Invented Disney Land and Disney World  
Snow White was a movie he made  
Now Walt Disney is dead  
Everyone loves his theme parks  
Yes, he was very famous

---

**Two Haikus: George Eastman**  
Emma Barrickman, 5th

Made camera better  
He made one called the Brownie  
Made lots of money

Made one called Kodak  
It was the first one he made  
Still use it today
THINGS I LOVE
Nathan Johnson, 3rd

I love my Family.
I love Playing outside.
I love PE.
I love Running.
I love pets.
I love God and Jesus.
I love Heaven.

Harry Truman
By Sofi Armfield, 4th

He was born in Lamar, Missouri in 1884
A world leader
Roosevelt’s vice-president
Really nice man
Young business owner from 1919-1922
Too poor to stay in college
Roosevelt died in 1945, so Harry became President
Used to be in the military
Married Elizabeth “Bess” in 1919
A grave stone and Library are in Independence, Missouri
Now a well honored person

THINGS I LOVE
Marie Curie
Shelby Webb, 5th

Everyone in our class was assigned a famous scientist to research. I chose Marie Curie because she discovered radium and radium is used to get x-rays. Marie Curie has won two Nobel Prizes. Without radium people wouldn’t be able to see if they broke their bone or fractured their bone. I have used the internet to find out about Marie Curie’s life, her contribution to science, and how her discoveries affect me and other people today.

Marie Curie was a very interesting person. Marie was born in Warsaw, Poland on November 7, 1867 and died in France on July 4, 1934 at the age of 66 from cancer to too much exposure to radium. She lived in France for most of her life, but before she lived in France she lived in Poland. (I have always wanted to see Poland, it has always seemed like a beautiful country to me.) Marie moved to France to get her P.H.D. Marie Curie got married in 1895 to Pura Curie.

Marie Curie contributed to science in a very big way. She discovered radiation! Radiation is a chemical element of automatic 88, a rare radioactive metal of the alkaline earth series. She then realized that radium was radioactive and that you can measure the strength of radiation from uranium. She also discovered that radiation can be used to get X-Rays. She discovered radium in 1895.

Marie Curie’s discovery of radium does affect me and many people all over the world. Many watches have radium in them so you can see them at night or in the dark. X-Rays also use radium. This discovery has not changed very much over all these years. Radium was a huge effect in my life when I fractured my arm because, I needed to see if my arm was broken or not with an X-Ray. Marie Curie has received two Nobel Prizes. She received her first one for physics in 1903 and her second one for chemistry in 1911.

I am glad I learned something about Marie Curie, the woman who discovered radium I have some more very interesting facts for you to hear about Marie Curie. Marie Curie was the first woman to be buried under the dome of Pantheon in Paris, for her honor of work. She has two girls named Iren and Eve. She also was born with the name of Maria Scidiosa. I am very glad that you and I have both learned so much about Marie Curie, “The Queen of Chemistry.” (Sources omitted for space.)
**Easter Traditions**  
Jaelynn Woodman, 3rd

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the Christian religion. In medieval Europe, eggs were often one of the first foods blessed by a priest. Of course, the world holds many more Easter traditions than just dying eggs. Over 600 million eggs are usually sold in the U.S.A. during the months of March and April. To sum it up, Easter is celebrated as a Christian holiday and eggs are a part of it.

**Easter**  
Nathan Johnson, 3rd

What facts do you know about Easter? One fact is Easter is the Christian holiday on which people celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. It is common practice for Christians to dress up in new clothes. They attend a church service to celebrate Jesus Christ rising from the dead. Another detail is Easter brings families together. It is a day when family members visit one another and sometimes eat special food for dinner. Easter is a Christian holiday when people go to church and spend time with family.

**Easter Facts**  
Elizabeth Ross, 3rd

What do you know about Easter? Americans spend almost two billion dollars on Easter candy. That’s the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween. Second, 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate. People go buy bunnies. Also, 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten. This is a tradition. These are some facts about Easter.

**Easter Facts**  
Brenda Morales, 3rd

What facts do you know about Easter? First, 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate, including chocolate bunnies, chocolate eggs, and more Easter items. Second, 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be eaten first. Sometimes, they think it is good luck. Americans spend $1.9 billion. Easter is the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween. To sum it up, when people purchase chocolate candy and buy a chocolate bunny, they end up spending $1.9 billion to celebrate Easter.
Comets’ Late Rally Can’t Stop Skyline
Justise Boehne, 7th

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, the Comets played a hard game against Skyline, but lost with a final score of 19-38.

