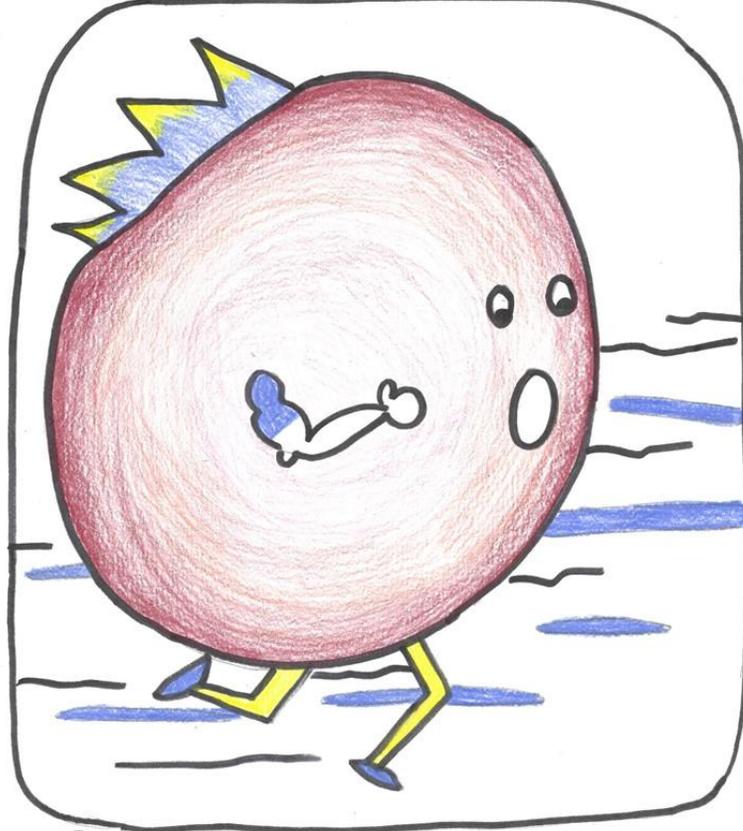


TY-SE-VA-VO-DE-AN-IA



CREATIVE WRITING FROM
MS. LEISINGER'S CLASS
MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE K-8 SCHOOL
CLEVELAND, OHIO

2023

 Lake Erie Ink
A writing space for youth

Introduction and Acknowledgements

The work in this anthology was written by the students in Ms. Leisinger's class during the 2022-2023 school year. The students wrote many collaborative pieces of writing, including a riddle, a play, and short stories written with a partner. Students also explored comics, which can be seen in the work of Juvonie at the end of this anthology.

Teaching artist, Cynthia Larsen, from Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth, spent one day a week at Mary McLeod Bethune, thanks to a Teach Arts Ohio Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

We would like to thank Ms. Leisinger and Mr. Ealy for hosting these writing workshops in the classroom. We wish Ms. Leisinger a happy retirement and Mr. Ealy a wonderful summer! Thank you also to Ms. Wooley who helped the students design their cover art.

We also wish all of the students in Ms. Leisinger's class the best of luck and hope they continue to use their voices to express themselves, to work together to create art and writing, and to help change the world and make it a better place for everyone!



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Riddle Poem

By Mia, Angelique, Sean, Juvonie, Tyuan, De'Ante

I can be orange
and I hunt for prey
I dig a home
for my kits to play
I can hear sounds
from downtown
I see better than
an owl in the night
The tips of my ears
and bushy tail
are white
I am more sly
than a wolf
in the night.

Strangers in the Woods

Juvonie Hollis - Grade 6
Angelique Jackson - Grade 6
Mia Kelley - Grade 7
Sean Murphy - Grade 7

Characters:

Dippy Dinosaur—46 years old, carnivorous, fears are Dino

Dino the Dinosaur—92 years old a T-rex, afraid of water, death, smoke and plastic things

Rose—Half human, half goat, ten years old, afraid of humans

Julius the mushroom, he doesn't like talking to people. (He can walk and hop and talk.)

Jayla—human girl, afraid of rats

Tim—a man who is 31, likes meat, afraid people will eat his dinner

Scene One–The woods

Tim walks on stage. He sees Dino and Dippy hunting for food.

TIM

Who are you?

DINO

I'm a dinosaur. What are you?

TIM

I am a human. I can't believe there's a dinosaur in front of me.

Jayla walks on stage.

JAYLA

Hi Tim. Hi Dino!

