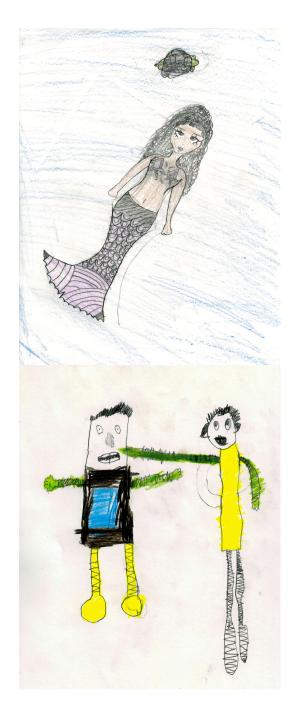
TALL TALES

FROM THE FOURTH GRADE

Mound Elementary School, CMSD, 2025





INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work in this anthology was created during a Lake Erie Ink residency at Mound K-8 School in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Fourth graders in Ms. Alaina Washington's class collaborated to plan, write, and illustrate tall tales with Lake Erie Ink teaching artists Vivian Vail and Cynthia Larsen. They explored writing about themselves and creating characters. We hope you will enjoy their stories and artwork. Thank you, Ms. Washington and students, for making time for creative expression!

Thank you to the George Gund Foundation for supporting Lake Erie Ink's creative expression residency program at Mound.

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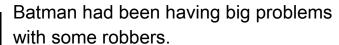
TALL TALES FROM THE FOURTH GRADE

Allix and Batman Stop the Gold Mine Robbers

By Ali, Aaron, and Kevin

Allix the Great lived in Illinois in the middle of the woods. Everyone for miles around knew Allix's name and loved to tell stories about how he was stronger than stone, and taller than seven feet ten inches, and he could fly higher than the tallest tree in the woods.

Now, one day Allix went to visit Batman, who lived in the Bat Cave.



"Hi Batman, what's up?" asked Allix.

"Well, I'm trying to stop these robberies," said Batman. "They are robbing a lot of gold mines, and the rich people who own the mines do NOT like it."

"Okay, let's go. How do we find them?"

"Look at the map. It shows where all the

gold mines are and which ones have been robbed," said Batman.

"It looks like that gold mine is the only one that hasn't been robbed," said Allix. "It's over by Creglar Creek under the ground. It's owned by Rich Rich. He will be so mad if they rob him."

"Let's go stop the crime," said Allix.

So they went to Creglar Creek. They hid behind some big rocks and waited for the thieves.

Soon they heard footsteps, and then they saw two robbers. They were wearing black ski masks and black clothes—and they were buff!

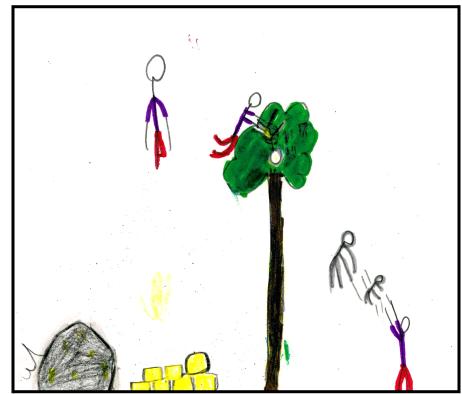
"Let's use our superstrength to tackle them," said Batman.

Batman jumped on the robbers, but they tied Batman up and laughed at him.

"You really thought you were going to get us?" said one of the thieves.

Then Allix jumped out and took on both robbers at once. He threw the first robber up into the top of a tall oak tree. Then he flew up and tied him up.

Then he grabbed the second robber and threw him in the creek. "I can't swim, I can't swim!" shouted the robber.



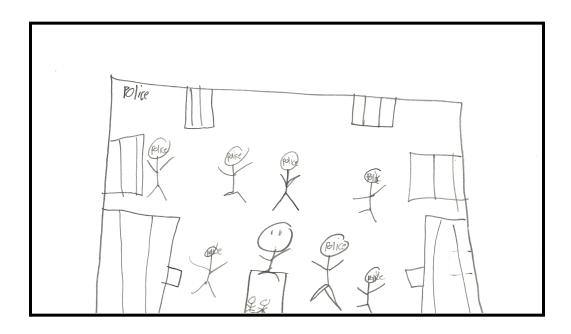
"Too bad, so sad," said Allix.
Then Allix untied Batman, who said, "Thank you!"