Both the coach and the players were a little disappointed after the game. Player #30 Zach Newberry was discouraged after the game because of their loss. Coach Daniel Dugas said, “I feel like we could’ve played better we needed more effort but we had enough potential to play.”

The team does have a plan on how to get better. There are many things that the team needs to work on. When asking Coach Dugas what his team should work on he recommended, “following directions, practicing the fundamentals of basketball,” and “working on effort for full game, communication, and defense.” The are working on this for the future games. Some players have plans in their heads on what to work on. Newberry said, “Being able to see the whole court instead of just one side.”

During the game, #10 Kale Batman was taken out by a pass made from Skyline. He was hit in the head and taken out. He was in some pain, but recovered and put back in 4th quarter.

Even though basketball can be dangerous basketball players love it. When asking Newberry why he enjoys basketball so much, his response was “It’s just a sport that I love.”

The Comets did get to make lots of free throws, thanks to Skyline. The Comets got to make a total of 6 free throws. Even though they got 6 free throws, they only made 5 points.

Coach Dugas did add some very inspirational words he believes everyone should hear; he said “If you do not put your heart into things then you will never be able to succeed in life.” Dugas believes that everyone could use these words to in order to help them succeed better in life.

Even though the Comets may have lost this game, they have big plans on what to practice on. They plan on working harder and making a big comeback.
Marionville Comets Crushed by Fair Grove

Alyssa Mays, 7th

The Marionville girls basketball team was defeated by Fair Grove February 13, 2015. Despite the good effort put on by the Comets in the first half of the game the Marionville still suffered a loss. In the beginning of the game the Comets got first ball and made the first shot of the game it was a two pointer.

The Comets continued to make shots until four minutes left in the first quarter when the Comets fouled Fair Grove twice. Both times the shooter made one out of the two free throws. At the end of the quarter the score was 10 to 8 with the Comets in the lead.

With a couple minutes left in the second quarter, Fair Grove was catching up to the Comets, and the score was a surprising 16 to 15. Shortly after, one of the Fair Grove players went in to make a shot and ended up colliding with a player for the Comets, causing both of them to slide out of bounds.

Nothing big happened until about 5 minutes left in the third quarter, with the score at 26 to 22 with the Comets in the lead. Soon enough, the Comets and Fair Grove were tied at 29, until Fair Grove fouled Marionville.

With two minutes left in the second quarter, Fair Grove snuck their way in to the lead, 37 to 31. With just a few minutes left on the clock, it wasn’t looking good for the Comets with the score at 32 to 42. Needing a miracle with four minutes left, the Comets had 38 points while Fair Grove had 47 points.

Not helping the Comets luck they fouled Fair Grove twice in a row and each shooter for the free throws made one out of each shot. There was only one minute left in the whole game and the score was 43 to 56. The Comets did not make a single shot after that, and the ending score of the exciting game was 45 to 57. Even though the Comets put up a fight, they still suffered a loss.

Comets Whip Pleasant Hope 56-11

William Jones, 8th

Marionville Comets beat the Pleasant Hope Pirates Monday night 56-11, led by Josh Goodman’s 16 points. Even though the team was up by a lot of points in the first quarter, that didn’t stop them from having a dominating performance. Alexis Gracia a player for the Comets stated, “I felt they [Pleasant Hope] played well in the first quarter, but at the end we pulled through with the win at the end.”

The Comets also had a dominating second quarter, only allowing two points. This made the lead almost out of reach. They had many defensive stops led by the bigs. They entered the half with a 20-6 lead. Even with the big lead, the Comets dominated the second half, and when the final buzzer sounded the Comets had a 56-11 win.

The players felt very good about their defensive game. After the game Laythen Utke said, “I felt like I had a good defensive performance.” James Hammonds thought that the team had his back. All in all the team had a good game.

Library Sign: Volleyball 796.32: Emma Barrickman, 5th
Marionville High School Approves New Diversity Club
Giovanni Leo, 8th

On December 17, 2014, the Marionville School Board voted for the Diversity club to become an official club with a vote of 6-0. The Diversity Club was started by Zach Tullock, a junior in high school. The club was also backed up by the high school teachers.

Zach said that he wanted to start the club so that students who are picked on and often feel more left out may have sanctuary, or a place to feel safe, accepted, and to fit in. Zach says “I hope that in a few years, the idea of the diversity club will have settled in, and it won’t be such a weird thing. I haven’t heard too much negative energy towards the club, and I am happy to see all of the support for the club.”

The club was supposed to originally be a Gay Straight Alliance, but it was suggested to be changed into a diversity club to be more accepting for other students. Many students look forward to being a part of the new Diversity Club. The club is open to anyone who wants to join.

