



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

# *UNEXPECTED DELIVERIES*



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 develop 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 November 2023 creative writing contest. The task this month was to write a flash fiction story of 500 words about an unexpected delivery! We wanted to know how their characters would react to this surprise. We were looking for stories that would keep readers at the edge of their seats!

**Winners:**

- Ages 5-9: *'The Friendly Box'* by Felicia, age 9 and *'The Magic Box'* by Markus, age 9 are both winners as we only had two entries!
- Ages 10-13: First Place: *Being Herself* by Angelina, age 10  
Second Place: *Shelly Lai and the Necklace* by Mmesoma, age 11

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Story Studio Writing Society

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# Table of Contents

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Being Herself.....               | 4  |
| The Friendly Box.....            | 11 |
| The Magic Box.....               | 16 |
| Shelly Lai and the Necklace..... | 20 |
| The Mysterious Package.....      | 33 |
| The Glowing Package.....         | 39 |

# ***BEING HERSELF***

by

Angelina

age 10

It was Mariella's thirteenth birthday when she found a beat-up package waiting for her on the porch. She assumed her father had sent her it, so she didn't even notice the box had no return address.

Mariella rushed to open it. Inside the package was a small vial of a swirly lavender liquid. She was confused, but she still drank it, overwhelmed by excitement.

Moments later, nothing happened.

The next day at school, she realized she had forgotten her homework! Strangely, her teacher walked up to her and placed a sheet of paper on her desk. Her homework! But wait, why is it all done, and with different answers?

Her teacher smiled and said, “Excellent work, Mariella!” before walking away. Mariella stood there shocked and dazed.

Later, while walking down the long hallway to get to the next class, her friends questioned her about her sudden grade improvement. Mariella, embarrassed and also confused, just rushed ahead to the next class.

The whole day was even more confusing. Acing tests she never studied for, and chapters she never read. At the end of the day, it was well known that Mariella was a new person, a smart one.

For weeks, she would whiz through quizzes, and became known as a smart student. But this wasn't the life she wanted. Sure, she was smart, but while she gained friends, she lost many of her original ones, since they were jealous of her new-found intelligence. Many nights she would sit at the side of her bed and ponder if this new life was all from the lavender potion. '*It must be,*' she thought. She wished for her old life back.

One day when she came home from school, Mariella saw a note .

*Need help? Potion - Silvana Hill - top.*

Silvana Hill was on the other side of town, and while it was climbable, the incline was steep. But Mariella needed to try. She planned to do a day-long hike at Silvana Hill tomorrow.



The next day, the sun shined eagerly through her bedroom window, as she rushed to prepare. She called a taxi to drop her off at the mountain base.

The mountain was breathtakingly stunning. Mariella almost couldn't take her eyes off of it, but she then remembered why she was here. Mariella looked to her left and saw an unsafe dirt path, but she had no choice but to follow it.

The journey was perilous. Countless times, she almost fell off, but Mariella managed to keep going. When she eventually reached the top, she saw a small potion next to a small note.

*Apologies for the incorrect birthday present. Drink this.*

The first gift must not have been meant for her. But this new potion definitely was. Mariella drank it.

The next day, Mariella was back to normal. She felt like herself and was happy again.

***THE END.***

# ***THE FRIENDLY BOX***

by

Felicia

age 9

Hi. I'm Felicia, and I have a simple dude living in my house called Felix, who is my brother. Felix and I are the only ones living on the moon. It has been very boring being all alone. The only things on the moon that are interesting are big holes like swiss cheese. If you think the moon is interesting, your brain is really malfunctioning.

But four years ago, I began enjoying living on the moon, when a new friend arrived. It all started like this...

Four years ago, I was five, and I was playing in a hole, running up and down. Suddenly, a small rectangular box floated my

way. I grabbed it and ripped it open with my hands, curious to know what was inside. **POP!** A jade green head with an antenna popped out. It was an alien kid, who wore a red t-shirt with a shooting star on it.

I had fun days with the Alien Kid. It was a lot of fun playing with him. One day, Alien Kid and I were playing 'Chase The Alien,' but he ran all the way to Pluto! I tried to chase him, but he ran pretty fast so I picked up my speed. I heard Alien Kid scream, then I couldn't see him anywhere. OH NO! Alien Kid disappeared!

“What if he runs into the sun and bursts into flames?” I worried.

I checked every place on each planet I knew. Then, I saw a large swirling dark hole. *‘It must be a black hole,’* I thought. I asked people if they saw a little green alien getting sucked into a black hole. They said yes.

“Alien kid must have been sucked into the black hole on his way to Pluto!” I exclaimed. Then, I suddenly got an idea. “If Alien kid got sucked into the black hole, then I can suck him back,” I said confidently. It only took me one hour to build a ginormous

straw from clear hard plastic. It was a thousand metres long and one metre wide. It was too big for one person, so everyone in space got together and we slurped air.