Then a third robber showed up. He was sooooo tall, taller than Allix and Batman combined. And he was sooooo strong, stronger than a diamond.

Allix and Batman were shaking in their shoes. They would have to double-team him.

Allix grabbed a boulder and threw it on him. Batman used his superstrength to get the boulder off of him and tie him up.

Then they took the three robbers to the police station and showed them all the evidence.



Then they went and explored around where the robbers had lived, and they found all the rest of the gold in the robbers' cave.

The mine owners and the police gave Batman and Allix a reward of some of the gold. Allix used his gold to buy a superhero suit and a new mansion. Batman used his gold to buy a better Batmobile and some new ninja stars.

And they went back home to get some rest.

The End

Azanja and Junk Man's Big Plastic Battle

By Arionna, Journei and Wandaliz

Azanja was as strong as the mighty gods. She could move so fast that it looked like she was teleporting. She lived under the sea and cared about sea animals with a love that was bigger than the planet Jupiter. The



other mer-people talked about how strong and caring she was all the time.

One day, she saw a piece of plastic floating deep down into the sea. She swam down to the bottom of the ocean, but the plastic got there before her. When she swam down, she saw a sea turtle tangled in the plastic. "Please help me, Azanja," said the turtle.

Azanja said, "No worries, I'm going to help you." She used her strength to untangle the plastic from the turtle's shell.

As soon as Azanja got the plastic off the turtle, she looked up and saw a whole lot of

plastic and junk floating around in the ocean. It was like a cloud of plastic making the ocean darker.

Then she swam up to see who was littering that much. It was Junk Man! He was taking trash and dumping truckloads of trash into the ocean using his strength and telekinesis to collect trash and dump it into the ocean.



Azanja looked at him and said, "Junk Man! You must stop this instant. Or I will use my forces!" "You won't dare!!" said Junk Man, as he continued to throw stuff in the ocean.

"Yes, I will!" Then Azanja splashed him with a tidal wave of water, causing tiny tsunamis, and washing the trash back onto the land.

Junk Man was washed up onto the beach too. Junk Man flew up into the air and grabbed all the trash he could grab with his mind and threw it at her.

Azanja threw multiple heavy water balls at Junk Man and made the waves throw the trash back onto the land.

Junk Man yelled at her, "Just let me be! I'm only trying to make the world less dirty."

Azanja, snapping, said, "There's a thing called a trash can."

"But I don't have enough trash cans for all this trash."

Azanja said, "Bro, there's a thing called Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."

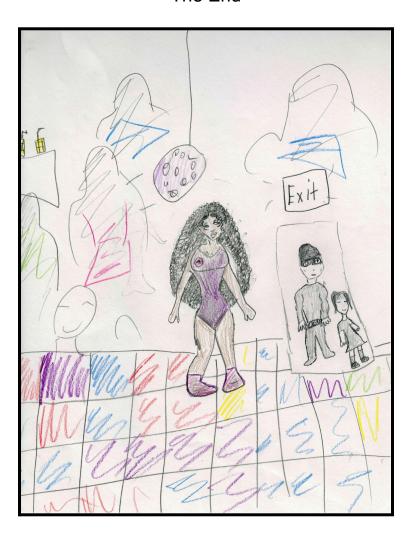
"What? Never heard of it," said Junk Man, as he raised his eyebrows.

She explained, "Reduce means use less plastic. Recycle means that they clean the plastic and melt it down and turn it into another plastic thing. And reuse means to use the plastic again until you can't."

The wheels in Junk Man's head started coming together. He looked like he was thinking very very hard. "Okay, I will try to recycle. And I will tell other people to recycle, and not to buy so much plastic, and not to litter."

Azanja smiled, and then she went back into the ocean to tell her friends about it. They started to clean up all the plastic in the ocean and gave it to Junk Man to recycle.

Then the sea animals, the mer-people, and Azanja had a party, and even Junk Man came. He brought his daughter, Miss Little Junk.



The End

Mexican Man, Ohio Man, and Louisiana Girl

By Zariah and Autumn

There was once a man named Mexican Man, who could make over 1,000 meals in one minute. One day, he found an abandoned building and opened his own company. He named it "Seafood".

As soon as he opened his doors, everyone flooded his restaurant. (Whenever he touches his mustache, he becomes as quick as a cheetah in the kitchen.) Food would appear at their tables before everyone could blink.