TIM

You know these dinosaurs?

JAYLA

I don't really know them. I've just seen them in passing.

TIM (looking terrified)

Jayla, are they going to eat us or are they going to let us survive?

DINO

You are going to be my lunch! Let's get them Dippy!

Dino and Dippy chase Tim and Jayla. Tim and Jayla run away.

TIM

Jayla, we have to run faster before they eat us.

Everyone runs off the stage.

Scene Two—Another part of the forest

Julius the Mushroom and Rose the half-goat and half-human are searching for raspberries and blueberries.

ROSE

Let's find the berries fast before the monsters come out!

JULIUS

Okay.

Tim and Jayla run onto the stage. They both trip over Julius.

JULIUS

Ow! My head!

JAYLA

I'm so confused.

Rose pulls out her bow and arrow. She aims at Tim and Jayla.

ROSE

Stay away from my friend!

TIM

We are not gonna hurt you. We are very nice and friendly.

Dippy and Dino run onto the stage. They are out of breath because they are such old dinosaurs.

DIPPY (*Panting*)

We are tired of running after you! We are going to eat you now!

Rose doesn't know these people and she doesn't trust strangers, so she grabs Julius's hand.

ROSE
Hide!

*Julius hides behind a blueberry bush.
Rose aims the arrow at Dippy, then shoots.*

DIPPY
Ouch!

The arrow sticks in his leg.

DIPPY
Let's get out of here.

DINO
Yeah, these people are mean!

Dippy and Dino leave the stage. Dino has his arm around Dippy's shoulders.

TIM
Thank you for saving us!

JAYLA
Thank you all!

Rose grabs Julius's hand. Julius is holding the blueberry basket. They run off stage.

TIM
They left? That's weird.

JAYLA (crying)
They left us. And they took all the blueberries.

TIM
We need to find some wood so we can build a base and find some berries.

JAYLA
I have a hammer and an axe. Let's get started before the dinosaurs come back.

Scene Three–In another part of the woods

Dino and Dippy are looking for some animals to eat.

DINO
I'm so hungry!

DIPPY
Let's go to New York City! There's lots of meat there.

DINO
We'll find the Statue of Liberty.

DIPPY
That's a great idea!

They leave the stage.

Pet City Finds a Hero!

By De'Ante, Sean, and Mr. Ealy

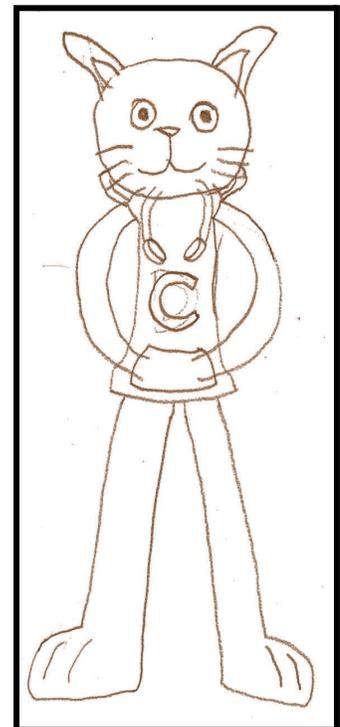


Dan was walking down the sidewalk. Dan found a teal cat wandering down the street. He told the cat to move. The cat jumped in Dan's arms, and they were both struck by lightning. Dan had become a CATMAN!

Dan or Catman was very confused. He didn't know he had superpowers. Now he had super strength and catlike reflexes all tied together in a teal suit.

His mission is to save the world. He learned this by taking on the Evil Dogs' Society. He was not willing, but Catman learned that with great power comes great responsibility.

