

TALES OF GIVING



A Story Studio Anthology
by Young Authors
(Ages 5-13)

Story Studio is a charity that inspires, educates and empowers youth to be great storytellers, transforming lives and strengthening communities. We create innovative, 'fun-first' workshops that develops narrative capacity in youth, and celebrate young writers by crafting beautiful publications from their words.

This anthology is composed of stories written by children and youth across Canada, between the ages of 5 and 13 as a result of our December 2020 creative writing contest. The task was to write a short fiction story involving a heartwarming tale reflecting the spirit of giving.

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Story Studio Writing Society

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BOB'S JOB

by
Charlie

Bob is hungry so he is eating Swedish Fish and gumdrop candies. He's at home in his six-story mansion all alone enjoying his candy and doing his school project.

Bob is a really good and smart guy. He loves to help people. He is trying to help people that live in his neighbourhood by cutting the grass for them. Because he is a landscaper, he likes to make sure the community is nice and safe. He gives money to things like the children's hospital and to homeless people.

Bob gets a call from his friend saying that someone wants their grass cut. So he goes to the house and cuts the grass. They pay him five dollars. He puts the money in his Children's Hospital donation jar at home. He goes back and finishes up his school project.

That night he goes outside to put the garbage cans away. He has a lot of land, so he takes a shortcut up the side of the house, two rights past the sheep, and a left at the cow barn and then he was there. But when he gets there, he realizes that both of his lawn mowers are gone!

He quickly rushes back inside and calls his buddy. He says, “Sorry I can’t do my job anymore, someone has stolen both of my lawn mowers!”

Bob is so sad because he won’t be able to do his job, or make money to donate to the community. He goes to bed that night very sad.

The next day he wakes up and says, “I’m going to look at the security cameras and track down the robbers.” He has security cameras set up in his front yard. He uses his computer and sees

that two robbers stole the lawn mowers. He has a GPS on his lawn mowers so he uses his phone to track them.

He hops in his truck. One of them is at the bank, but he can't seem to find the other one. So he takes the lawnmower back from the robber. The robber said, "I'm sorry for stealing your lawn mower." He gives the lawnmower back and Bob drives home to make a plan.

He makes a plan to go and get another lawnmower by using money he gets from mowing everyone's lawn with his one lawnmower. Bob calls his friend and tells him he is back to his job and can help the community!

THE END.

SAVING CHRISTMAS

by
Emily

Once there were three siblings. The youngest sibling was a ten year old boy named Chase. The second sibling was a girl named Evan, she was thirteen years old. Finally, there was Ava, who was sixteen years old and loved to text.

It was Christmas Eve and they were spending time with their parents. It was getting late. Mom said, “Time to put the cookies on the table for Santa.”

“Chase, can you go to the kitchen and put the cookies on the table please? And Ava please put out the fire,” dad asked.

Ava said, “I’m texting.”

So all the kids went to bed. In the middle of the night, Evan heard something.

“Hey guys did you hear that?” said Evan.

Chase asked, “Is it Santa?”

“Let’s check it out,” said Ava.

So the kids went downstairs.

“Santa’s on fire!” said Evan. Ava got some water and put the fire out.

Santa asked, “Who left the fireplace on?! I can't deliver presents in this condition. Could you kids do me a favor and deliver the presents?” Santa asked.

Ava said, “Sure.” He told them where the sleigh was. When they got to the sleigh, they saw Rudolph’s bright red nose.

Rudolph said, “Have you seen Santa? He’s been gone for a while.”

Evan told the reindeer about Ava leaving the fire on, so Santa caught on fire and how Santa wanted them to deliver the rest of the presents. Rudolph thanked them for the help; then said, “We still have three houses to deliver to.” Chase, Evan and Ava got in the sleigh.

They landed in a small village called Lakeside. Donner said, “First we have to deliver to the cyan colored house.”

When the kids got inside, Evan said, “Some of these planks are broken and could make a really loud sound if we touch one.”

Ava said that she could do this house on her own. She took the presents and put them under the tree and in the kids’ stocking. “Easy,” said Ava.

Vixen said, “The next house is the red coloured house.”

When the kids got inside the house, Evan said, “These tiles aren’t so broken we don’t have to be so careful.”

But just as they were putting down their presents they heard a kid walk down the stairs.

Chase said, “Quick, hide!” So they hid until the kid went back upstairs.

When they got outside, Comet said, “We’re out of presents. We have to go to Santa’s workshop to get more.”

When they got to Santa's workshop, the elves greeted them. One of the elves asked if they could help load the presents into the bag. Chase said, "Sure."

When they got to the next house, Cupid said, "This is an orphanage so you guys have to read the label and put it in the right stocking."

When they were done, Evan said, "Quick guys, we have to get home before our parents wake up!"

When they got home, Evan said, “We should check on Santa.”
So they went to the living room and saw Santa was gone but
there was a note that read:

*‘Dear kids, the elves came in and fixed me up. Thanks for
delivering the gifts while I was hurt. For that, I have left you
all a little surprise under the Christmas tree. Love Santa.’*

THE END.