He was able to open four restaurants in one day. One day, Ohio Man, a famous man who can make 1 million tacos in 0.5 seconds, opened a restaurant, "Tacos" and began to take all of Mexican Man's customers.

Frustrated, Mexican Man sat down and decided to close all of his restaurants, retiring from the food business after 3 years. Mexican Man decided to open a dance studio 3 buildings down from Ohio Man's restaurant, called "Latina Dance", after becoming the most famous dancer in 1 day and 3 hours.



One day, he was teaching a beautiful girl, Louisiana Girl, a powerful dancer who can blow everyone away with one tiptoe, how to salsa.

Only Mexican Man could keep up with her with his speed. When they danced together, it caused earthquakes. He asked her out to dinner. They decided to go to Ohio Man's restaurant.

But Ohio Man was angry at Mexican Man, declaring they were enemies. They began to

argue while Louisiana Girl was in the bathroom.

After the date, Mexican Man got his first kiss.

20 years later...

Mexican Man and Louisana Girl got married. They were so happy with their 3 kids, New York Girl, Italy Boy, and Texas Boy. The kids rise up and crash down whenever they are near their parents.

Italy Boy can make the best Italian sauce that makes people burst in excitement. New York Girl can travel the whole world in 2 weeks. Texas Boy can burn anyone who touches him.

The End

Miss Georgia vs. Miss Maggie

By Dominik and Sharmaine

Once upon a time, there lived a famous hero named Miss Georgia. She was a tall woman with black flat-ironed hair. She had big muscles, dark skin, and a pretty face, with the longest eyelashes to frame her pretty eyes that always changed to match the colors of the sky.

She also had blue braces framing her teeth. Her job was helping people for a living. If someone was stuck on something, she was there to help. She was powerful enough to control hurricanes. One of her most well-known feats of power was when she was stuck between two whirling hurricanes of massive height. She grabbed one of the hurricanes with her fists of steel and crumpled it up as if it were paper and threw it into the other hurricane, tumbling it off course. Miss Georgia then picked up both hurricanes and tossed them into the ocean, where they wouldn't be able to hurt any more people.



This is what made her so famous, but she had a problem.

Miss Maggie had short brown hair and slightly shorter eyelashes. She had big, round, ugly glasses. Miss Maggie was Miss Georgia's biggest enemy, known for doing too much. Miss Maggie was on a mission to expose Miss Georgia, and Miss Maggie told everyone she could that Georgia wasn't as strong as she claimed. This hurt Miss Georgia's feelings, as she had performed all those moments of heroism.



One day, Miss Georgia proved that she was as strong as she claimed.

One day, while Miss Maggie was walking the streets of Cleveland, Miss Georgia came up to her and said, "So you trying to expose me?"

In a quivering voice, Miss Maggie responded with, "I don't know whatcha talking about. I did not expose you."

This made Miss Georgia mad, and she attacked Miss Maggie with a punch to the face, and Miss Maggie fell backwards, landing on the floor with a thwonk. Miss Maggie started crying like a little baby. Miss Georgia felt bad about the way she had treated Miss Maggie, and she went over to comfort Miss Maggie.

As soon as Miss Georgia was near Miss Maggie, comforting her and placing a hand on her shoulder, Miss Maggie stood up and snatched all Miss Georgia's jewelry and ran off.

All Miss Georgia wanted to be was Miss Maggie's friend, but Miss Maggie was too jealous of Miss Georgia.

Miss Maggie took off as fast as she could, and Miss Georgia said, "Fly!" and lifted off the ground and flew around until she could find Miss Maggie slinking through the alley and then snatched the jewelry back from Miss Maggie before trying to disappear into the sky.

Miss Maggie used her power of flight to take off after Miss Georgia into the sky, but Miss Georgia was faster than Miss Maggie, and eventually Miss Georgia lost sight of her biggest enemy.

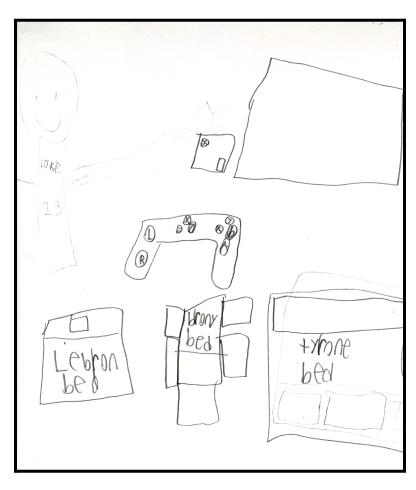
The End

The Tale of Tyrone

by Shad and Elijiah

Tyrone was so tall that he had to build his own house out in the desert. He was so famous that he had to live out there so people wouldn't see him. He could jump so high that he had to be careful not to leave the Earth's atmosphere. His footsteps made the earth shake, which is why there were so many earthquakes in California.

