



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

UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS



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 February 2024 creative writing contest. The task this month was to write a flash fiction story of 500 words about unlikely friendships. We were looking for unique stories with exciting characters that would keep readers poised on the edge of their seats!

Winners:

- Ages 5-9: First Place: *'Tyler, the Tiger'* by Markus, age 9
Second Place: *'Penguin and Seal'* by Felicia, age 9
- Ages 10-13: First Place: *'Coffee and OJ'* by Mmesoma, age 11
Second Place: *'Lightning Girl'* by Flora, age 10

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Story Studio Writing Society

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UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP - APE AND DOG

by
Andrew
age 8

One day, Ape was getting fresh yellow bananas right from a banana tree in Africa, while Dog was chasing a huge white rabbit in the fields. Then Ape fell down the tree after a banana hit him in the head!

Clank clity clank.

Then Dog heard the noise and pulled Ape to safety. When Ape woke up, he went up a tree and brought down ten bananas to eat. After they finished the bananas, they went to sleep in the hole they had dug.

The next day, Ape and Dog woke up and were bored, so they used bananas to make a square Frisbee. However, they found out it couldn't fly, so they used bubble gum to stick two pieces of leaves together to make a circle Frisbee.

When they finished making the Frisbee, it suddenly started raining, so they had to play Frisbee inside. But the place was too small, so Ape made a dent in the wall.

After the rain stopped, they sprinted outside to play Frisbee.

After they finished playing Frisbee, they began to get hungry, so they bought a cheesecake at a cake store. They were about to start eating when, suddenly, Tiger crashed in the hole they lived in and stole their Frisbee!

But then Tiger tripped and his face got smashed in the cake. Tiger was really mad, so he ran away and Dog stole the Frisbee back just in time. So they went out to play Frisbee again.

THE END.

THE UNLIKELY TECHS

by
Elijah
age 11

One day there was a boy called Mark, who met a friend from his writing class called Keven.

They both had a PS5 and an Xbox, and the boys liked to play together. Mark liked to use his PS5 and never used his Xbox, and so did Keven.

But one day an “Xbox religion” hacker hacked into everyone's PS5 account, and guess what?! When everyone tried to log back

in, it said that your PS5 account was already written off! And now you cannot use PS5 any more.

Mark's Xbox said, "Ha ha ha! Now, no one can use you! I AM THE BEST!!!"

"Well, I was the best, so we're kinda equal now, aren't we?" said PS5, gently.

"You know what? Actually, I agree. Do you want me to fix your problem?"

“Sure, but just try to not mess up, pal.”

“What did you just call me? Pal?”

“Yeah, you wanted to help me, so we’re friends now, and I can call you a pal. And that is the simplest way to make a friend.”

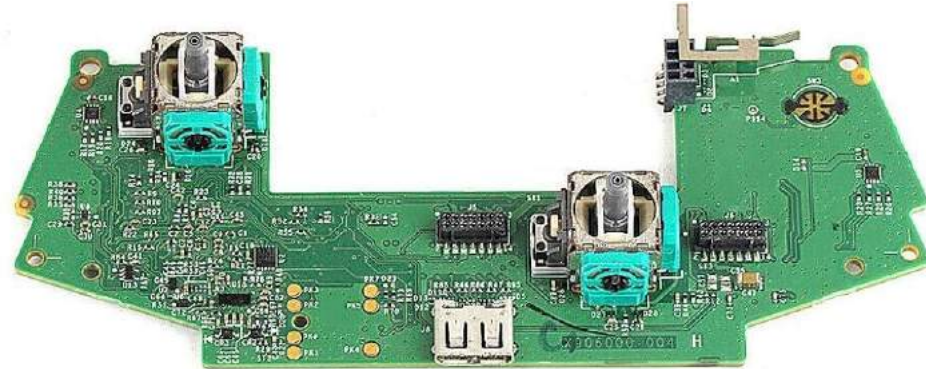
.....