After a few hours, Alien Kid shot through the straw and landed with a thud. And so, Alien kid was back on the moon.

Everything was interesting again.

***THE END.***

# ***THE MAGIC BOX***

by  
Markus

age 9



One day when I was in my house for my birthday, I heard my doorbell ring. I ran to the door. When I opened the door, I saw a package. It seemed like a suspicious box. It was large and shaking. I thought for a minute, then I decided to open it.

When I opened it, I saw a magic wand! I picked it up and decided to test it. I tried saying random things like, 'attack' or 'shoot'. I kept trying until I said, "Fireball." As soon as I said the word 'FIREBALL', the wand started to glow!

Then suddenly, the magic wand's tip exploded and I saw a fireball aiming right at my kitchen. I heard an exploding sound. Oh no! I searched the box, and on the bottom was instructions for the wand. It said, *water=water vines=vines*.

I shouted, "Water!" and my wand glowed again. Then it started shooting water out of the tip of the magic wand! The water hit the kitchen and there was no more fire.

Then I saw another package. I opened it as I was curious to find out what was inside. It was confetti! It sprayed me all over the face. I also saw a bottle. I opened it too, and inside was a genie. I was shocked.

I immediately asked to be rich, but the Genie looked confused and pointed at the paper. On the paper it said to write down what language I speak, so I wrote *English* and then he understood. Then I lived happily ever after.

***THE END.***

# ***SHELLY LAI AND THE NECKLACE***

by

Mmesoma

age 11

## YESTERDAY

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Shelly. One bright morning, Shelly received a pale blue box. On it was a note that read: *Open this and your wildest dreams will come true, from MIK RM.*

Shelly looked around, but couldn't see who dropped off the box. She took it to her bedroom, sat on her bed and gently opened the box. Inside was a very shiny necklace with a purple seashell charm on it. It was beautiful. As Shelly held on to the necklace,

she thought of her favorite music artist, Lisa from Blackpink, and suddenly **POOF**, Shelly turned into Lisa. Shelly thought of herself and with a puff of green mist, she was back to normal. Shelly, with wide eyes, smiled to herself as she realized the necklace had shapeshifting powers.

SCHOOL

“Shelly,” her dad called loudly to wake her up.

“I’m awake,” Shelly answered as she rushed downstairs smelling pancakes. Shelly’s dad was a chef and was great at cooking.

“Mmm,” Shelly whispered, hugging Dad as she sat down to eat her Hello kitty shaped pancake. It was amazing.

**BEEP!** The school bus arrived at the door and Shelly dashed out of the door, waving bye to her dad. Shelly clutched the necklace. She worried, but didn’t know why. The bus stopped at

Peachtree Elementary School. Shelly ran to her friend, Grace.  
They high-fived.



Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a name or title, which is partially obscured and difficult to read.



“What the heck is that?” Grace exclaimed, spotting Shelly's necklace.

“It’s a necklace that can make me shapeshift.”

“Really?” Grace replied, rolling her eyes, as they walked to Mrs Smith’s classroom.

Shelly and Grace really liked Mrs Smith. She was the best teacher ever. Grace loved how she dressed up as a Demon Slayer character each day, and she couldn’t wait to see what she

would wear today. But there was a note on the door that read:  
*MRS. SMITH IS NOT IN TODAY, BUT MR. KIM IS. GOOD LUCK.*

“Why did Mrs. Smith write good luck?” Grace asked.

“Maybe Mr. Kim is not as fancy,” Shelly answered Grace, and Shelly walked into the class and right there was Mr. Kim.

“Uh oh,” Grace and Shelly exclaimed.

“Late, late, late. Take your seats,” Mr. Kim said, not before spotting Shelly’s necklace.

“Okay everyone, let's settle down as we continue today's lesson.” Shelly and Grace hurriedly sat down, feeling that Mr. Kim would not be a cool teacher at all.



An hour passed and it was time for recess.

“Are you thinking what I’m thinking?” Grace whispered, pointing to the washroom. Shelly nodded, running after Grace eagerly. “So Shelly I think you are lying about shapeshifting.”

“No, I’m not.”

“Then do it,” Grace said, washing her hands.

**POOF.** Shelly shapeshifted into her dad and back into herself.

“Cool beans!” Grace exclaimed. “Okay girl, I totally believe you. How did you get that?”

“It was a surprise package by MIK RM. By the way, do you know who MIK RM is?” Grace shakes her head as they head back to class. “Look, it's Mr. Kim. I'll go ask him,” Shelly said excitedly.

“Hi Mr. Kim. Do you know who MIK RM is?”

Mr Kim turned to Shelly, smiling. “Shelly, MIK RM is Mr. Kim backwards,” he replied. Shelly opened her mouth wide! She couldn’t believe it! Mr. Kim had sent the package.