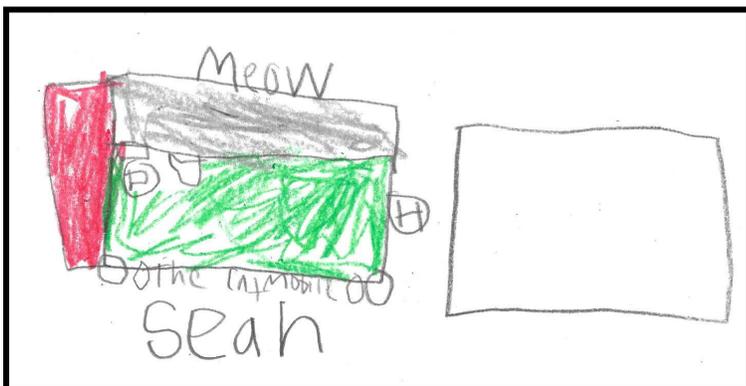
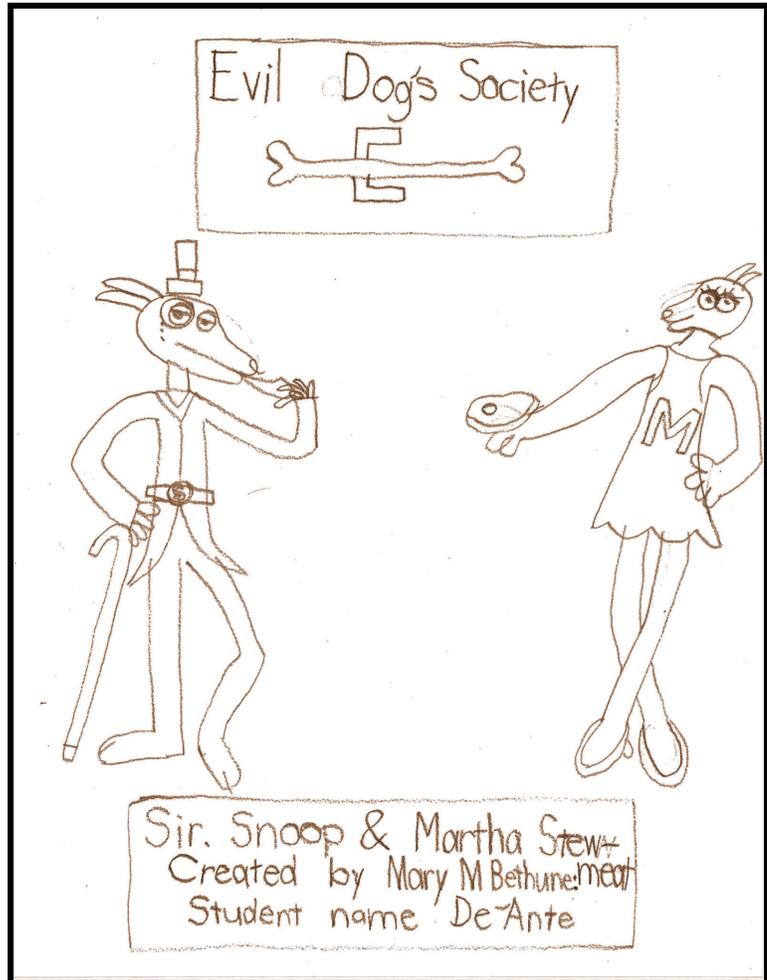
Catman has to save the world from the Evil Dogs' Society whose mission is to turn the world into a big dog pound! He spied on one of the Evil Dogs' Society meetings and heard Sir Snoop telling the rest of the dogs about how they are tired of being locked up and how they must rise up and rule the world and treat everyone else like they have been treated.



There's no manual to being a superhero, so Dan is having a hard time being Catman. He feels like he has no real purpose because no one is telling him how to be a hero. He learns how to be a hero by helping the police.

CATMAN MUST NOT GIVE UP! But neither does his evil nemesis partner, Martha Stew Meat! Catman got to keep the town safe.

Catman partners with the police and tracks Martha's every move with his catlike senses. Catman is able to stand up and fight the Evil Dogs' Society and keep Pet City Safe!



Catman is keeping Pet City safe and foiling every plan the Evil Dogs' Society and Sir Snoop make up. He now knows his purpose and embraces being Pet City's own Hero! So lookout, evil doggies, you will feel the man of teal!

Long live Catman!

Jala, Rex, and the Mysterious Abandoned Apartment

By Tyuan and Angelique

Once upon a time, there was a dog named Rex and a cat named Jala. Every Monday they have lunch at the park. They were at the park and they ate chicken and fish bones from the trash can.

Then Rex said, "Hey Jala, come play with me."

"Ok!" Jala said. Then they played at the park. They were chasing each other around the park.

Suddenly it started to rain. Jala got wet, same as Rex. Rex said to Jala, "It's cold and wet. Let's try a dry place to go."

Jala said, "Let's try the apartment building across the street." Rex agreed and said, "Hopefully no one is there. So they decided to go to the abandoned apartment. When they got there, Rex shook his fur around, and Jala licked her fur.