KONG KAKA KACHA KACHA BOING! (Xbox trying to fix PS5)

ALL OF THE ABOVE HAPPENED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

While Xbox was trying to fix PS5, Mark and Keven discovered Xbox was also fun, too.

During the Spring Break, Mark and Keven were playing



Xbox every day that they almost forgot how to use a PS5 controller.

“I gotta be faster, otherwise they will forget about you, completely!!!” said Xbox to PS5.

“Thanks a lot, pal, you’re right, and I don't want them to forget about me, either!”

.....

“Oh! What is that?! You are covered with rust!!!” said Xbox. “I need to bring you to the Gamers Repair now.”



“Sure do, bud, but not right now! It's still the morning and they will find out that you and I are both not here and they will get worried.”

“Sure, you can hold on and I'll bring you to the repair shop at night.”

.....

The same day at night time.....

“I'm gonna bring you to the repair shop right now!” said Xbox.

“Now even if we want to get back, we're trapped!” said Xbox,
“But I can't just leave you here rusted.”

“It's okay, but the most important thing is, it's already 5:30!”
said PS5.

.....

In the next morning...



“IMPORTANT NEWS: Over 7,562,000,000,000,000,000 Xboxes and PS5s have disappeared in the 1234 muti-verse! Please check your controllers.”

That morning in the Gamers Repair Shop...

**Beep Beep Beebeep Beebeebep RINGGGGG
RINGGGGG RINGGGGG [phone ring]**

“Hi, this is Vancouver Gamers Repair. Today, when I woke up, I saw more than sextillion pairs of controllers in front of my

store. They're not mine, and I don't know whose they are," said the man in the repair shop.

Wee woo wee woo [sound of a police car]

“---- . ---- ---- . ---- ... ---- ---- ...” [talking with morse code]

“So, every one of them should have the owner's finger print. We can get this done,” said the police officer.

“And all of the PS5s are rusted. I will fix it first and you guys can send it to the owners,” said the repair shop owner.

ONE WEEK LATER.....

“Hey Mark, I got my Xbox and PS5 back!” said Keven.

“Me too! I miss them so much!” said Mark.

HAPPY ENDING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



THE END.

PENGUIN AND SEAL

by
Felicia
age 9

In the South Pole, Penguin was baking some fishbread in his cozy cottage. Fishbread is a kind of bread with fish stuffed inside and sticking out of thick loaves of bread. Even though Penguin had the yummiest fishbread in the South Pole, he still wanted a buddy to spend time with.

One day at the market, a seal popped out in front of Penguin's stall. The seal was gray and blotchy and had long, long whiskers.

“Helloo!!! Do you want to play with me?” asked the seal cheerfully.

“You are not going to eat me, right?” Penguin asked back.

“Oh, of course not,” the seal replied suspiciously.

“Thanks for telling me that I’m your dinner!” Penguin said as he grabbed his fishbread and ran home. Penguin was crackling

with laughter. He sounded like a bonfire at a nighttime campground.

Penguin decided to have a plan. He bought a seal costume online and sighed happily.

“Seal will never find me like this!” Penguin shouted with excitement. He put on his seal costume and danced and flopped around in it like a seal.

A few days later, Penguin wanted to try out his seal costume outside. He put it on and gallumped to the beach. When he got there, Seal was there. Seal asked Penguin if they could go to the movies together.

Penguin said, “Okay.”

In the afternoon, Penguin met Seal at the movie theatre, dressed in his seal costume. Five minutes later, they found themselves watching a movie. There was something

surprisingly wrong, but Penguin didn't know what. Then he realized it. They were watching the wrong movie!

“Seal! We are watching the wrong movie!”

“I was about to tell you!”

“Let's do something else.”

“Let's go for a gallump in the woods.”

“Fine.”

Seal and Penguin got on their bellies and flopped themselves into the forest in an awkward silence. They saw a beehive with a swarm of bees. The bees thought that Penguin and Seal were going to attack, so they started to sting. Seal and Penguin rushed out of the forest, yelling.

The bees stung them so much that Penguin couldn't resist scratching. He scratched so much that his seal costume ripped!

