

The Tallest Flower Adventures

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

Story Studio is a charity that **inspires**, **educates** and **empowers** youth to be great storytellers.

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 March 2025 creative writing contest.

We asked young authors to write about finding the tallest flower of all, and what sorts of adventures it might lead them on. We looked for forward-thinking tales that captivated readers with dynamic plots, compelling characters, and immersive settings.



THIS MONTH'S WINNERS

- **Ages 5-9 1st Place:** Snow Shine and the Giant Flower by Julie (age 9)
- **Ages 5-9 2nd Place:** The Adventure to Skyland by Taylor (age 9)
- **Ages 10-13 1st Place:** Wise Words from a Tulip by Isla (age 12)
- **Ages 10-13 2nd Place:** The Enchanted Gift by Blake (age 11)

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Gateway to the Above

By Aaditri, age 11

"Race you to the house," Ibia shouted.

"Wait up!" yelled Ellion.

"Ugh!" Ibia responded.

The twins were moving into their new house in a village called Millbrook. They were so excited. Ibia ran past her new farm and into her house. "WHAT IS THIS?" Ibia shrieked after looking in.

"Is that glowing?" she asked. Ellion quickly ran inside. "Wow," he said.

Their mother dashed in, peeking her head through the door. She looked at the dusty table with cobwebs dangling from its sides. There was a bowl on the table, and it was glowing a lustrous colour! "It's magic," Ibia squealed.

"I'll just dump this outside," their mom said, shaking her head furiously. She splashed the ground near the garden with the contaminants. The barren land at the front of the house lit up upon impact with the bowl. It went back to its normal colour, a muddy brown, after some time.

Later that evening, Ibia and her brother went outside to water the plants in their garden. "The inside of the house is littered with cobwebs, but this garden is in perfect condition!" Ellion whispered.

Ibia wasn't paying attention to him. "It's so big", she said in astonishment.

"Yeah," Ellion snapped. He turned around to see what she was talking about. He abruptly stopped. "Is that a beanstalk?" he asked.

"No," Ibia responded. "It's a sunflower." They stood in awe of its gigantic size.

"Supper," yelled their mom from inside the house.

"Should we tell mom?" asked Ibia.

"NO," Ellion said loudly. They hurried inside and sat around an old table.

"Do you mind if I go on an adventure to explore the town?" Ibia requested.

"Later," her dad responded.

"That's never," said Ellion with a smirk.

Ibia couldn't sleep that night. Twisting and turning, she couldn't help but wonder what the clouds above had in store for her. Should I climb the flower? Yes! I will regret it forever if I don't, but my parents will never let me. They would say I would fall down and die! However, I must do this! Ibia grabbed her bag, stuffed it with a knife, and threw it over her shoulder. Then, she slowly crept down the house's creaky stairs. Opening the door carefully, she tiptoed out the door and to the backyard. She had placed a shaky hand on the stem of the ever-growing flower when she heard a noise coming from behind her.

"What are you doing here?" yelled a familiar voice.

"Ellion, I'm climbing the flower!" she said with a smile.

"If you want to climb this flower, I have to come with you."

"Fine," Ibia said with a grunt. "Hop on." Together, they slowly made their way up the vibrant flower, making progress with every pull.

Soon enough, the siblings reached the top of the flower. Using its flowerhead, Ibia quickly climbed into the cloud. Meanwhile, Ellion was stuck clinging to the stem of the flower while it was violently rocking back and forth. Ibia leaned over the edge of the cloud and extended her hand to her brother. The cloud swayed as she pulled him up beside her.

The top of the clouds was a grim place. It was a giant wasteland filled with bones and other objects of gore. The sky was dark and stormy, and the path was decorated with gems the colour of blood. It slithered away to a malicious looking hut. The home was long and wide, with splotches of red liquid pouring down its sides. They walked down the gruesome trail and to the malicious house, hoping that whoever lived inside would help them to understand why this place was so dull and scary.

Together, they went on a journey down the winding path, gazing at the bones littered on the fluffy whiteness of the cloud. They walked a long distance until they reached the hut. This shelter was the most petrifying part of their journey so far. It was not tall but very wide, longer than ten swimming pools! Ellion went to the door and rang the bell.

An odd-looking man walked to the door to look at them. His eyes were bloodshot, and he had thin yellow pupils. He swung open the door. "Visitors, come in", the person said in a screechy voice. The children hesitantly followed him inside. Immediately, he changed into a tall goat and the twins screamed. The goat laughed and charged toward them. It chased them around the house until the doors came to a stop.

"We're going to die," whimpered Ellion.

"No, we won't!" Ibia said defiantly. She grabbed her knife and tossed Ellion her backpack. She got her weapon ready, and the goat started to charge. Ibia swung the dagger everywhere while trying to dodge the animal. Finally, her small knife struck its mark, and the evil monster was destroyed for once and for all.