One day, Tyrone went to visit his friends Lebron and Bronny. They were playing 2K25. Lebron's mansion had a special room for games, and it was big enough for Tyrone to play with them.



They had a special controller for him because his hands were too big for the usual controllers.

"You suck at this game," said Lebron to Tyrone.

"I'm about to whoop you in this game," said Tyrone.

Bronny was eating Lays barbecue chips.

Suddenly, Bronny fell on the floor, holding onto his chest and shaking.

"Oh no, somebody help!" Lebron called 911 for an ambulance, but there was a traffic jam.

So Tyrone picked him up and ran him to the hospital, taking big steps over the streets that were jammed with cars.

When he saw the ambulance, he picked up the ambulance under his other arm and showed them Bronny. Then he put Bronny in the ambulance so they could save his life while Tyrone kept stepping over the cars to get to the hospital.

The people all over LA thought there was a big earthquake, and they were so scared.

When they got there, Bronny was okay. When Lebron got there, he told Tyrone, "Thank you for saving my son's life."

Bronny said, "Thank you. What can I do to pay you back for saving my life?"

"It's okay, buddy," said Tyrone. He patted Bronny's back with a little bit of power so Bronny wouldn't fall down.

Because of Tyrone, Bronny became an all-star in basketball, and Tyrone went to Bronny's games. He stands over the stadium, and they made a special window just for Tyrone to watch the games.

The End

The Boogie Helper

By Messiah, Jeremiah, and Kayvion

The Boogie Helper (aka Fast Hero) was the fastest and tallest man in the state of Texas. Everyone for miles around knew the Boogie Helper and loved to tell and retell of his amazing feats. He was as fast as the wind.

He was known to fly at 500 miles per hour, and at 14 feet 10 inches, he could stretch to see every place in America. His hearing was so sharp that he could detect a robbery anywhere in Texas.

Now, one day, the Boogie Helper went to see Grandma in Dallas. Sure enough, he heard gunshots and then, "Please, Please! Help me! Help!!!"



He ran so fast he blew the bullets away from the screaming lady, and he saved the day.

Before he could relax, he heard another, "Help! Help! I'm gonna die!" sounding out all the way from Tijuana.

But then, a voice from Chicago was growling, "Gimme all your money!"

But how could the Boogie Helper be in two places at the same time?

He broke into a crazy Mexican dance just to think and all of a sudden, another Boogie Helper was doing the dance with him.

They kept going until there was an army of Boogie Helpers.

Now they could be anywhere at once, and the country was saved.

The whole USA was saved.

The entire planet was saved.

Super Mora makes Grandpa Martin Remember

By Honesty, Annette and Jaliyah

Super Mora was the strongest woman in the state of New York. She came from generations of magical people, and she was known for all kinds of power. Shapeshifting and talking to animals were just two of the amazing things she could do. Everyone for miles around knew Super Mora and her family.

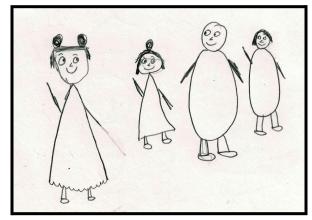


One time, Super Mora saved the bears and the birds from a huge forest fire by softly calling to the animals and then shooting water out of her hands.

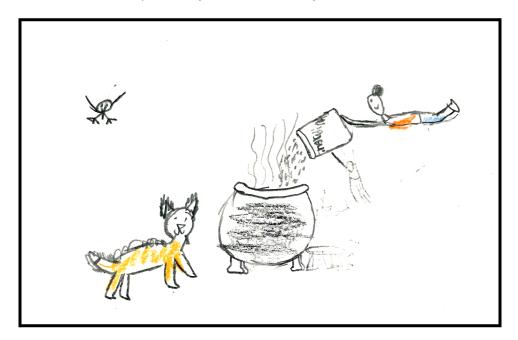
Another time, Super Mora and her sister were both studying for big tests. But her sister got sick and couldn't go to school! So Super Mora finished her

own test and then shapeshifted into her sister so she could take the test even though she was at home!