Crowd Goes Wild for Marionville Band
Breanna Johnson, 8th

The Marionville Middle School and High School Pep Band plays once more Thursday night at the high school girls’ basketball game in their hometown, Marionville.

As the girls warm up for the basketball game, fans can listen to live music, directed by Mr. Lucas Janes. He leads them to playing many songs including “Sweet Caroline” and “Hot, Hot, Hot.” He first starts them off with words of encouragement: “Don’t blow your chops,” which means, Play your best, but don’t play too hard.

When asked what made her want to join the band, Makailah Johnson says, “My old music teacher played an old, classical song and I asked her what one of the instruments were. I liked the sound of the instruments and decided to join the band.” Johnson has played the trumpet for about two years.

There are so many instruments in the band, but personally, Mr. Janes says he plays about ten instruments. “I’d say my favorite instrument would be the tuba because it’s all about that bass.” Mr. Janes is currently teaching for the thirteenth year and says his favorite part about the day is when there are “any great musical moments.” He says he enjoys teaching and loves the band kids.
To start the game off, Mr. Janes leads the band in the National Anthem while everybody in the audience stands. After the National Anthem, the band members are very energetic as they take a break until half-time.

During half-time, Mr. Janes leads the band in playing “Soul Finger,” “New Divide,” and “Grenade.” Most of the band members’ favorite songs are not played at every game, but a couple of them are. Sophia Mayorga, on the Clarinet, Erika Lindblom, on the flute, and Makailah Johnson, on the trumpet, all say that their favorite song they play is “Animal” by Neon Trees.

Flute player, Brianna Thompson likes “New Divide”, Jeremy Vickers, who plays Percussion, says his favorite is “Eye Of The Tiger,” and Mr. Janes himself says his favorite song is “‘Whispers’ because it’s slow and lets the kids play with a lot of emotion.”

Most of the band members are experienced; they have each played in band for at least a year and a half. They can thank Mr. Janes’ motivation for this: “Don’t quit. Keep practicing. Stay positive. Be self-disciplined and self-motivated,” he tells them.

Many of the band members would even like to play professionally. Mayorga says, “I’d play professionally because I think I could make a good musician and I’m very talented.” While some want to quit, no matter what, they still stay positive. Lindblom says, “Yes, I have considered quitting because of some of the comments we get.” Most of the time, the crowd does not understand the time and effort it takes for them to learn and play their instruments. The Marionville Band has been overall been very successful in their performances.

Overall, the band members are proud of their performance. Even if the band members are not happy with their performance, they still stay positive and work to improve and grow in music.
Seventh grade science students were asked to create a myth explaining a new constellation.

The 4 x 4 Constellation
Charles Morgan, 7th

There was a great 4x4 driver who ran the longest mud run in the history of mud runs. He drove a 90s model Chevy truck that he had built from scratch. One day he was in Louisiana and there sat the deepest mud pit ever. He hit the mud with everything he had. He put the pedal to the metal until he saw nothing but the sky. When the truck broke into pieces, it turned into the 4x4 Constellation.

Alli the Brave
Cassandra Johnson, 7th

There was once a frog named Alberto. His friends called him Alli. Alli was the most curious and reckless animal in all of Greece. One day, Alli decided to go explore the city. Even though his friends tried to persuade otherwise, Alli set out the next day. The trip to the city was uneventful and boring, but safe. The night he arrived, he slept under a porch on the outskirts of town. Alli went to investigate the town square and the schoolhouse. After twenty minutes of sightseeing, Alli went to look for food. Being a frog, he went into the alleys for flies. The fifth alley went down, he found a little girl being beaten by an old man. Alli became angry. Being reckless, he went to help the little girl even though he was way smaller. Jumping on the building above the man, Alli got ready to leap. The man was so surprised, he let the girl go and took five steps back. The little girl was able to run and get help. The old man threw Alli against the wall and stepped on him. Before he could die, the Gods took pity on him and made his soul into the constellation seen in the spring and on the horizon in the summer. The constellation has since been called “Alli the Brave.”
The Story of Menpella
Kailee Warren, 7th

Long ago there lived two sisters named Menkalinan and Capella. They were born in Rome and they loved warm weather. One day it became very cold. Capella told her sister, “The sun has hidden his face and taken the blue away from the sky. We are cold and in the dark.” Menkalinan looked up to see the upset sky, and she said, “Capella, we must save our village from the dark.” So the two girls packed up a few torches and food and began to search for the sun.