Almost instantly, the world around them changed from sad and gloomy to bright and happy. Ibia and Ellion ran down the new path with beautiful gems and stones as they looked back at the old house. It was now a bright mansion with pretty flowers and butterflies. Tiny gnomes came out of their holes in the ground and thanked them for destroying the beast. "Thank you thank you, but please, cut this magical

flower down after going home so no one else would destroy this place again," asked their leader. The kids told them that they would and hurried down the large flower.

The two quickly cut down the flower and ran, expecting to get in trouble for disappearing up the flower stem. Their hearts were beating as they slowly entered the house. However, it was still nighttime when they arrived! The siblings gave each other a hug, happy to be back home. They crawled into their beds and switched off the lights. This was one adventure they would never forget.

The End.

The Biiiig Flower

By Alvin, age 10

IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE WORLD GOT SAVED. By the way, the name's Jim. I was sixteen years old when I almost died and went into a world of dead-disco ball souls. If you ever find a creepy crystal, never put a shard of it into a seed. It might sound fun from this story, but trust me when I say you'd never want to be in my situation.

Anyways, as I said, it all started with the world getting saved by some dude named Luke. I remembered him from kindergarten, he was always making stuff I never understood. For example: drones (riding on them was always fun!), tasers (they hurt!), and other things I didn't even know.

I was one of the survivors of the Grey Plague. I was always waiting for any updates on the livestream of the crystal on the moon, when Luke came in and threw a hamster at it. I didn't understand at first, but then the hamster exploded into a golden light. You might think, *'Oh! That hamster's magic!'* But, I know the dude. It was probably an advanced machine of his.

Well, it did nothing. He then ran towards the camera and it flew towards the crystal and the crystal exploded. Many of the crystal shards flew down to earth. AT the time, no one knew what the shards were doing on earth.

That night, I saw a large flower out in the backyard. It seemed to pop up overnight. Its stem was larger than one of the pyramids. The tip was even higher than the moon. Since I couldn't sleep, I decided to burn some steam by climbing that thing. That was the worst idea I ever had. As soon as I put one of my feet on, I started to fall

upwards. I actually got bored from the falling. I also saw Luke on the moon hanging out with some random people.

They looked like they were having fun. I finally reached the top and I stopped falling. The first thing I saw was the two seeds that were dancing on the top of the sunflower. Yes, it was a sunflower. I have helianthophobia. That means I have a fear of sunflowers. So what? My family has a long history with sunflowers. Now, continuing with the story, I was more freaked out by the sunflower than the seeds. The seeds (not the dancing ones) were glowing bright neon yellow. They were like disco balls. All the other parts were normal except being giant. Every so often, a cloud of glowing dust went up the flower and into one of the seeds and it popped off. It turned alive right before my eyes.

A random disco ball came up to me and said, "You're not dead yet."

I was confused. "Why would I be?"

"Because this is Aileaggropper, the land of the souls," Mr. Disco answered calmly and proceeded to walk away.

He pronounced Aleaggropper like AleE-OH-grOper. I was left dumbfounded after that. I decided to run to the flower and try to get down. In short terms: It did not work. I ran towards it at my maximum speed, then leaping into the air to try and use gravity to my advantage, but as soon as I went into the exit, I flew up and landed face-first. It was then that I saw my feet. They were gone! In replacement of them were two clouds of golden dust. I tried walking a bit, but I flew up into the air.

A friendly disco ball told me about the things that replaced my feet. "It's part of your soul. If you haven't died yet, you will slowly lose your physical form and in replacement of it will be golden dust," he said. He also gave me extra information that I'm not going to talk about. I decided to ask what the dancing seeds were doing.

"They're doing a dance battle to see who will be the ruler of this dimension," Disco said. "Duh!" My brain started hurting real hard after that. I wanted to climb up the flower and smack the seeds in the face. *'Why would they do this?'* I thought. *'Why would they turn people into golden dust and disco balls?'* I marched up to the flower and flew up. I got up and smacked the seeds.

"What do you want?" said one of the seeds.

"To go back home and have justice for all the people," I said. I didn't know what I was doing. Something in me just snapped.

"Sorry, but you can't go back to the dimension of the living," the other said. You need to give us something extremely valuable," one said.

"What about service?" I asked.

"That could work," the other mused. We haven't had a guardian in 500000 centuries."

"We agree, but every day for an hour, you will look over souls and monitor their activity. You will also get to become a soul at any time. You also get a notebook that can make anything come true with certain limitations. That is all."

I got sent back to the earth with a notebook. So, that's my story.

The End.

The Magic Flower

By Ava, age 10

Once upon a time there lived a seven year old girl named Livvie who was a very cheerful girl. She loved having adventures; however, she had a very bossy brother named Jacob. Now, Jacob loved pranking Livvie, whether it was fake bugs, or putting slime in her hair. She always knew it was him, with his mischievous smirk.