THE JACKET

by

Malina

“But mom,” Kaylee said, “I want that green jacket, not the dark blue one. The dark blue is a different kind, so no.”

“Kaylee,” her mom said, “That one is too expensive.”

“Augh,” Kaylee answered. “I’ll pay you back with my allowance,” Kaylee said.

“No you cannot. Your money is for college. You are already in grade twelve,” her mom said.

“I know but the green will look better on me,” said Kaylee.

“We will come back tomorrow when you can choose a different jacket that is not so exorbitant. Okay?” said her mom.

“Fine,” said Kaylee, “But that one is comfortable and warm.”

“No Kaylee!” said her mom.

“Awww, pretty please with a cherry on top,” said Kaylee.

“No, no, no, no and no” said her mom, “But, we can go to one more store.”

“Yes!” said Kaylee, “Can we go to Eddie Bauer?”

“Okay,” said her mom. So they drove to Eddie Bauer. “What jacket do you want?” asked her mom.

“Umm, that black one.” she answered.

“Okay,” said her mom, “Go check the price.”

“130 dollars,” said Kaylee.

“What? That’s too much!” said her mom. “Buy one that is \$50 or \$60. Maybe even \$70 or \$80, but not \$130,” her mom said.

“Fine, I’ll buy that one in the corner.”

“Alright, it’s on sale for only \$50.” said her mom. “You can have it and a scarf or a hat.”

“I’ll take that white hat,” said Kaylee. They bought the jacket and hat and went to the car.

When she got in, the Alaskan Malamute dog Puff jumped on her. Kaylee’s sad mood turned happy. She thought in her head it turned happy because she got something, not just a fun dog that jumped on her, but a new jacket and a hat. She told her mom she was thankful for what she got. Her mom was happy.

The next day she went to school and she saw the same girl she saw last week. She was sitting on a bench wearing a thin jacket.

Kaylee felt bad for the girl.

So, the next day she brought her jacket to school. She found the girl and said, “It looks like you need a warm jacket to keep you warm through the cold and snowy winter, so I got you a jacket.”

The girl smiled and said, “Thank-you so much. My dad just got laid off so we don’t have much money to buy winter clothing.”

Kaylee felt good giving the jacket to the girl. Then the two girls started hanging out together through the winter and soon became best friends forever.

THE END.

THE PERFECT GIFT

by
Petra

“Hurry up, Mia!” I called as I carried my eggnog hot chocolate to the living room. It was 7:30 on December 25th. My little sister was anxious to open her presents.

“Emma, we have to wait for Gran and Gramps to come so we can open our presents with them,” mom reminded her.

“I know, I know, but can’t we open just one?” she asked, showing her the puppy dog eyes.

Mom grinned, “All right. You can pick one. Only one, Emma!”

Emma punched the air, satisfied with her answer. Her and I both picked one, mine soft and mushy, Emma's firm and solid. We both tore the wrapping paper off our presents. Mine was new pajamas, with star patterns all over it, and Emma's was a box collection of the Harry Potter books. Our mom was grinning, she had her phone up, taking pictures and recording us. Mom was tall, and slim, with dark hair and piercing blue eyes. "Do you like them?" she asked, curiously.

"Of course we do!!" I responded.

Emma stared down at her present, “I have been wanting this for so long...” She was actually speechless, which, believe me, is rare for an eight year old. My mom smiled.

“I’m going to change into these,” I exclaimed, running upstairs. I went back downstairs, feeling awesome in my new PJ’s.

Ding Dong! My sister let out an excited squeal. It was our grandparents! Our Gran and Gramps always gave us the perfect gifts, and our parents told us that this year, they got us the best presents yet!

“Hello? Emma? Mia?”

“GRAN! GRAMPS!” We both yelled in unison, “We’ve missed you so much!” We hugged them. They only visit on holidays because they live way over in Vancouver.

“This year, we’ve gotten you guys the best present yet.”

“So we’ve heard,” I said.

“Sit down, you two,” Gramps said. “This year, instead of a present, we have a story to share with you two.”

Emma and I looked at each other. How was a story going to top their other presents? They sat down on the love-seat across from us and pulled out an old book from their bag. The book was torn, and the binding was almost worn. “This story has been in our family for generations...” Gran added, “Are you ready?”

“We are born ready!” Emma exclaimed.

“Okay...” Gran began. “One chilling eve, a family was trapped in their home, due to the snow storm. The Gilbert’s cupboard was empty, and they were starving. Even through the conditions, Mr. Gilbert was determined to bring some cheer. He went out in the snow, and found the perfect tree. He brought it back to his family, and together, they decorated it. As he hoped, the tree had brought the family peace and joy for one night. They didn’t have food, they didn’t have presents, but they had each other, and that was enough. The next morning, they woke up to the bottom of the tree full of presents, and their cupboards full of food.

It was a Christmas miracle, and it was all because they believed.” Gran finished, waiting for a response from us. We sat in silence for a moment or two.