Capella grew weak and tired and couldn’t move anymore. Menkalinan looked down at her sister and said, “Capella, stand up and walk. Please, I cannot go on without you!” Capella stood up and moved forward. They got the temple of the sun and they begged for months until they were answered. The sun said, “I shall return as long as you both agree to live with me in the sky. You will become the goddesses for the stars.” The sisters agreed, and the sun returned. Now you can see Menkalinan and Capella as the constellation “Menpella” in the night sky during the summer.

The Night Sky
Kelsie Grimm, 7th

One night
There was a star
That was bright
But far

An owl
In the sky
Can it howl
Or only fly

The moon
So bright
That lit
The night

Love
Ty Bick, 7th

Love is not something you can overlook

The feeling of love is like a knife going into your heart

People try to mess with it but love is a power that is not able to be broken
**The Old Lady and the Forbidden Stairs**
Will Addison, 7th

There was a mean old lady
    Her name was Sue
Everyone wondered
    What the witch knew

Every morning she would sit
    In a rocking chair
It made an evil hiss
    That no man could bear

And all day long
    She would just sit there
And underneath the chair
    Was the set of forbidden stairs

One day two brothers
    Made an witless dare
They were going to walk
    The set of forbidden stairs

Little brother wanted to prove
    That he wasn’t scared
He wondered what the old woman would do
Would she say, “Hello, Who are you?”

The boy took the first step
    Creeeeeeeek
He was halfway up the stairs
    With half a breath
And one more step
    He looked up at Ole Sue

“What is your business here?”
The old lady spits her chew
    “You have walked my stairs
And I will never forgive you.
That’s what you get when you mess with
    Ole Sue.”

She turned the little boy into a new rocking chair

---

**Sleepless**
Sara Thompson, 7th

My mind is a city
    That never sleeps.
I count sirens
    Instead of sheep.

As there is a million streetlights
    I am wide awake
In the dead of the night.

---

**Haiku: My Brother**
Sahara Hendricks, 5th

I love my brother
My brother is a big brat
But I still love him
Broken
Allie McDonald, 7th

A broken heart is like broken glass in your chest
Every piece you remove Comes with pain

Just Tell Me
Riley Heston, 7th

I need an explanation
I need one from you
Your reason was unclear
You can’t just disappear
Cmon, just tell me
C’mon, tell me already
I need to know why
Unless you wanna die

Spring
Elena Rodgers, 7th

Start of warm weather
Perfect flowers everywhere
Rain to make flowers grow
Insects sitting on leaves
New trees growing
Grass growing too

Nightmare
Eden Macarthur, 7th

I’m running
But I’m not moving
I’m hiding
But my voice is not heard
I’m hiding
But I am seen
My heart is racing
But it’s not beating at all
I’m hurting
But you see everything but my pain

Do I see these things when I’m asleep?
NO!
My nightmare begins when I awaken

But when I do dream
I dream of a place
A place where I’m accepted

Don’t
Morgan Barrickman, 7th

Don’t
Judge them
When you don’t know them
Don’t
Hate them
B’cuz you ain’t them

And most definitely . . .

Don’t
Talk to them
When all you’ve done was Talk bad about them

Kandinsky Circles: Misty Morgan, 4th
The Deer Hunt
Charles Morgan, 7th

Shoe
Jacob Bowling, 7th

Vizzard the Lizard
Caden Adams, 7th

Tough
Kailee Warren, 7th

Two Haikus: Oprah Winfrey
Taylor Hardin, 5th

I have a shoe
It’s purple and blue
I have a shoe
It’s brand new
I have a shoe
That my dog likes to chew
I have a shoe
Wait . . . not anymore

Hello, my name is Vizzard
I am a lizard

Yum, that tasted like blueberry pie.

Have you met my sister?
She has a big blister.

Sometimes I swing on a vine
And have a great time.

Excuse me for eating that fly.

I stare at the gross, green (maybe brown) substance on my plate.

The warden yells at me to finish.

I beg, cry and bribe her to let me go back to my cell.

But she’s a tough one. Too tough.
I give in.
I’m done.
I eat the unknown, every little drop.

Then she says, “Care for some seconds?”

I have a shoe
In my dome

A poster says, “Home, Sweet Home.”

Never been married

Taylor Hardin, 5th

Two Haikus: Oprah Winfrey

Grew up very poor

Now entertainer

Ran away as teenager

Born on January ninth

Hosts her own talk show

Grew up very poor

Now entertainer

Ran away as teenager

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And have a great time.

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**Library Sign 595.5 Spiders:** Miles McMillan, 5th

![Spider Illustration]

**Write Ups**
Jacob Bowling, 7th

You get in trouble for something dumb

You might’ve dropped a crumb!