When Penguin was about to run away, scared that Seal would eat him, Seal just laughed loudly. It wasn't an evil laugh, though.

That's how this odd friendship was made.

THE END.

LIGHTNING GIRL

by

Flora

age 10

I can move as fast as lightning. For example, today is a school day, I woke up at 7:30 a.m. A second later, I was already dressed and had already finished brushing my teeth. And another 0.5 seconds later, I had already packed my bag, eaten my breakfast and was waiting for the school bus. I checked my watch and it was 1.5 seconds past 7:30am. I zipped on the school bus and went to school.

When school was over, I had a distinct feeling that someone was watching me. I rushed home. It took only five seconds, and I found a strange girl sitting on my front lawn. She was dressed all in black and had long, black hair.

She didn't even bother to say hello, she simply said, "You're recruited."

"What?" I asked. "Recruited to where?"

"You have superpowers, right?" the girl stated coldly.

"Yes, I can move as fast as lightning," I answered.

"So you're recruited to a school for kids with superpowers," the girl said, matter-of-factly.

Without another word, the girl led me into a car. On the drive to the school, I was excited about attending a school for students with powers. But the girl totally ignored me, she didn't even bother to tell me who she was. Even though we were only a foot apart, emotionally she seemed miles away.

When we arrived at the school, the girl led me inside. Only five minutes later, trouble found us. There were three goons looming around, they each were as large as a rhino. The girl muttered something under her breath, probably a curse. These guys were definitely bullies. They saw us and came toward us.

“You’re a newbie, aren’t you?” the biggest one sneered. Before I could answer, the girl stood in front of me and stood up to him.

“Dirk, go away!” she said sternly.

“Protecting a newbie are you, Erica?” Dirk said. “You could be more powerful with us.”

“Go away!” Erica said again.

“You asked for it,” Dirk growled. There was something like fear in Erica’s eyes.

Anger surged through me; I hated bullies, and definitely ones that were being jerks to Erica. I punched Dirk in the face and kicked the other two with inhuman speed. Within a few seconds, they were down on the ground.

Erica smiled and said, “That was pretty impressive.”

That was the first sign of warmth she had shown me. I couldn't help but smile back. And from that moment on, we were best friends. We trained together, played together and did almost everything together. Having Erica as my friend was the best thing in my entire life.

THE END.

TYLER, THE TIGER

by
Markus

age 9

Tyler was a friendly tiger who lived in a forest. He felt bored living alone, and tried to make friends. He met other tigers, but they were too boring to play with. All they wanted to do was sleep.

He met a bunch of lions who were fun to play with, but Tyler thought that their growls were too loud, so he kept looking.

He found some silly monkeys swinging from branches. The monkeys weren't boring, and they were not as loud as the lions, but Tyler thought that they were too silly.

Tyler decided to look for friends outside of the forest. He walked until he found a small farm at the edge of the forest. At the farm, he saw many pigs and cows. He tried to play with them, but the pigs and cows just ran away.

When Tyler saw them running from him, he thought they were just playing tag with him, so he slowly ran up close to the pigs and cows. The pigs thought Tyler wanted to eat them! They told all the animals to run.

The tiger was too far to hear them, and he thought that the pigs said that he was 'IT.' He ran faster towards them. The cows

helped the pigs to get on top of the barn. The tiger leaped and tagged one of the cows. The cow just kicked him. The tiger thought that the cow was just tagging him. So he went to tag him back.

The pigs thought that the tiger was playing Tag with them, so the pig told the tiger that if he wanted to play Tag with them, then he had to play tomorrow. Tyler went back to the forest and slept there.

When he came back the next day, he saw what looked like a pig standing still next to the barn. It looked a bit odd to Tyler because it was very still. Tyler didn't realize it was a fake. The

pigs had put it there to see what Tyler would do because they were scared that Tyler wanted to eat them.

But the tiger still tagged the fake pig. The 'pig' didn't move. "Wake up!" Tyler shouted, then tagged the fake pig. "Tag me back!" He did this over and over again.