On March 23rd, Livvie was woken up by a loud **BANG**. She opened her pink flower curtain and looked outside the window. It was just a small flower. The next day it was at least as tall as Livvie. She measured it and it grew about fifty centimeters more every day. On the following Saturday It was a humongous green stem! And that was just the stem!

It was a Saturday so that meant no school for her. She raced down the hallway with a curious expression on her face still gripping her teddy bear. She finally reached the door to go to the backyard but just then she heard a voice she recognized. "Livvie! You may not touch the backyard door until you get dressed and eat your breakfast!" said Livvie's mom.

"Why are you so eager to go outside Livvie?" asked Livvie's dad.

"See for yourself!" grumbled Livvie.

After she finished her oatmeal, now wearing overalls, she finally made it outside without anyone yelling at her. She looked up and the plant even looked higher than her house. *'Jacob must have done this,'* she thought. But when she took a glimpse of Jacob, she did not see the famous smirk. She ran back into the house to get her

teddy. Livvie started to climb the stem and luckily the grass was very soft, so it didn't hurt when she fell. She tried again and she was about to make it to the top when suddenly she heard, "Livvie, where are you?" She saw her mom checking the backyard door, but it seemed like no one could see the flower.

Once Livvie finally made it to the last sepal she took a breath and pulled herself up. Livvie saw clouds of every colour and every shape. Up there was a castle made of clouds. When she entered the castle all her favourite Disney princesses greeted her with a warm hug. After hugging twenty-eight Disney princesses she got to have tea in the world's yummiest cafe. As Livvie munched on her sandwich she enjoyed the cold breeze sifting through her hair. Once she was done with her sandwich, she got into a pretty dress Elsa chose for her. Livvie got her hair done into a bun by one of the guards guarding the outside of the castle. Then she decided to pinch herself and suddenly she was back on her bed. *'That's very odd,'* she thought. She looked in the mirror and saw that she was wearing the dress Elsa gave her. She had a feeling that was not a dream as Livvie got dressed for Sunday breakfast.

The End.

The Enchanted Gift

By Blake, age 11

Dylan had been counting down the days, eagerly waiting for his tenth birthday. He had heard all about the enchanted gifts other kids got. One got an endless bucket of popcorn, and another got shoes that could make you run faster than the wind! He had wanted a magical calculator that would do all his math homework for him. No more long nights spent working on multiplication!

The morning of his birthday, He rushed to the door and found a small, neatly wrapped present sitting on the doorstep. His hands shook with excitement as he ripped it open, expecting the calculator. But inside, there were just a bunch of boring seeds.

Dylan sighed, "Is this some kind of joke?" putting the seeds in his pocket and decided to go for a walk to clear his mind.

As he wandered down the street, he spotted his friend Jacob.

"What did you get for your enchanted gift?" Jacob wondered.

"Oh, just a bunch of plain boring seeds," Dylan muttered.

"It's enchanted, Dylan! It just needs time to show its magic," Jacob said.

The next morning, Jacob watched Dylan plant the seed in his front yard.

"Nothing happened," Dylan said angrily.

"Just wait, it takes time to grow," Jacob mentioned.

"I guess we'll see," he said, feeling very disappointed.

As Dylan stood up, Jacob noticed the soil moving. The ground seemed to shiver. The tiny seed sprouted before their eyes, growing taller and taller in the blink of an eye. Dylan and Jacob took a few steps back in awe as it stretched higher into the sky. It continued to grow, its petals turning into a shiny, golden sunflower that shined brighter than the sun.

Dylan's jaw dropped. "This is... Unbelievable!" he gasped, staring up at the sunflower.

"I told you!" Jacob said. "Enchanted gifts aren't always what you expect at first."

Just then, the bottom of the sunflower started to shift. The soil parted, and a glowing light started to pulse from deep within the earth. It wasn't just the sunflower that was magical. It felt like everything around them was alive with energy. Slowly, a small door appeared at the bottom of the stalk, glowing softly.

"Go ahead, open it," Jacob encouraged.

Dylan took a deep breath, his heart pounding with excitement. He gently pulled open the glowing door. To his surprise, it revealed a small staircase spiralling to the top of the sunflower, illuminated by soft, shiny lights.

Jacob looked at Dylan with wide eyes. "Are you going in?"

Dylan hesitated for a moment, then nodded. "I have to see what's at the top. It's part of the magic." And with that, he stepped forward, the staircase glowing brighter as they both climbed.

At the top of the sunflower, Dylan and Jacob found a glowing orb. As Dylan reached for it, a voice echoed, "The magic isn't what you expect, but what you discover. True magic takes time to grow."