---

**Beautiful**
Audrey Shiveley, 7th

Flowers are all different. Different colors, different sizes, even different shapes. But they are still Beautiful.

And just like flowers are beautiful, in their own, unique way, so is every person on this Earth.

---

**As Days Go By**
Audrey Shiveley, 7th

As days go by people change. Daddy’s little girl is now a grown woman.

He cries as she walks down the aisle, Looking more beautiful than ever.

The groom was once a young boy But now he is a grown man, Marrying the love of his life.

They never realized how fast they grew up, Until reality kicked in. They grew up In the blink of an eye.

---

**Klimt Tree of Life:** Cleo Yager, 7th
Where the Red Fern Grows
Chase West, 7th

Only one born in the world could ever be Red
Two who are in love die
Together buried side by side

For love to stay connected a plant grows from each
To show they still love forever

Why?
Zach Newberry, 7th

At this age that is supposed to be fun
We all just sit and concentrate on this war
Not a war with others
But a war with ourself

Why do we need drugs and alcohol to fit in?
The answer is we don’t,
We can live free how we want.
So why not?

The answer is because popularity now days
Is above all to most
We need to live how we choose, not how other do.

Why?

Klimt Tree of Life: Payton Gilmore, 8th

Perspective: Shaunti Scott, 7th
**Billy Pickle**  
Abbey Jenkins, 4th

My pickle’s name is Billy  
He is Juicy  
He is Sour  
He is Sweet  
I love my Pickle Billy

**Who?**  
Chase West, 7th

Who, who, who?  
Who said “who”?  
Who, who?  
Who, who?  
Who said “who”?  
Who, who, who?  
Who, who, who?  
It couldn’t have been the owl...  
The owl said, “Boo!”

**Kristallnacht Informative Essay**  
Chase White, 8th

The Holocaust was a time in our history when Jewish people were persecuted by Nazi leader Adolf Hitler who came into power by being appointed the chancellor of Germany. One of the biggest events that made the Holocaust a historical event was “Kristallnacht,” translated as “The Night of Broken Glass.” It owes its name to the shattered glass that lined the streets throughout Germany and Austria on that night.

**How it All Began**

Kristallnacht was started because the murder of Ernst vom Rath. He was assassinated by Herschel Grynszpan. Grynszpan was exiled from his country at 15 and went to live with his uncle in Paris. He hated the way Jews were being treated, and with being denied citizenship in nearly every country, he had had enough. When he requested permanent residency in France at 17, he was denied by French officials. Like his family, Herschel was without a country to call home. On the morning of November 7, 1938, Herschel walked into a Paris gun shop and purchased a 6.35-caliber revolver with a box of 25 bullets. After buying the gun and ammunition, he headed to the German embassy and asked the first person he encountered if he could see an embassy official so he could give some papers he was supposed to submit. He was to go upstairs to see a Herr Nagorka. He told her he needed to hand deliver an important document to an embassy official. She offered to hand deliver it for him, but he said they were much too important. This is how he got into the office of Ernst vom Rath.

After getting into vom Rath’s office, he was seated across from him and was asked where the papers were. After being asked this, Herschel pulled out his gun, stood up, and yelled, "You're a filthy Kraut and in the name of the twelve-thousand persecuted Jews, here is the document!” and fired five wild
shots at Vom Rath, hitting him once in the shoulder, and once in the abdomen causing severe internal
damage. Vom Rath smacked Herschel in the face, and went for help. After receiving as much care in a
hospital as possible, Vom Rath died on November 9, 1938. Herschel was caught and put in jail. When
being interrogated, his only response was, "It was not with hatred or for vengeance against any particular
person that I acted, but because of love for my parents and for my people who were unjustly subjected to
outrageous treatment. Nevertheless, this act was distasteful to me and I deeply regret it. However, I had
no other means of demonstrating my feelings...It is not, after all, a crime to be Jewish. I am not a dog. I
have the right to live. My people have a right to exist on this earth. And yet everywhere they are hunted
down like animals." Herschel was killed by the Nazi party, disappearing without a trace.

Kris\text{t}\text{a}l\text{n}nacht, November 9-10 1938

On the night of Ernst vom Rath’s death, Hitler decided to avenge his death by hosting deadly Pogroms
throughout Austria and Germany. On this night, SS officials and Nazi Party officials burned down
synagogues, Jewish owned businesses, and Jews’ houses. Kris\text{t}\text{a}l\text{n}nacht owes its name to the shards of
glass that were on the streets throughout Austria and Germany. Many Jews were killed during this night,
and even more of Jewish property was destroyed. Around 25,000 Jewish people were taken to Dachau,
Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen concentration camps where they were severely injured or even killed by
SS officials. Around 2,500 Jews were reported killed either by officials or by suicide. 7,500 Jewish
businesses were destroyed, 267 synagogues burned, (with 177 totally destroyed) and 91 Jews murdered
during Kristallnacht. Reinhard Heydrich, a high ranking German official, requested that Jews have no
social contact with Germans by having them excluded from public transportation, schools, and hospitals,
forcing them into the ghetto or out of the country completely. In the aftermath of
Kristallnacht, Adolf Hitler announced that it was to avenge his ally Ernst vom Rath’s death.