Suddenly they saw a ghost. "What's that over there?" Jala said.

"I don't know," Rex said. A wind burst out and they hear a voice say, "Who dares to come to my apartment?"

They were both scared. It was a huge ghost rat!! The rat had red eyes, black and white fur, and was so big it was the size of the living room.



They were frozen. The ghost rat said, "You both did this to me and now I will haunt your soul!!"

They were very scared! and they panicked so they run to the door, but the rat barricaded the doors. He pushed the huge bookcase in front of the door.

Jala said, "Who are you?!?! I don't know you!"

The rat said, "You ate me before last week."

When Jala realized that was the rat she ate, she threw up. Then she said, "I ate you because I was hungry and have nowhere to live. Besides, didn't I just throw you back up?"

The rat said, "Look. There's my body that she ate."

Rex saw the rat bones and guts, and he did not want to look at it. Then Rex threw up himself because of the nasty sight of the rat bones and guts all over.

The rat said, "You have to pay the price. Go get them, my minions!"

A bunch of rats came in. It looked like they were going to have to fight their way out.

Right before the fight started, Rex had an idea. "Instead of fighting for the place, let's live together and provide a shelter for all animals to live."

The big rat said, "There are many ghost rats who are homeless."

Jala said, "There are many animals with no home."

So they decided to turn the building into a home for all animals. Jala, Rex, and the big rat ghost all became friends.

The End.

Rhonda and Friends

By Mia and Ms. Leisinger



The Rhonda the rabbit was at home reading a book. She was curled up in front of the fire when she heard a noise. It was the door.

Rhonda the rabbit opened the door to a pink elephant.
“Hi Ellie, what are you doing here?”
Her friend said, “Let’s go to the flower festival!”

“Ellie,” Rhonda said, “How will we get to the flower festival?”

Ellie said, “We will ride a unicycle and you can sit on my nose.”

So they rode to the flower festival.

Rhonda was nervous about riding on her nose, so she decided to ride her own bike. They saw lots of people holding baskets of fruit, flowers, and bread.



When they got there, Rhonda saw orange, pink, yellow and blue flowers that climbed up to the sky. So they looked to the flowers and then they saw their friend.

“Hi Bob, it is great to see you here.”

Bob the bear said, “Why don’t we explore the flowers in the sky?” So they climbed the flower stems up past the clouds

Rhonda loved climbing things, the higher the better. But by the end of the climb she was a little tired.

When they got there, what did they see? It was their friend Tweety Bird flying around.

Everyone said hi to Tweety Bird. Tweety Bird said, “Hi guys, do you like my new telescope glasses?”

Then they decided to sit on the clouds and floated through a waterfall of chocolate. They all said, “Ooh... Ahhh,” at the waterfall. Bob said, “No eating the chocolate because it gives you cavities.”

Then they landed in a dark forest. Tweety Bird said, “The dark forest is dangerous and there are dark wolves.”

Everyone could hear the wolves howl. Ellie said, “Hurry up so the wolves don’t see or smell us!”