Jacob smiled. "The magic isn't in shortcuts. It's in the journey. Growth, patience, and effort. Those are the real gifts."

Dylan paused, realizing the lesson. The magic wasn't about getting something instantly, but about learning, growing, and the time it took to reach something truly meaningful. With that, Dylan understood. The real magic had been within him all along.

The End.

Royale

By Chasdi, age 10

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Ben. He was eleven years old. He was coming back from school and he was so glued to his phone that he bumped into something. He didn't notice for a second but then he saw a green stem. He was so confused that he just went home.

He didn't think of it at first, but then day after day he started thinking about it. He was talking about it at school, and one day when he was going back home he bumped into it again.

He tried climbing it but he just didn't want to any more. He gave up. He went back home again. He thought about it alot, alot, alot, alot. And he started writing an essay about it for school. One of his sentences in his essay was, "I was going to climb to the top and really see what it was."

His dad said, "Ben, please stop thinking about that old green stem. You keep talking about it. I mean how can a flower be that tall up in the clouds, your imaginations are big, Ben."

His dad thought that he was not able to climb and his mom thought and said, "Ben, are you sure that there is a sunflower that is up in the clouds?"

Ben thought about it, maybe he shouldn't. He thought it was time to give up. But then his sister came in. And she said, "Ben, you shouldn't give up like that. I mean like, I gave up like that when I was your age and I regretted it immediately."

"But, I mean I wasn't like you when I was eleven. I'm a boy, you're a girl. I wish that I was like you but I just can't," Ben said.

Ben went to school the next day, and then he bumped into it AGAIN. Instead of going to school, he climbed it. And once he reached the top, his arms felt like he was in a dream. So many sunflowers, just up in the clouds. He pinched himself to check if it was a dream. And then somebody spotted Ben.

It wasn't a person, it was a cat. The cat asked him, meow meow meow! He didn't understand. The cat was from Australia, in the year 1973. He said what are you doing here, cat? It's Italy up here. Ben said, "Uhm pardon me I didn't get to know your name."

And the cat said "My name is Chatham, I came here when I tried to get the milk for my family."

Micheal rode over there, came here because he was stuck in the refrigerator. Then he realized this was heaven.

The End.

A Flower Grows

By Claire, age 6

Once upon a time a flower in my backyard grew all the way to the clouds. I climbed and climbed and climbed until I reached the top.

"Oh my! Are the clouds made of cotton candy?" I yelled.

I jumped from cloud to cloud until I found a chocolate river.

"Oh my! Is that a chocolate milk river?" I yelled.

I walked along the chocolate river until I found a cookie house.

"Oh, I am ever so ECSTATIC!" I yelled, "I'll never go home!"

I looked around but there was no one. The house was all for me!

"I will live happily ever after in this cookie house, next to this chocolate river, on a cotton candy cloud," I said. (And she really did live happily ever after!)

The End.

The Huge Flower

By Costin, age 10

One day there was a boy named Carl. He was ten years old and he was born in Iceland. He thought that he was going to find a huge flower.

So after days and days he went out his door and found a huge sunflower. He was so happy that he even danced around. He ran super fast inside the house and told mom and dad about the huge sunflower. But there was a twist, every night it got taller so before it got too tall he thought of an idea to spend time with it before it was too tall.

Then he got an idea. He thought to himself, *'What if I draw on it?'* So he got green and yellow crayons from inside his house and started working on some art. He drew a small heart in green on one of the petals. After a few hours, he made it to the clouds. It got very dark so he went to bed. That's when he got another idea, when it was bright again, he would make a tall house for the flower because it was turning to winter in Iceland. So he needed all the help he could get.

The sun was rising and he went to all his family member's. He got all of them together and then they started getting a lot of wood. Carl started making a work sheet for all of them. After ten minutes they were half way done. The flower could still get tall he realized so he said to dad, "Can you bring me to the only lab in Iceland?"

Dad said, "Sure sweetheart." They got in the car and started driving.

Meanwhile, mom was all by herself working. Mom called her friends over to help, so it could be easy for her to work on the tall house. After that, dad and Carl were driving with a water bucket that was poured with a potion that made flowers stay their size forever. They just went in the backyard and poured the water bucket on the flower. And mom was done. So her friends left.

The sun was starting to set so they all went to bed. Carl thought, *'What if the flower needs someone to stay near the stem of the flower?'* So he got out of bed and then he got his sleeping bag and went to bed next to the flower stem. The next morning Carl started going inside because it was snowing and the flower was safe and sound. But not after long, it started losing its petals and that was not good. Why? Because it would look ugly and the stem might break somehow.

Carl and mom were about to cry but dad was just watching TV. But then Carl heard a sound coming from his room. So he went upstairs and he opened his door to his room and could hear the flower say, "I will come back."

The End.