The real pigs were on top of the barn watching Tyler try to play with their fake. They realized that the tiger only wanted to play with them. So the animals came out of hiding and Tyler laughed at their prank.

They played Tag together all day. They also played Hide-and-Seek. And Tyler even played in the mud with his new friends, happily ever after.

THE END.

COFFEE AND OJ

by

Mmesoma

age 11

Coffee

and

OT!



Part One

Once upon a time, in a small house, there lived Coffee and Orange Juice (OJ). They lived in a quaint small cottage in Avalon, California in Mom's kitchen.

Mom was a tall woman who loved her orange juice (and coffee, especially in the morning)

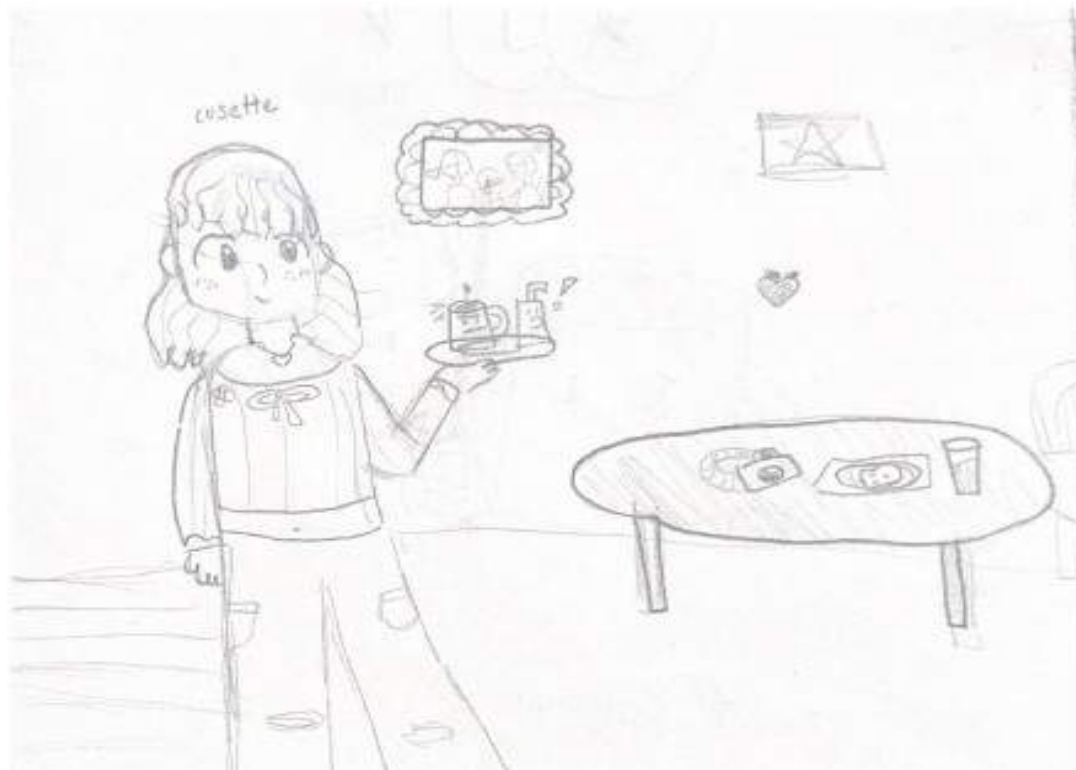
“I need some energy, Cosette,” Mom said. Cosette was Mom's daughter, who was short and sweet. She quickly ran to the drawer and got Mom's coffee and OJ. Little did she know that

Coffee and OJ were not just Mom's drinks, they had a mind of their own.

"Mom likes me better!" OJ shouted. "I'm sweet."

"No, she doesn't," Coffee muttered, reading his book, Food Expectations. "I'm the one she loves because I give her energy. Ugh," said Coffee as he watched Cosette pick OJ up and give her to Mom. Mom took a sip of OJ and gave a satisfying sigh. Then Cosette took Coffee to Mom. Mom inhaled his aroma, took a sip, and set him aside as she got up to go tend to the garden like she always did.