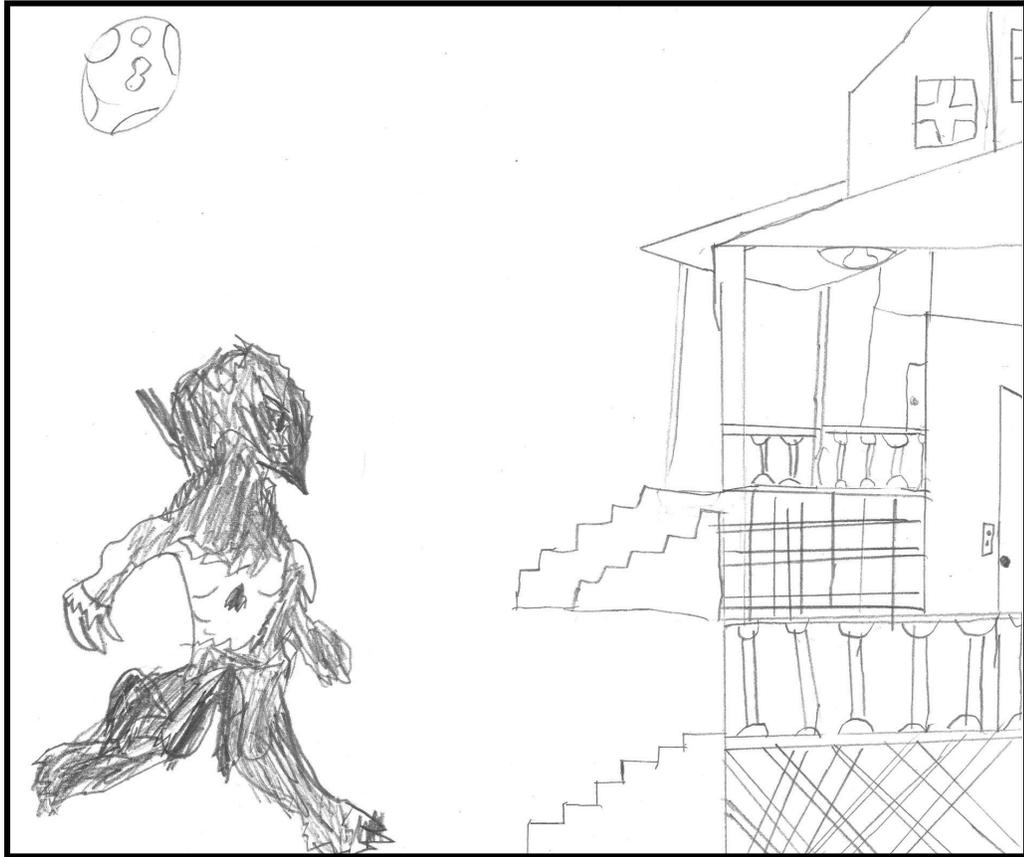
They were scared of the wolves and so they ran all the way back without saying anything because they were so frightened. When they arrived at Rhonda’s house, they played games.

But they didn’t see the dark wolves see them.

The wolves returned to their den and spoke to their leader. Their leader thought they needed a spy so he decided to send his son to keep an eye on the animal friends. Who knows what will happen next.

My Best Friend is a Werewolf

By Juvonie and Delvan



During their camping trip, Nick and Ray were feeding the animals and they had fun, and they were happy. Ray is sixteen, and Nick is seventeen.

They were feeding bread to the birds and the fish.

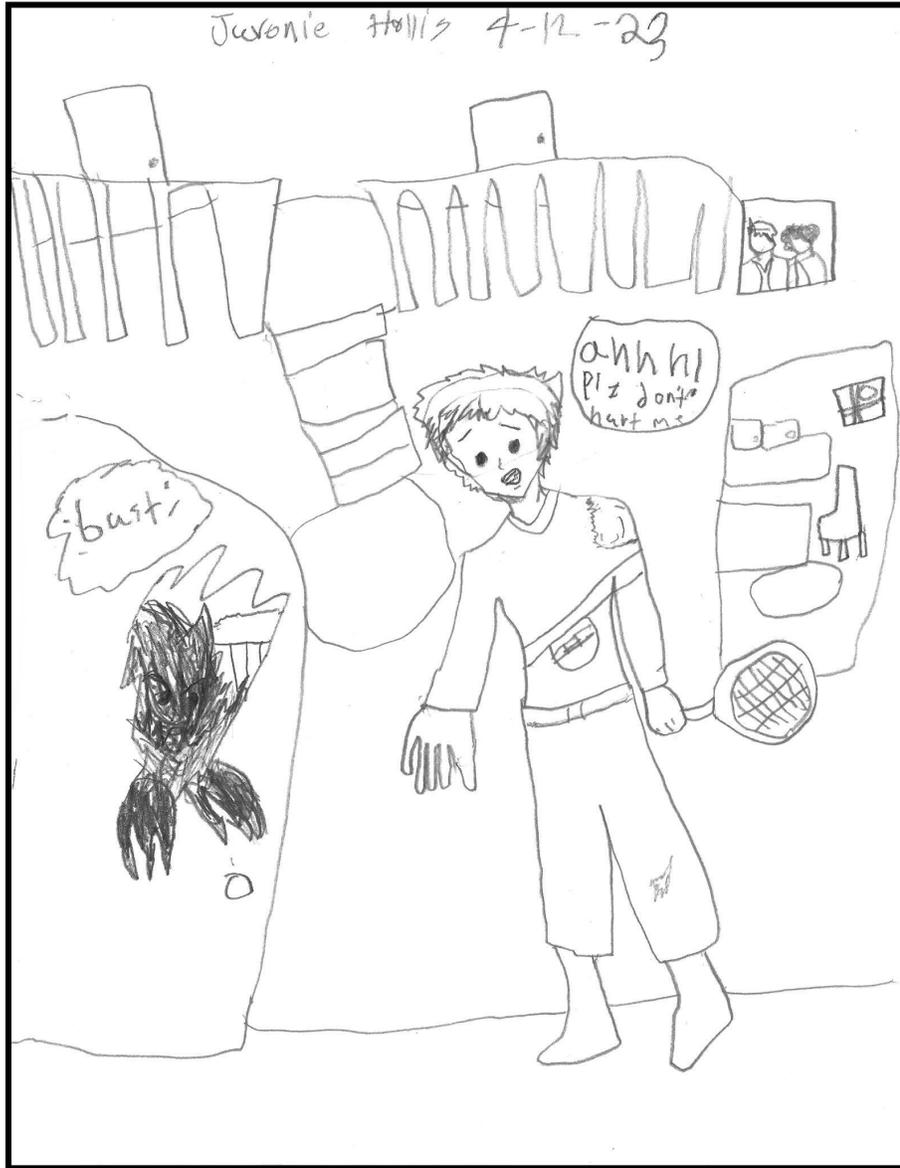
Then the full moon came up, and Nick said, "What is happening to me? Ahhhh!"