The Castle of Flowers

By Dylan, age 7

Down on the farm lived Hutchinson Bird, a twelve year old kid that was racking the fields to save up money to pay a loan his father, John Bird took for \$10,000 to buy their property.

Their family was in poverty so the family had to work 24/7 to afford their rent to even stay on the farm. Hutchinson hated this lifestyle. Hutchinson's mom, Margaret Bird died two years ago of pancreatic cancer and Margaret had the job as doctor so they used to live in an average sized house but Margaret gave the house to her mother.

Hutchinson exclaimed to his dad, "This is unfair. We have to do something about this!"

His dad remarked, "Soon son we will get out of this mess. Stay strong! Now go to school."

He walked onto the school bus. On the school bus he saw his friend, Mack. "Hey Hutch! I bought this flower fertilizer from a man near my house that can help you on the farm. I thought it would be really handy for you and your father."

Hutchinson replied, "Thank you so much Mack!" Hutchinson said in excitement, "I have to tell my dad about this!" as he slowly walked towards the bus's door. Hutchinson ran off the bus toward home and when he arrived his dad was not there. Hutchinson didn't know why because his dad didn't have a job and he was supposed to be plowing the fields, but decided to use the flower fertilizer on his own. He was

going to use it on his tallest plant, Big Bertha, that was already three feet tall. Hutchinson swiveled around the plant, shaking the bag to make the fertilizer fall out. Suddenly, Big Bertha started shaking repeatedly. All the leaves were turning into a gooey blackish red and it was spreading throughout the plant. Hutchinson walked back two steps scared of what was going to happen. This was not normal fertilizer and Hutchinson needed to tell his dad about it.

Hutchinson walked all across the farm running up the fields and looked to no avail. When Hutchinson returned Big Bertha grew; but not the average height it was supposed to grow instead it was touching the clouds. Hutchinson stood there in silence, trying to process what just happened. The plant looked like a gooey black throughout the entire plant and red razor sharp spiky vines wrapped throughout the gooey black part. The leaves were formed in a spiral staircase leading up the full way of the plant. Black small bubbles appeared blowing up on the gooey black part of the plant and when the bubbles popped more of the black substance whipped onto the grass Hutchinson was standing on.

Hutchinson had a choice, he decided to climb up the plant. He walked up the gooey black stairway, when he reached the top Hutchinson found himself on top of the clouds and weirdly enough Hutchinson was not falling through. There were many clouds formed into a trail leading to a mysterious looking cloud structure in the distance. Hutchinson walked down the path of clouds until he reached the mysterious building. Hutchinson looked at it and realized it was a castle made of clouds. In front of the castle was a statue of a king on his horse with silver armor on. Hutchinson walked through the gates of cloud walls. In the castle he saw a bunch of guards beside the king in the statue. Suddenly the king took off his helmet and revealed himself. It was Hutchinson's dad, John Bird.

Hutchinson exclaimed, "Dad? What are you doing here?"

John replied, "It is about time I tell you a secret. Your mom didn't die of pancreatic cancer. When I first got here there was another leader on the throne. I asked him how I could become the leader because I wanted the guards and the riches that came with it. Then he told he'd step down for a price of \$1,000,000. So that is why I married your mother so I get the money she had to be the leader of the flower kingdom. Shortly after you were born I killed your mother and blamed her death on pancreatic cancer to inherit her money. I know it's hard to take this in but now you can rule with me."

Hutchinson exclaimed back, "You killed mom? What is wrong with you!?"

John replied, "I know it's hard to take in son but don't be angry when I die you can inherit the throne, put the past behind you."

Hutchinson yelled back, "I DON'T WANT POWER I WANT MY MOM BACK! YOU TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME YOU PSYCHOPATH!!"

Suddenly two guards grabbed Hutchinson. The dad exclaimed, "I'm sorry son, I didn't want to do this so you could have ruled with me. GUARDS PUT HIM IN THE LOBOTOMIZATION CHAMBER!"

The guards rushed Hutchinson down a stairway and shoved him into a room. Just before they closed the door Hutchinson jumped out and went back up to the throne room. He shut and locked a door to the downstairs on exit, locking the guards downstairs. Hutchinson was now face-to-face with his father. Hutchinson punched him in the face knocking him back on the wall.

John yelled, "That's it!" kicking Hutchinson in the face. John then proceeded to point his sword throat and screamed, "How did I raise my son to be so pathetic?"

Suddenly, Hutchinson turned the sword from his throat and stabbed John right in the carotid artery. John dropped to the floor dead. Hutchinson then exclaimed, "Bye, bye, papa," as tears drifted down his eyes.

Hutchinson opened the door letting the guards escape to the throne room. Hutchinson exclaimed to the guards, "Hey! Remember when my dad said when he dies I will inherit the throne?"

The guards replied, "Yeah."

Hutchinson exclaimed in excitement, "I guess I'm king now!"