After this, all Jews were excluded from public transportation, schools, and hospitals, as
Heydrich wished. Kristallnacht was the event that sparked the event that was the Holocaust.

Sources


Argumentative Essay: Abortion

Laythen Utke, 8\text{th}

Is it fair to kill innocent babies? The decision to have a legal abortion was taken from states and given to
the federal government in 1973 after the Supreme court’s Roe vs. Wade decision. However, there is still a lot of
controversy over abortion; both sides taking it very seriously. It should be illegal for many reasons. Such as, anti-
abortionists argue that a lot of abortions are illegal ones and are very dangerous, by law abortion is murder and the
methods are just inhumane, there are many other solutions to not give the women the “burden” of raising a child.

One of the reasons abortion should be illegal is because of all the women getting illegal abortions. Illegal
abortions are very dangerous, complications from unsafe abortions in the developing world contribute to 47,000
preventable deaths each year (Thinkprogress.org). The Advocacy Organization of the Guttmacher Institute points
out that reducing the number of unsafe abortion procedures in the world is crucial to the public health. The methods
used in illegal abortions are outrageous, the ineffective methods used for abortion are vast; jumping off tables, gin,
the bark of trees, castor oil, pennyroyal, quinine, and local potassium permanganate have all been tried with multiple
degrees without a positive result. The production of the antiprogesterone drugs has up to now been controlled and
used mostly under medical care. Some illegal abortionists have obtained supplies and are offering them but unless the checks and controls required are upheld and maintained, they could prove to be dangerous and/or ineffectual.

The second reason that abortion should be illegal is that by law abortion is murder so therefore, every participant is an accomplice to murder. For women who demand complete control of their body, control should include preventing the risk of unwanted pregnancy through the responsible use of protection or through abstinence. The legal methods of abortion are inhumane in every way possible.

First, there's the Suction Type abortion. This is where the unborn child is literally vacuumed from the mother's womb during the first stages of pregnancy. The Curette-Type abortion is where the child is cut from the mother's womb with a spoon-like object. A third type is similar to a Caesarean Operation. The baby is removed from the mother and allowed to suffocate to death, because the child's lungs aren't developed. The fourth type of abortion is the Salt Brine technique. With this type of abortion, the unborn child is injected with strong salt solution to induce labor. A few days after the injection the child is stillborn. There is currently much debate about Partial-Birth abortions. This is where a child is partially delivered, then stabbed in the skull to have his/her brains sucked out. The reasons (more excuses) for abortion are unfair to millions of other citizens.

Approximately 2,000,000 couples in America are currently ready and waiting to adopt, but only about 50,000 babies are placed for adoption each year (Life Matters Outreach website). Adoption is, the most mature and unselfish decision that a woman can make for her child. Even though it can certainly be difficult at first, after support and counseling, a woman can know for sure that she has done three great things, provided a loving and stable 2-parent home for her child, offered a couple the fulfillment of their dreams of raising a child, improved her own chances of a positive future, with the greater possibility of an education, economic stability, and marriage and children later in life.

The other reason that people think abortion is justifiable is if the baby has a disorder of some kind. This is unfair to mentally disabled and physically disabled people's lives because that's saying they are not worth as much as people without some kind of disability. Most disabled people that could answer with their opinion said that they are happy with life and glad it wasn't taken away from them because of their disability.

These are many reasons as to why abortion should be banned. Abortions are illegal and are very dangerous, by law abortion is murder and the methods are just inhumane, and there are many other solutions to not give the women the “burden” of raising a child. There are probably a million more reasons on why it should or should not be banned. By reading these facts it gives a clear view of why abortion should be illegal.

Works Cited

Music Therapy
Maisy Brown, 8th

Music Therapy developed in America in 1944, when Michigan State University created the first music therapy degree program in the world. It all started during World War II, when the United States Veterans Administration hospitals began to use music to help treat soldiers suffering from “shell shock,” a state of shock caused by the blast force from explosions.