Then Ray screamed at the sight of Nick's condition. "What is going on with you, Nick?"

Nick's eyes turned red and his hair turned to fur. Nick said, "Run!"

Ray ran from Nick, and then Nick turned into a werewolf. Ray ran to the house and he locked the door. Then Nick busted the door, and he tried to get Ray.

Ray was very afraid, but he knew Nick wouldn't hurt him.



Then the sun rose up and Nick turned back to human. Nick said, "What happened?"

Ray said, "You turned into a werewolf."

Nick screamed, "How did that happen?"

Ray said, "I don't know, but we need to find out."

So they searched on the computer by typing "Does the moon turn humans into werewolves?"

Sure enough, it popped up.

A full moon can turn a person into a werewolf only if a wolf's blood is in their body, but a potion can fix it.

“Werewolf potion,” Ray said. “So that’s how to fix you. When the moon is up, I will lock you in a cage and I will get the potion.”

So they spent the rest of the day making the potion to cure Nick. They found a witch who could help.

The moon was coming up. “Nick, hurry. Get in the cage.”

Nick said, “Ok.” He got in the cage and Ray tried to get the poison from a witch. She was green with a long nose and freckles. She wasn’t really a witch. She was just in her costume so she couldn’t help.

The witch said, “No.”

Ray said, “Please?”

But the witch just said, “No.”

Ray said, “Fine. Then I’ll find somebody.”

When Ray realized she wasn’t really a witch, he went to find someone who could really help him.

Ray found an old man who was a wolf hunter and the old man gave him a cure potion.

Then Ray ran back to the house to Nick who was still in the cage. Ray tried to give the poison to Nick, but Nick yanked it out of Ray’s hand and threw it.

Ray said, “What?!”

Nick yelled.

Ray said, “Ahh!” He wasn’t sure what to do but then he decided to make his own potion even though he didn’t think it would work. Having no other choice, he used his homemade green poison.

Then Ray gave it to Nick, and Nick drank it, and he turned back to human.

“Thank you for the poison, but it tasted bad, like feet,” Nick said.

“You’re welcome,” said Ray.

Then they went home. They left the cabin in the woods and promised to never talk about Nick being a wolf again, hoping never to see another full moon.