‘If only Mom hated you,’ Coffee thought, wishing that Mom drank him more like she used to before OJ came.



Part Two

In the kitchen, it was a brand new day, at least according to Mr. Clock on the counter, and OJ and Coffee were heard arguing on the table.

“You are the worst, Coffee,” OJ said. “You are always too energetic. I tried to sleep yesterday, but you kept waking me up!”

“Well... you are so boring,” Coffee yawned as he wasn’t fully awake to hear OJ’s argument, so OJ moved to the side of the table and slept some more on the table mat away from Coffee.

It was past one in the afternoon when Coffee woke up and realized that no one had come to get them.

“OJ, I don’t think Mom is here!”

OJ quickly got up and was confused. “Is Cosette gone, too?”

Coffee shook his head and pointed at Cosette who was quietly reading a book on her bed.

“Hmm. This is weird. Let’s go outside! Maybe we will see her!”
OJ ran out the window and Coffee followed her.

“I am not sure about this -”

“Come on, Coffee! Get outside, you scaredy-cat!” OJ shouted. “I see Mom!” OJ and Coffee ran closer to Mom and found out she was eating a chocolate bar!

“What. Is. She. Eating?!” OJ said, angrily. Mom dropped the leftover chocolate on the floor and continued her run.

“OJ! Get that chocolate bar here!” OJ put the chocolate bar in front of Coffee. “What is your name?” OJ said.

“My name is Choco the chocolate bar! How can I help you?!”

“So you are the reason why mom didn’t have us this morning? You weren’t even close to her,” Coffee shouted.

“Oh, I am truly sorry! She just bought me! You both know I’m creamy and no one can resist,” Choco announced proudly. But he was so shocked as OJ picked him up and threw him into a trash can.

“Don’t mess with Mom. She likes us both,” they both announced. Choco sank deeper and deeper into the trash.

Coffee and OJ high-fived each other and walked home. Their goal was completed.

Part Three

The duo arrived at home, and Mom came home and was making alfredo spaghetti. Mom reached into her pocket for Choco but couldn't find it. Coffee and OJ smiled because Mom looked at them and smiled.

“I have so much extra left,” Mom said. “Cosette, would you like some more?” Cosette shrugged, continuing to read her book. Mom kept the leftover spaghetti near Coffee and OJ. They ate the delicious spaghetti with their hands.