The End.

Cloud City

By Gozie, age 7

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Louisa. She liked flowers.

One day, she was at school and planted a flower in the garden. The next day, it was bigger than a large granola bar. She didn't think it would survive the rain, but it did. She had to go for spring break and she hoped it would remain healthy.

When she came back, it was really big and tall and she coloured not see the end of it. She was so amazed that she could not move for a minute. She put on her black shoe and she started to climb the flower. She went up so high that she found another city. She saw a sign that said, "Welcome to Cloud City." She walked around and saw a house and went inside it, hoping to rest, but when she got in, she was shocked. "Wow, these people are clouds," she said.

"Don't you know that?" One of the clouds responded.

"No," she said. "I'm not from here."

They gave her some cloud marshmallows and showed her the cloud bed.

After some time, one of the cloud people said, "I hope that you can get back down because going down is like jumping from the Burj Khalifa."

Someone tapped her shirt and said, "I want to come with you." His name was Bob. "I could help you land softly."

"Okay," said Louisa. "But let's go higher up first, I want to see where the flower ends."

So together they floated higher and found the flower top, it was beautiful and they found a tiny person taking care of the flower top.

After that Louisa and Bob went down the flower all the way down to the school garden. They found their teacher watering the flower pot. She looked up and was surprised. "How and when did you get here?" she said.

But Louisa wasn't sure if it was her or Cloud Bob she was talking to so they went to the classroom. She took off her black shoes and was happy for the day she had.

The End.

Bunbun's Adventure

By Hanna, age 11

One day on a planet far far away named Food Land, there was a bunny named Bunbun. She liked to plant flowers, especially sunflowers. But, since they take too long to bloom, she walked to the plant market and bought some super fertilizer to give to the plant.

She didn't notice that in fine print it said, "This will make your plant super tall and may have super powers, and have giant evil dogs living there. The dogs are actually the pink specs you see in the fertilizer."

Later, in the garden, she accidentally put too much fertilizer on her small sunflower plant, and the plant started to grow root legs underground!!!

The next day, she went out to water her plants and the sunflower was so tall she could not see the top!! Curiosity got the best of her, and suddenly she began levitating! The flower had a magical pull and she quickly floated to the top of the sunflower plant. When she got there, she saw giant evil dogs, who were once a part of the fertilizer. They blasted seeds at her.

Bunbun levitated down the stem and brought a sword to slice the seeds that came to her.

But the seeds were so big they were probably as big as a blue whale. Just as she thought she would get squashed, a cloud as light as a grain of sand took all the dogs away, into the galaxy.

She safely made it to the top, where there was a castle made of a trillion flowers and leaves. There was also a flower as big as ten whale sharks. Soon she got in and a very heavy giant, as heavy as ten blue whales, came and saw Bunbun so she ran.

She told the giant she was going to jump off and faked it, but the giant did it anyway so he landed face first on a sharp skyscraper and dissolved. Now the bunny has the castle all to herself. She quickly invited all her friends and they all had a party and ate weird things like sea grapes.

When the party was over, she climbed down to go to her home, so she could get her things. Before she left, she told her friends that they can come and visit any time they want.

The next day one of Bunbun's friends said that she saw some floating dogs and wanted to save them but her house had no space to keep them. She asked Bunbun to keep the floating dogs, but she said no, and later told Snowball the whole story. Snowball was like, "Oh my! You did that?!"

So they talked for hours and hours until it was midnight, then they went to sleep in Bunbun's magical castle. The next day she invited all her friends over to tell them about how she discovered the magnificent castle.

A week later, Fluff came running to Bunbun screaming, "HELP! HELP! There's a giant jumping off the tallest skyscraper in the city, what will we do?"

"Bring him up," said Bunbun, "I will deal with him." Fluff did exactly that, and the giant ran up the tall stem and fell through the clouds, and was never seen again.

The End.

The Perfect Flower

By Harper, age 10

One day at the garden a little girl was watering the plants. Her name was Presley. She wanted a beautiful and tall plant. So, she walked to the closest plant shop. She took a look around. She loved a lot of the plants, but she knew there was one that was perfect.

She was already looking around for hours and finally she gave up. She took a rest on the floor then she tripped over all the flowerpots, except one. It made her smile and say, "The perfect flower."

She grabbed it and ran to the cashier. She bought it and ran home. When she arrived at home, she planted it in the corner of her garden where it shone with the sun. It was getting late, so she went back to bed, excited for the next day.

The next day she hopped out of her bed and ran downstairs to her garden. She looked stunned when she saw the tall plant. She said, "I know I wanted a tall plant, but I didn't want it this tall!" She was stunned. Then she had an idea of climbing it. She made sure that it was strong and started to climb. She got a chainsaw and cut it down. She said, "Well, I guess that's the end of the idea of climbing it."