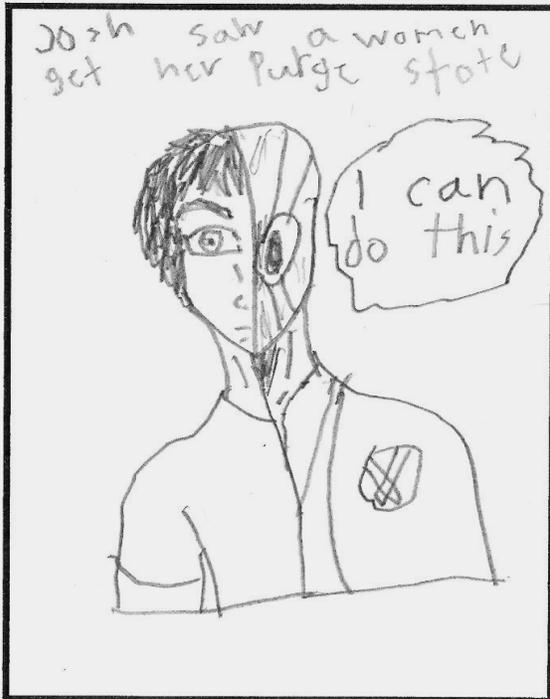
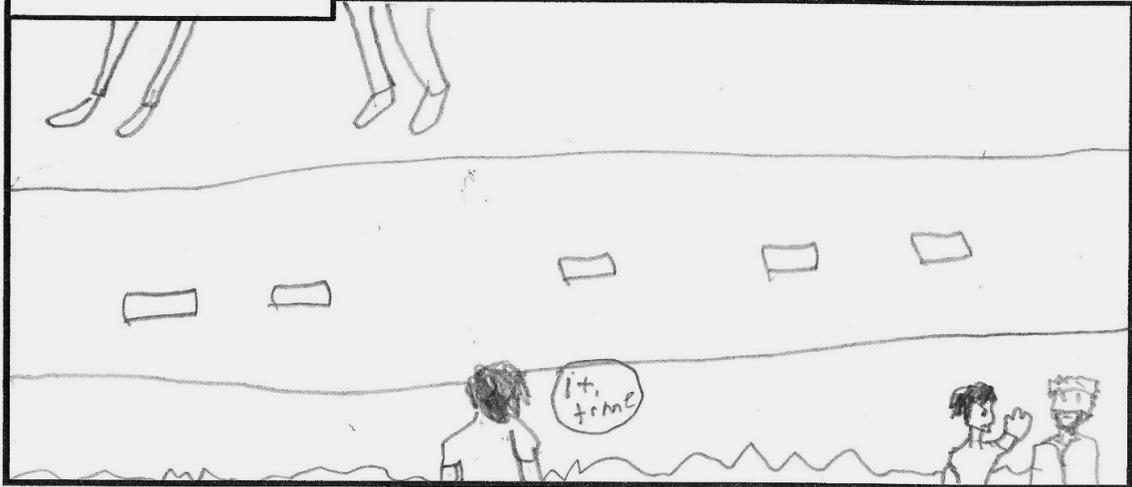
Comics by Juvonie

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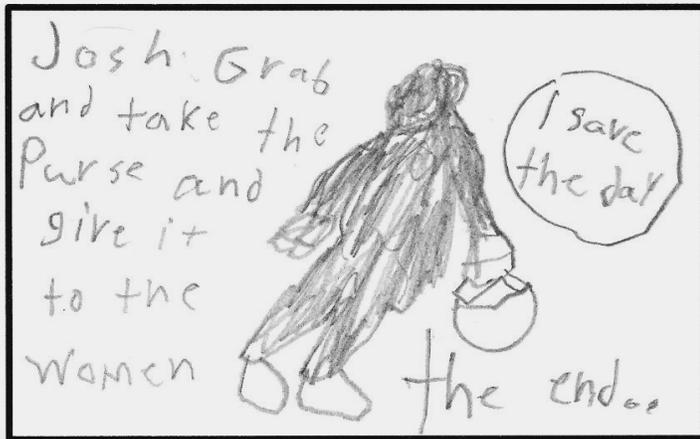
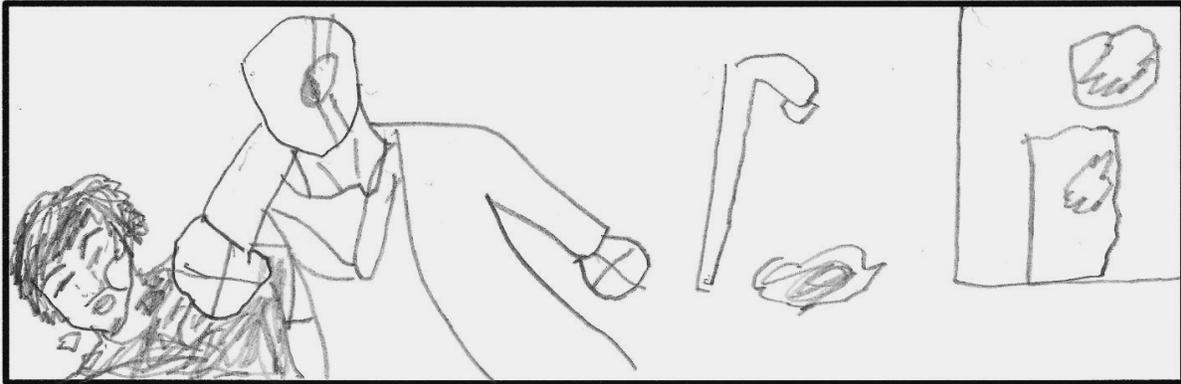
A CRAZY STORY