Now one day, Super Mora went to visit Grandad Martin. And again, he couldn't remember her name. So Super Mora shapeshifted into all of her family members, but Grandpa needed help remembering each one.



So, Super Mora asked all the smartest animals (the cats, the dogs, the foxes, and the birds) to help her make a potion for Grandad Martin.



The animals gathered rainbows, stars, water, glitter, and even the dust from Saturn's ring. Super Mora mixed and mixed it until it turned green. Then she mixed it some more, and it turned into the colors of the rainbow!

Super Mora poured the potion on Grandpa Martin's food and fed it to him.

She asked him, "What's my name?" but Grandad was tired and so sleepy. He slept and slept for hours and hours and another day and night.

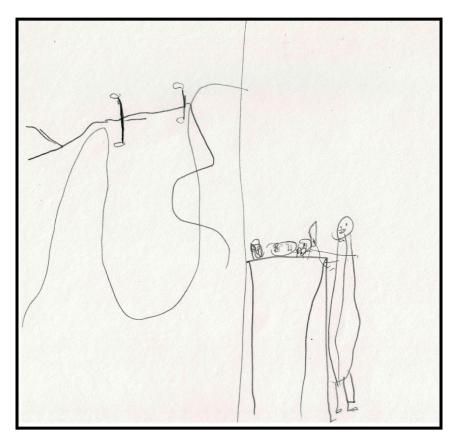
After two whole days, Grandpa Martin sat straight up in bed, looked around, and said, "Where's my granddaughter Mora?"

Mora came running cheerfully and gave him a big hug. Later, when they took a family road trip, he remembered everyone's name just fine.

RT BranDallas the Robot

By Dallas and Brandon

RT BranDallas was as tall as the Eiffel Tower. He was as strong as



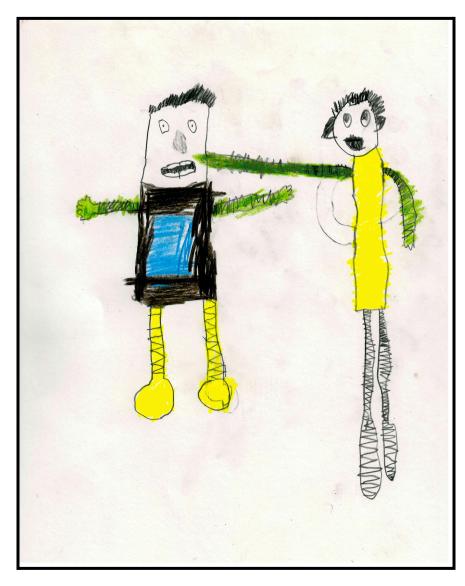
the Hulk. He was faster than Flash, running faster than light. He was super smart because he had 2 big brains. He hunted for the largest alligators in the world. He cut them up and made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. He used alligator skin to build his armor. He had metal wings that helped him fly. When he hit the ground, it shook and crumbled.

RT BranDallas was

the toughest robot in the state of Ohio. Everyone for miles around knew RT BranDallas the Robot and loved to tell and retell of his amazing feats.

One day RT BranDallas went to visit RT Killers with plans of capturing planet Earth. Unfortunately, they got into a big fight. They destroyed Jupiter and Mars. RT BranDallas was captured by the RT Killers. They held him in a large volcano! Instead of dying, he tricked him and pushed RT Killer into a large cage.

"I wonder how I'm going to get outta this?!! I have to work fast," thought RT BranDallas to himself. Then RT BranDallas used his strength to bend the bars and escaped in a flash.



Then the RT Killers tried to surround him. But RT BranDallas was so fast he slowed down time and pushed them into the cage, and bent back the big bars. Now they were trapped!

RT BranDallas
picked up the cage
and threw it into the
lava! They were
history! Without
working, the Big
Boss flew across the
sky. RT BranDallas
ran around in circles
to create a vortex.
Big Boss fired lasers,
but they whipped
around and came

right back at him!

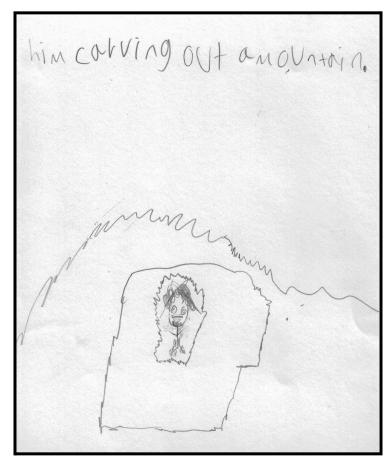
His body was made of melting, and once again, RT BranDallas had saved the day!