That's when I realized, it's not about what's under the tree, it's about what's around the tree. It's about family, friends, and sure, it's nice to get a few presents here and there, but that's not what Christmas is about. Over the years, that's what we have forgotten. I shared these thoughts with my family.

“That’s exactly it, Mia. That’s what makes this story special.”

And with that, we spent the rest of our Christmas day knowing the true meaning of Christmas.

THE END.

THE LOLLIPOP

by
Sarah

“Mommy!” Sophie whined, “I want a lollipop.”

“No honey,” the mom said, “Lollipops are really exorbitant this time of year.”

“Awww,” Sophie said.

Sophie and her mother walked down the aisle. After a considerable amount of time, Sophie and her mom went to the car. Sophie pouted as she climbed in. Her German Shepherd, Pumpkin, licked her cheek.

“Hi pup,” Sophie said.

“Sophie,” her mother said, “You are five years old now. You should be thankful for what you have.”

“Hmph,” Sophie answered.

As the mother drove, Sophie saw a little boy all alone looking in the window of a shop. In the window were lollipops. The boy’s clothes were ragged and old with dark stains. “Hey mom,” Sophie asked, “Isn’t that the same boy we saw three days ago?”

“I don’t know Sophie, I didn’t see,” the mother said.

A week later, Sophie and her mom came back to the supermarket. This time Sophie brought her own money. After shopping, Sophie said, “I have to use the washroom.”

“Okay, I’ll wait for you at the front door,” the mom answered.

Sophie raced down the broad aisles and skidded to a stop. In front of her were lollipops of every colour. She picked up a lollipop with blue, pink and cloudy light purple then came back.

“Hey mom,” Sophie said.

“Mmhm,” the mom answered.

“You go ahead and I will catch up.”

The mom hesitated. “If you say so,” she said.

Sophie paid for the lollipop and walked out the door. She was just about to put it in her pocket when she saw the same little boy again.

He looked very upset. Sophie felt pity for him. She took her lollipop and gave it to the boy. He smiled and ran down an alleyway. Sophie peeked around the corner behind him. Instead of seeing the little boy eating the lollipop, she saw him give it to a little girl. Her face glowed an exquisite glow and she happily took the candy.

The little girl said, “Thank you brother.” The little girl unwrapped the lollipop and licked it in delight.

Sophie smiled, she knew deep down she did the right thing. She got to the car and hopped in.

Her mother was angry, “I saw you pay for that lollipop.” Then the mother’s face softened, “I also saw you give it to the little boy. You did the right thing,” she said.

Sophie smiled, watching out the window as they drove home.

THE END.

THE PRESENT GRINCH

by

Simrat

It was a beautiful frosty winter day. The snow was falling to the ground and everyone in the neighbourhood had put their Christmas lights up.

Everyone was with their family except for one house. In that house there were three kids. They all had brown eyes and brown hair. The oldest child's name was Julia, the middle child's name was Lily and the youngest name was Michelle. Lily and Michelle kind of looked alike, but not that much.

On Christmas eve their parents went to work because there was an emergency. So when their parents left Michelle asked if they could stay up and wait for Santa to come. She begged both of her sisters and eventually they said yes. So they gathered a lot of soda, ice cream and candy and they hid in a medium sized cupboard that was in front of their living room. They stayed up eating and waiting.

Suddenly they heard a thud on their roof. “Who could it be?” said Lily.

“SANTA!” screamed Michelle.

They opened the cupboard door a bit just in time to see red glitter swirl by the Christmas tree, with presents left under it! They all got so excited, but suddenly, just as fast as the red glitter came, they saw green glitter burst around the tree and all the presents were gone! They were all so shocked.

“What was that?” asked Lily.

“I'm not sure,” said Julia.

“We should follow it,” said Lily.

So they all went outside and that's where they saw a green sleigh that had a lot of presents in it. “Do you think he stole them?” asked Michelle.

“Of course he did Michelle,” said Julia as Michelle jumped on the sleigh. “Michelle get down!” said Julia quietly.

As the sleigh started to move Julia and Lily ended up jumping on it too.

Hiding in the back, they heard a voice at the front of the sleigh sing, “The Present Grinch, the Present Grinch has stolen more gifts from the houses, now I have all the toys, HAHA!”

But then Michelle sneezed as they were going through a tunnel and the present Grinch heard. “Who’s back there?” He said.

Michelle popped her head out and the Grinch saw it, “Who are you?” asked Michelle.

“Well I'm the present Grinch and I steal toys from kids like you,” said the Grinch.

“Well that's not very kind,” said Michelle.

“Of course it's not! That's why I do it,” he said.

“Well I demand you to go give them back,” Michelle said.

“Ha, only if you can fight me!” he said.

“Sure,” said Michelle. But when they were off the sleigh Michelle did not fight him, instead she told him, “Stealing presents isn't nice. If you want some presents, you need to become nice. You will never get presents if you steal them.” Julia and Lily jumped out of the sleigh to agree.

The Grinch felt guilty. He said sorry to the girls and went back to his sleigh and delivered the presents that he had stolen.

In the morning when their parents came back they all opened presents and drank hot chocolate together.

THE END.



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