She went to her neighbour's house and told her everything about it, but her neighbour didn't believe her. It was getting late, so she left her neighbour's house, taking the path through the garden. She was shocked to see that the plant grew back. She thought she was going insane.

The next morning, she tried climbing it and she was able to stay on it without it breaking. She climbed it higher and higher each day. She was almost there but then she got poked by the thorns of a flower. It hurt a lot, but she still had faith she could make it to the top.

The next day she was so close she could see the petals of the rose. When she reached the top, she jumped up and down. But something didn't look right. The petals looked crouched together like they were holding on to something. She touched one of the petals and she saw it shake. She finally had the courage to open the petal up. Inside was a little caterpillar. She saw that it had a rose thorn on his body. She pulled it out and took good care of the caterpillar.

Back home, the caterpillar built a cocoon. Presley was so excited about what was going to happen next. She kept on monitoring it each hour and occasionally, it would shake.

The next morning, she saw that the caterpillar was out of the cocoon and spread her beautiful, vibrant wings. This was the perfect flower because it brought Presley the most perfect butterfly she had ever seen.

The End.

Wise Words from a Tulip

By Isla, age 12

Charlotte was known for being quiet and shy, but she aspired to do amazing things.

One day as she was fixing up her garden she noticed a peculiar sight. A tulip. Unlike the others, it stretched way up into the clouds! This was unbelievable, "Am I dreaming?" she pondered.

As days became months Charlotte watched the tulip in awe, as it kept growing taller each second. It looked like it was reaching for something amazing, something unknown and mysterious. Charlotte felt captivated by the tulips' growth, she felt a strange pull towards it, like a magnet. As time went on she began to get closer to the tulip, talking to it, knowing it wouldn't reply, but feeling a sense of security.

One night, as the sun was setting Charlotte was looking at the tulip. It was glowing with an ethereal light. It was as if the tulip was begging her to follow it.

With a mix of excitement and anxiety Charlotte reached out and tapped the light green glowing stem that reached into the sky. Then she started thinking about what people had been telling her. "Why do you reach for something if it's so close to impossible?"

Charlotte was a dreamer, and everyone she knew didn't believe that much good came out of the world. Lately her parents had been fighting and she overheard her

father saying, "Why should I even continue with this relationship if it probably isn't going to work." Charlotte spoke with him about this and he told her, "Honey, if anything ever seems unattainable, it probably is so why try?"

She felt discouraged thinking about all these memories and the horrible things people would say to her. Why should she even try going up there, what if she isn't 100% successful? Her life would fall into a downward spiral. Or so she thought. She started to wonder, *'But what would happen if I never tried anything?'* Then more thoughts popped up. *'Where will I ever get if I give up before even trying?'*

To prove to not only the people, but to her negative thoughts that trying something and failing does not define you, she climbed that tulip. As she ascended, the world below her shrunk smaller and smaller, trees becoming tiny shrubs, people becoming specks of dust. In the end, she may have been pricked by the tip of a leaf a few times, and she might have fumbled a couple of times on the way, but she sure did reach the top. Charlotte felt so accomplished.

Charlotte realized that the tulip was not only just a plant, but a symbol of her potential. It represented her ability to grow, to reach for her dreams, and to overcome any obstacle that stood in her way, big or small.

From that day forward Charlotte carried the spirit of the tulip in her heart, always striving to reach for the sky and embrace the unknown.

The tulip, a symbol of growth, hope, and the pursuit of dreams, had shown Charlotte the true meaning of reaching for the sky. It had taught her that even the tiniest of seeds can grow to something extraordinary, and with courage and determination, anything is possible.

The End.

The Mysterious Seedling

By Ivy, age 10

One day I found a seedling, picked it up and went home to plant it. I was an orphan and spent a lot of time in nature. I watched my plant grow every day by the window. I would stare at the plant as I was in my room.

After a few weeks it started to bloom. I would come out and water it every day. Suddenly it started to grow really fast and it went through the clouds. I started to climb it and I saw a paper that said, '*Hiring nannies.*' I thought it would be a perfect job for me to earn money. So I followed the address on the paper to the place and it was above the plant.

When I got there, I got hired because a little girl named Iris liked me. The next day I was given two pairs of uniforms to wear and a room for me to sleep in. Iris's stepmother was very mean, she would yell at the nannies for not doing stuff her way. When Iris's dad told me to pick a nanny to play or go out with Iris, she would always pick me, but Iris's stepmother did not like me. One day Iris's stepmother fired me, but Iris begged her dad to let me stay and he said yes. Iris was so happy all day long. I researched who Iris was and I figured out she was my biological sister. I tried telling Iris, but she wouldn't believe me at first. Soon enough, she believed me. Every time I wanted to tell Iris's dad but Iris's stepmother would block me from having a conversation with him.