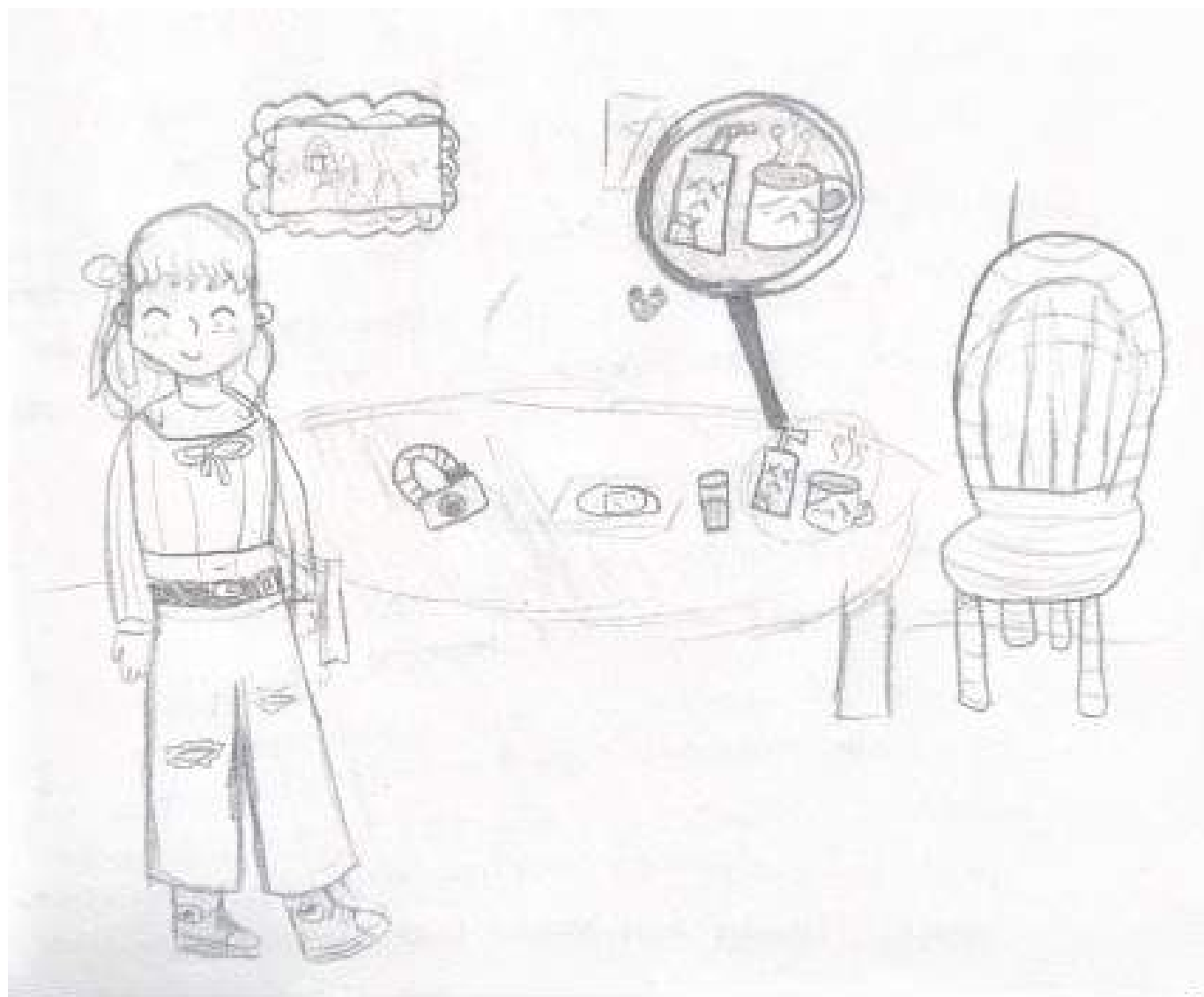
“We are a perfect family!” Coffee and OJ high-fived each other, and they pretended to high-five Cosette and Mom.

“You are a good friend, Coffee.”

“You are a good friend, too. I like you so—”

“Aw!! Thanks, Coffee!” OJ exclaimed, eating more spaghetti. “I can’t believe what happened today.”

And just like that, Coffee and OJ became friends because even when morning came, no one heard any argument.



THE END.

THE START OF A NEW FRIENDSHIP

by
Obert
age 10

One day, an elephant was walking across the beautiful grasslands in Africa, enjoying the amazing view. The elephant, named George, walked across a short stream. George was always in hopes of finding a friend. It seemed impossible for him to find any. While drinking water with his trunk, he felt a small pain on his back. He looked back and saw a mosquito.

“Eh, it's just a mosquito, not a big deal.” Then he saw it. A million mosquitoes behind it.

They all charged at George, and he blew his trunk in pain. He kept feeling one sharp pain that was stronger than every single sting on his tail. He started vigorously wagging his tail in hopes

of getting them off. But then the strongest sharp pain went away.

That was when he saw a mosquito bigger than all the others in front of him. It was hard for him to concentrate because of the itchiness. It seemed like it was a sign for the other mosquitos to stop, and they did.

The bigger mosquito pulled out a clipboard and wrote on it: Do you speak English?

George quickly nodded his head and blew his trunk.

“Hello, fellow mosquito. Would you mind getting me some medicine for these stings?”

“Sure, but that's not the point. Do you realize I just saved you from my angry crew of mosquitos from giving you a sting attack?” replied the Mosquito King.