The End

Mountain Man

By Marcus, Jermain, and Phillip

Mountain Man was the toughest and the smartest man in the whole state of Colorado.



Everyone for miles around knew Mountain Man and loved to tell and retell all kinds of stories of his unbelievable feats. They said Mountain Man had such a strong grip he could even hold onto air! People said he could climb so fast you couldn't see him until he was at the top of the mountain!

And Mountain Man was said to carve out a cave on the side of the mountain with his bare hands in just two minutes. He had eyes so sharp he could find a needle in a haystack.

Now, one day Mountain Man went to hunt white foxes. But the white fox had too many tricks. He could blend in with the snow, and he was small enough to fit into holes, burrows, and cracks.

Mountain Man didn't give up. When the fox disappeared into a crack on the side of the mountain, that was all it took. Mountain Man had no problem widening the crack with his bare hands to find the fox.

"AHhhhhhhhh," screamed Mountain Man. His cry echoed across the land.

Everyone knew Mountain Man was in big trouble. Mountain Man had fallen on a patch of ice!! He was trapped. He was cold. He was even a little bit scared!! His heart was pounding like a stampede of buffalo as he was trying to figure out how to escape.



Suddenly, he heard a roaring hiss. That was no fox, it was a mountain lion!
Mountain Man tried a high-pitched whistle. He could hear creeping, so he whistled again. Then the mountain lion poked its head into the cave. Mountain Man made soft kissy noises that interested the lion. The mountain lion approached as Mountain Man started speaking to him.

"Hey looky here, old pal.

Hey, I'm in trouble. Come here,
I ain't gonna bite you. I got
meat for you if you help me
outta here."

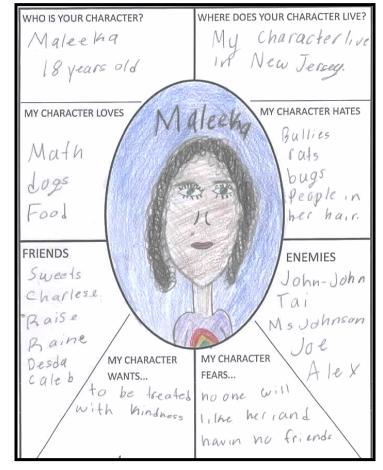
So the mountain lion pulled Mountain Man out of the cave, then sat right on top of him like a little puppy dog. That mountain lion, the fiercest creature on the mountain, had been tamed by the quick thinking of the toughest, smartest man who ever lived in Colorado.

a few more characters we created...



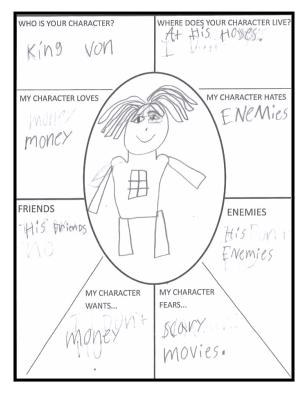
Tea ClockedCreated by
Na'Liyahh F.

MaleekaCreated by Octavia B.

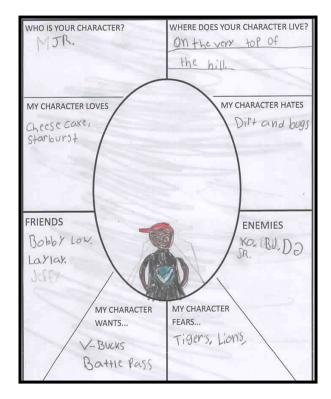


King Von

Created by Ali P.

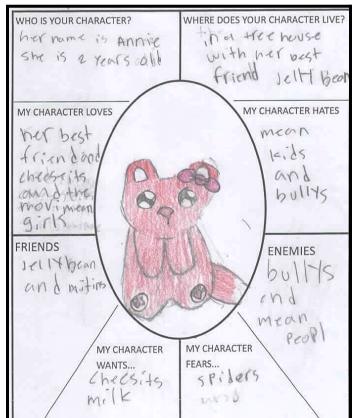


JR
Created by Marcus B.



Annie

Created by Arionna W.



ABOUT (SOME OF) THE AUTHORS...