“Why did you send it to me?”

“I saw you last week in school, Shelly. You looked bored and I felt you were in need of an interesting adventure. I am glad you figured the shapeshifting necklace out.”

“Thank you,” Shelly replied, walking over to the desk smiling from ear to ear. Shelly knew that good things would happen with Mr. Kim's necklace. “Thanks so much,” Shelly whispered.

**POOF.** She turned into a cat. “Uh oh,” Shelly meowed. Guess she had to learn how to control her thoughts while wearing this special necklace.

***THE END.***



# ***THE MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE***

by  
Sophia  
age 10

I was peacefully sleeping when the mailman arrived at the door.

**Ding-dong!**

“Come and get the package,” loudly said the mailman.

I woke up, and told my mom to get the package. My mom was busy listening to her songs. I yelled louder. I thought it was my new blue shirt that I always wanted to wear on picture day.

I was too annoyed so I got out of bed and went downstairs. I happily received the package. I was too excited that I didn't even brush my teeth. My mom told me to get ready for school.

I growled. "I want to open the package," I said angrily.

She did not listen one bit. So I stormed upstairs and got ready for school. I only had two minutes left until the bus arrived. I guess I had to open it after school. I rolled my eyes on the way to school, feeling annoyed. I got a little bit frustrated, but I still went to school. I hurried to my first class, then second and last, third class. I had a gigantic smile on my face when the bus

almost reached the house. I was too excited to even say bye to the bus driver.

I sprinted to my house and busted the door open. When I got in, I raced to my room. I nervously shook it. It was light so I thought it was my brand-new blue shirt. So I grabbed a pair of scissors and started cutting off the thick tape they put on. I was not expecting this... I got a creepy looking doll with creepy navy green eyes staring at me.

I screamed very loudly, “**AHHHHHHH.**”

I was very creeped out. But in my head I wondered who ordered it. “*Hmmmmmm*,” I thought curiously.

I didn't care because it wasn't mine. So I just left it there. But little do you know it climbed outside and stared at me. I heard banging noises. I thought it was my mom's songs so I did not care. Seconds later, I heard loud banging noises on my window. I checked. Nothing there. I felt weirded out. I just continued to watch TV. The banging noise got louder and louder. This time I was too annoyed, so I took a glance. You wouldn't believe what happened next...

**“AHHHHHHHHHHH!”** I screamed at the top of my lungs!

The doll was on my window banging. “LET ME IN,” it said with a loud creepy voice.

I was too scared to even talk. I did the impossible. I sprinted out without even answering my mom where I was going. I learned a lesson to never open package without checking.

***THE END.***

# ***THE GLOWING PACKAGE***

by  
William

age 10

**Ding Dong.** The mail was here!

My name is Jay, and I am 10 years old. I live at 3456 Ovation Ave. In front of my house is an old rusty car, and a tree that bends sideways. I always get the mail from the shop and shipping company, Emozon. Everyday I get some clothes that my mom ordered for me.

Today I was in a rush because I knew that it wasn't clothes, it was the toy that I ordered! I always wanted a water balloon launcher. When I got to the front, I saw that there were two boxes. One of them was shaped like an arrow, my toy.



The other was shaped like an oval and said that it was from my wizard grandfather. Last year he gave me a magic wand, so I was curious what he sent me this year. But I also wanted my toy!

I don't know what I was thinking, but I chose the mysterious one. Once I was inside, the box started glowing yellow. I was curious so I opened it, and inside was a hole that was swirling. I realized it might be a portal!

I was sure to not go in, but while I was walking away, I felt a tug on my shoulder. I turned around and saw that no one was there. As I walked, I felt the tug become stronger until I couldn't walk anymore. I was being pulled back!

I saw what was pulling me back. It was the box! It pulled me in the portal and somehow made me go to a land where it was all candy! I was so happy to see the candy there that I wanted to eat it. But I knew the candy was bad when I saw a bunny eat the candy carrot, then he slept and never woke up.

I was struggling to find a way out, but then I found some arrows. They were pointing left to a hill with things shining on it! When I got to the hill, I found a person going through a lot of boxes. He was wearing a shining gold helmet that shined in the sun. He looked up and saw me.

He told me his name was Gideon and wanted to find a portal back home. I helped him try and find the box. I kept searching until I found a box that glowed purple. When I opened it, I saw that it was swirling! I told Gideon to come and get in the portal! When he came, we got sucked in the portal!

I didn't pull back, instead I jumped in! When we came out of the portal, the portal closed. We got up and looked around. I saw a tree that was bent sideways, and a car that looked like it was an old car. Then I saw a house which said 3456 Ovation Avenue. I realized that the portal was a portal to the past!

***THE END.***



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