Music as Medicine
People started using music as a medicine when Ancient Greek philosophers believed that music could heal the body and soul. Native Americans have used singing and chanting as a part of their healing rituals as well. To this day, we still use music as a medicine for patients with Amnesia, Dementia, Parkinson’s Disease, Alzheimer’s, depression and anxiety disorders, cancer patients that undergo chemotherapy, and it increases physical movement to those in need. It also helps your vision and memory due to the brain activity which causes the effects that music has on your brain waves, brain circulation, and stress hormones. Researchers have also found that music temporarily helps regulate blood pressure, breathing rate, and heart rate. However, these things don’t happen with only music. Patients that use music as a non-medical medicine go through a program called “Music Therapy.” Music Therapy is a technique of medicine that uses music in a way of healing and helping patients overcome physical, emotional, intellectual, and social changes in a skilled manner by trained therapist. Cancer patients go through music therapy because it helps with nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy. Also, in 2006 a clinical trial looked at the effects of music during the course of several weeks of radiation treatments. The results show that music therapy decreased emotional distress, such as anxiety and depression. One study shows that music therapy helps hospice patients improve their physical comfort, relaxation, and pain control. Music Therapy has not increased the survival rate of Cancer patients, but studies have showed that it helps the patients look at life in a more positive way, and help them feel better emotionally, socially, and sometimes physically.

Music Helping the Mind
When you listen to music that you like, you trigger the release a chemical dopamine, which is the chemical in your body that makes you experience that “feel-good” emotion. It also helps you melt away a bad mood, and music can even help you concentrate. In most cases, music helps you run faster because upbeat songs that match the tempo of your running stride can have a metronomic effect on the body, enabling you to run for a longer amount of time. Studies have shown that music increases your running speed as much as fifteen percent, and it increases your energy efficiency by as much as three percent.
Darwin's Theory of Evolution
Earnest Larkin, 8th

Evolution is the slow process that changes plants and animals to give an extra edge for survival. It's supported by lots of evidence, such as DNA and fossil records, that has been collected by scientists for over 150 years. Charles Darwin, a naturalist who is famous for the theory of evolution, was not the first person to think of the idea, but he did carry out the research that documents evolution and then made the idea acceptable by the general public and other scientists.

What Does the Theory Say?
Darwin's most famous theory, natural selection, states that evolutionary change comes through the production of variation in each generation and differential survival of individuals. Some of the individual's variations give the organism a greater chance of survival, which would allow the individual to reproduce. Darwin also had four more theories under the idea of evolution. These were gradualism, common descent, evolution, and species multiple. Gradualism means that there are small changes within each individual that affects the entire population. While this species exists, it changes, which is evolution. As the species exists it also multiplies which, as it sounds, is Darwin's theory that species multiply. Darwin's final theory, common descent, claims that all organisms descend from one or several common ancestors and have diversified throughout time. Darwin considered all five theories to be a part of one main idea that all occurs together.

How Evolution Works
Darwin realized that every member of a species is unique. He also saw that their slight differences would make the difference between life and death. For example, a bird who eats nuts with a tough shell would need a bigger, stronger beak to open it. The birds without the stronger beak would not be able to open the nut and eventually starve and die. This means that the bird would not produce an offspring that couldn't open the nut. This would only leave the birds with big, strong beaks to produce an offspring with most of the characteristics the parents had. These offspring would then grow up and produce more birds with similar characteristics and then after many generations the entire species would have bigger, stronger beaks for opening nuts and survival. Darwin thought that a bird's diet determined beak shape.

In Darwin's book The Origin of Species, Darwin explains that natural selection can also occur under domestication. He said that a horse-breder would choose the strongest offspring to breed, and so on, so over generations the species would be stronger under domestication. Darwin said that hardly anyone is careless enough to let their worst animals breed. He also said that the adaptations are never for the individual's good but for the breeder's own use or fancy.

For over 150 years the evidence supporting evolution has been piled together by scientists to make the theory stronger. Now, many people accept the theory as fact even though the was heavily debated during Darwin's time. Even though you can't see it happening, evolution is still a natural occurring process.

Sources

Orca Poem: Sebastian Alsever, 3rd

Giraffe Poem: Jana Fulks, 3rd
Frederick Douglass
Jacken Smith, 5th

Frederick Douglass was born around 1818, the exact date is unknown. He chose to celebrate his birthday on Feb. 14. He died on Feb. 20, 1885.

When Frederick Douglass was a teenager and his master was beating him, Frederick stood up for himself and fought back. His master never beat him again. Douglass dedicated his life to ending slavery and giving African Americans equal rights. Douglass chose his name from a character in Sir Walter Scot’s book The Lady of the Lake.