“Yes, mate. But you see, I already have 50 sting attacks. So I would appreciate it.”

As you can see here, George was a nice little innocent elephant. So the Mosquito King and his team took George to Africa Walmart to get mosquito bite remover.

“Thanks, man.”

“No problem,” replied the Mosquito King.

Then George said it. “Do you want to be my friend, sir?”

The Mosquito King thought for a long time. He already had lots of friends, but he realized that his fellow mosquitos didn't act nice to him a lot. So he said, “Sure!”

And that was the start of a new friendship.

THE END.

PIZZA AND ICE CREAM

by

Onyeka

age 8

Once upon a time, Pizza and Ice Cream had a huge fight at school. The teacher sent them to detention where they stayed for four hours before they got to go home.

The next morning, they had another fight, and it was worse than last time because when they were playing, Pizza purposely pushed Ice Cream to the ground and Ice Cream cried and cried and cried. This time, only Pizza had to go to detention, but he was really angry.

Ice Cream joined the school soccer club and Pizza joined too, but just as they started to play, Pizza was being mean to the kindergarten kids.

Ice Cream stood up to him and said, “Do not be mean to kindergarten.”

After which, Pizza ran away from Ice Cream scared, and the kindergarten kids said, “Thank you, Ice Cream. You’re the best.”

Later that day, Ice Cream had a soccer game. He was scared.

Pizza came up to him and said, “Don’t be scared. Just do your best.”

Ice Cream was surprised. By the next game, Ice Cream was not scared anymore.

At school, Ice Cream saw Pizza being kind and nice to other kids in the school, and Ice Cream thought to himself, ‘Pizza may not be as bad as I thought.’

So he went over to Pizza and said, “Do you want to be my friend?”

And Pizza said, “Yes.”

THE END.

THE LOST AND FRIENDSHIP

by
Sophia
age 10

While I was reading my favourite book to my grandfather in his retirement home, I was interrupted by the low rumbling sounds of an old man. He sounded like he had a frog in his throat!

He rapidly slid the curtain back that divided the room. He had several wrinkles on his forehead that were partly covered with an old black hat.

“Kid, quiet down. Can’t you see I’m taking a nap!” he shouted. I didn’t reply because I was shocked. I should have told him it was rude to yell at a seven-year-old.

I continued reading louder, making monster and kitten noises for the characters, and the old man grew more irritated. When it was time to leave, I waved goodbye to my grandpa, and gave the old man a crafty smirk before leaving.

The next day, my mom took me to the mall. She told me to wait for her near the entrance so she could use the bathroom. I stood around and waited for a while, but I quickly got bored.

I spotted a big candy shop filled with sweets and lollipops, across the hall. That immediately caught my attention. Candy was my weakness. I suddenly felt my eyes wandering there and my feet followed.

Twenty minutes later, I realized I lost track of time! I ran back to where I was supposed to meet my mom, but she wasn't there. I checked inside the bathroom, but she was gone. I yelled out. I started looking for her left and right, but I couldn't find her! I started to get anxious by the second. I felt my body sweat intensely.

“Mom, where are you?!” I yelled. I sprinted back to the corner where I was supposed to wait, hoping to see her, but I didn't. No one answered. I started to sob. Tears dripped down my face until I was drenched with hot tears.

Suddenly I spotted a familiar face! The grumpy person from the retirement home. I sprinted towards him and gave him a bear hug until he fell backwards. He simply pushed me away. I wanted to scream at him for declining my hug.

“Can you help me find my mom, please?” I begged with my big brown eyes.

So, he gave in and helped me look in each store and aisle. After several hours, there was one final store left to search - a grocery store.

I felt like giving up, but the grumpy old man reassured me. After looking in five aisles I finally spotted my mom.

I ran up to her and hugged her tightly.

The next day, I invited him for ice cream and to build a sandcastle. I asked to be friends and he said, “Yes!”

I was so happy! We plan to watch the movie Up next week, which I think he’ll like because it’s about a grumpy old man.

THE END.



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