BY Juvonie

THE amazing josh



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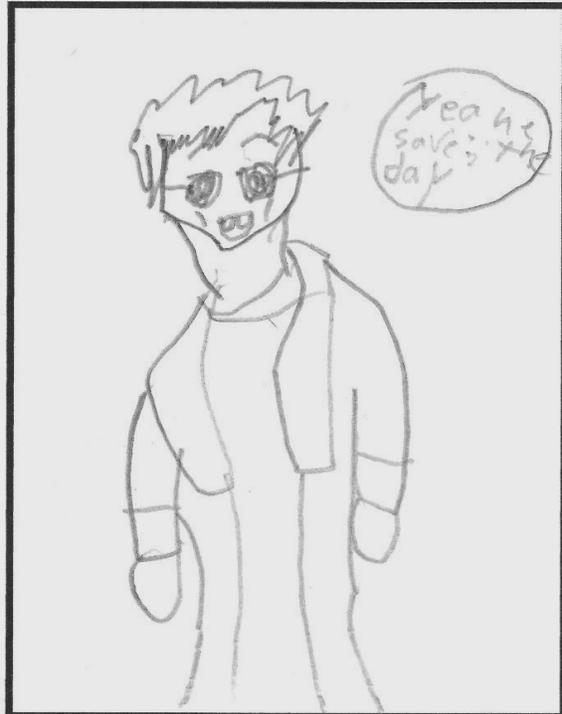
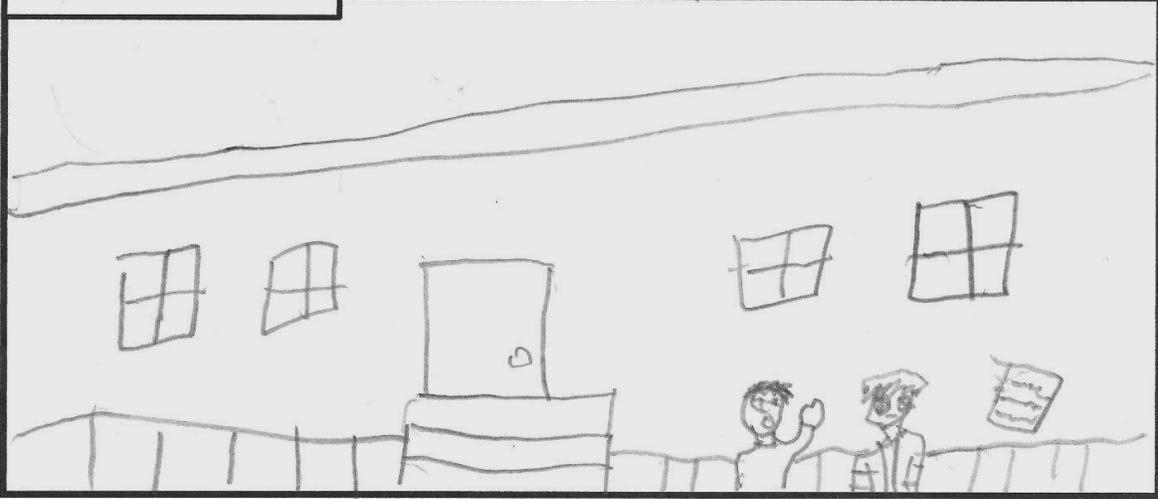
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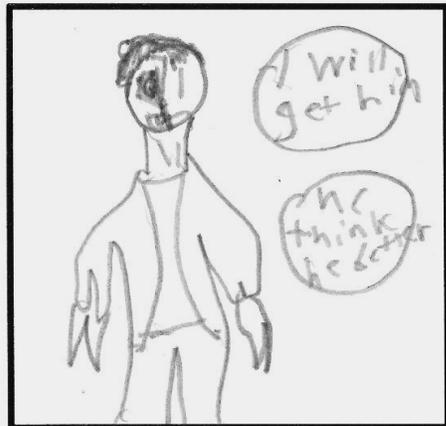
A CRAZY STORY
BY Juvonie Hollis

THE AMAZING

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