Douglass founded “North Star” which was an abolitionist newspaper. Douglass talked with President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and held influence in the Emancipation Proclamation. Douglass was nominated for Vice-President of the United States as a member of the Equal Rights Party in 1872. After President Lincoln died, Mrs. Lincoln sent Douglass his walking stick.

Sources
Print.

Harriet Tubman
Morgan Owens, 5th

Harriet was born around 1820. She died in 1913. She was taken away when she was four. Her mother and siblings were taken too. As she got older, work began to get harder. She eventually worked in the cotton field and her hands would get all bloody by the time she was done at night.

Her birth name was Araminta Ross. She changed her name to Harriet, her mom’s name. When she was little, her master threw a heavy weight at another slave and hit Harriet instead. She nearly had her head crushed. She escaped from slavery in 1849. When she ran away she carried as much as she could run with. She freed 300 slaves using the underground railroad. She went back even though she knew it would be dangerous. She risked her life for freedom. During the Civil War she was a nurse and a spy for the federal forces.

Sources
Print.
Rose Cecil O’Neill
Silvia Mayorga, 4th

Every student in fourth grade is researching a famous person from Missouri. My person is Rose Cecil O’Neill. I choose her because she is an artist and I love art. I used the internet and a print source to learn more about her. I learned about her life, why she is famous, and her Missouri connections.

Rose Cecil O’Neill had a happy and sad life. She was born 1874 in Wilkes Barre Pennsylvania. Her family moved to Missouri and the first time in Missouri she fell in love with the streams, and the woods and the Ozark Mountains. Rose moved to Missouri when she was about twenty years old. Her family was happy because her parent’s gave them a lot of love and respect. Then when Rose was four years old she had to move to her new house.

Rose was in her sixties when she went through the Great Depression. The Great Depression was when many people had no money or jobs. It started around the 1930s. At age twenty-two Rose married Gray Latham, but then they got a divorce. She soon got married to Harry Leon Wilson. Five years passed and their love soon ended. She died at the age 69 on April 6, 1944.

Rose O’Neill is famous for illustrating and for making the Kewpie dolls. Kewpie dolls are elf-like babies, with top-knot heads, with wide smiles, and big eyes. There is also something called Kewpieville. It is where Kewpie dolls live. Rose made lots of Kewpie dolls and Mer-Kewps. Mer-Kewps are bigger than Kewpie dolls. Rose made many illustrations one was called The Lady in the White Veil. She discovered these art talents at a young age. She made a cartoon character named Puck. Puck is a little boy. The cartoon character Puck had a humor magazine.

Rose was very good a drawing and writing, she got really far in her lifetime. Rose O’Neill’s big connection to Missouri is Branson. Rose had a farm in Branson called Bonniebrook. She loved that farm. She moved to Bonniebrook when she was about twenty years old. She loved Bonniebrook because of all the streams, the woods and the mountains. She drew some of the trees, stream, and mountains in Bonniebrook. Rose final connection to Missouri is she has her grave stone there and there is also a museum about her.

I am happy I learned more about a famous Missourian called Rose O’Neill. I hope that maybe I could go to her museum down in Branson. I could even learn about one of her drawing that she made. I could assure you that she was very successful in life. I think that I picked a great person for this research project. I liked learning more about her because we have things in common.

Sources
Remembering Helen Keller
Lucy Newberry, 3rd

There are many things I will remember about Helen Keller. The first thing that I want to remember about her is that she was a blind and deaf person. She became blind and deaf when she was 1 year old. The reason she is blind and deaf because she got sick. Then she could never ever see or hear again.

One day Helen’s parents hired Anne Sullivan to teach Helen sign language. Helen Keller was used to eating off of other peoples plates. Anne Sullivan did not want Helen touching and eating off of her plate so right then Anne Sullivan taught Helen manners. Then one day Anne taught her just the right way because Helen figured out how to say water! Right away Helen wanted to learn more! Anne taught Helen how to read braille and to lip read.

This is how Helen Keller got famous! Helen Keller was the 1st blind and deaf person to GRADUATE COLLEGE!!! Helen even traveled to all 50 states and 39 countries. She also helped other blind and deaf people as she traveled around the world. Whenever Anne Sullivan died, Holly took her place and traveled with her and taught her more. Helen died at the age 87. I will always remember Helen Keller. She was a fantastic person. Helen should be important to every person in the whole world. You know how us children sometimes get mad because we don’t get something we want well Helen Keller was blind and couldn’t even see her toys. We are so lucky!
The following students have writing or artwork displayed in this publication.

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Ghan, Kolby  McMillan, Audrey  Williams, Lanie
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