I decided to tell Iris to send her dad a message. She did what I said and Iris's dad saw it and believed Iris. After he found out about that, Iris's stepmother was blamed for it and her dad and stepmother divorced. We were on an adventure to find our biological mother but there were some obstacles to pass.

Firstly, we needed to solve a trick question but luckily, I was smart enough to solve it. Next, we had to find a key to the door in front of us and my mom was behind the door. Iris found the key sticking out of a blob of slime and she picked the key and opened the door. The problem was that my mom was in a room in a gigantic mansion. We split up and my dad found my mom in a secret room. Then, we went on a vacation to Dubai to celebrate. We were going to a pool party with only the four of us. Afterwards, we lived happily ever with joyful memories.

The End.

Snow Shine and the Giant Flower

By Julie, age 9

Once upon a time, there lived a unicorn named Snow Shine. Snow Shine loved to go sledding, and one day, after eating her mom's sugar cookie candy canes, she went to Flower Hill to play.

But when she got there, she saw that something was different. The flowers on Flower Hill were supposed to be short, but one of them was very, very, very tall. Snow Shine was curious about what was above the bloom. She cantered towards the stem.

Snow Shine held the flower stem tightly with all four of her hooves, and started to climb. But before she could start moving upward, an electrical force held her hooves down and made her fall on her butt and break her arm!

'I should heal and try to climb the tree again,' thought Snow Shine.

A few days later, Snow Shine fell off the covers after a bad dream. With her cast on, she grabbed her crutches and started walking on her hind legs.

Snow Shine walked up to the tall flower she had seen on Flower Hill a few days before. The flower was not blooming. It was also very short. When she zapped the plant with her horn, a message appeared on the plant saying: "This flower blooms every twelve hours. Please wait a minute..."

Moments later, the flower started to glow an icy blue. Encased in that light, the flower changed shape and grew until it touched the clouds. The flower changed shape from a bud to a tulip shape to a tropical flower. Snow Shine climbed the flower when it was still glowing, and it let her through! Snow Shine climbed all the way up until she saw the sky darkening even more. She was reaching space.

When she passed the ecozone, a silver space unicorn with wings and multiple eyes, put a space helmet on Snow Shine and said, "Hi! Welcome to Space! I have a task for you: find the garden of mysteries and pick a golden rose for me. This is the ticket to going home!"

Snow Shine went right to work. She loomed at the map, but found nothing.

"You need a crystal near a cave to find it. The crystal will turn into a key when you reach the mysterious garden," said a voice on her shoulder. It was an alien! Before Snow shine could see it, it hopped away.

Snow Shine floated west and found a cave. *'Is it there?'* she wondered. She swooped in and saw an amethyst sitting in the ground in front of her, and picked it up.

Words began to appear on the crystal. She followed the directions of the crystal and saw a garden shape in front of her. It must be the Garden of Mystery!

Snow Shine twisted the transforming crystal on the lock and the doors opened, revealing the flowers inside. There were lilies of the valley, daisies, and roses. Snow shine then remembered the goal she was given: pick a golden flower from the garden of mysteries. But it was too dark until she saw a glimmer in the corner of her eye. It was the flower! She reached to pick it, but a force pressed her hooves down to the ground and told her to say the password to pick the golden flower.

The password was pretty simple. Snow shine got the charm in just one try. "Password," Snow Shine said, and the golden flower uprooted from the ground magically, and it placed itself on Snow Shine's hooves. Snow Shine floated to where she had ended up climbing the flower stalk.

She saw the space unicorn wait for her in a serious expression. "Thank you," she screamed at Snow Shine. "I will give you this ticket to your home."

Snow Shine thanked her, and began her journey home by riding a space taxi to a spaceport. Then, Snow Shine was taking a flight called 'Space Pony Airlines.' Plus, she was sitting with a bunch of space ponies wanting to go on a vacation to earth.

When her flight landed, she saw her mother waving at her through the window. She was transported to where it all began: the giant flower.

The End.

The Dragon in the Sky

By Justin, age 10

Steven really wanted a pet, but his mom always said no. He always asked, "Mom, can I please have a puppy?"

And she always said, "Absolutely not."

So, Steven sometimes went into the garden and cried. He felt lonely and angry. But one day, his tears fell onto the grass and flowers began to grow. One flower grew all the way to the clouds! Steven was a brave boy, so he climbed up the thick, rough flower stem all the way to the top!

When he passed the clouds he saw unlimited pets everywhere! There was a golden deer, and a flying whale! There was a massive turtle and even a glowing unicorn! Then there was a huge roar. Steven looked up further and saw a magnificent dragon! It breathed fire right in front of him! When he looked a little closer he saw it had sunlight-coloured scales and spikes on its back.

"What an incredible pet!" Steven said.

So, he climbed all the way back down the stem and ran to his mom. "Mom! Mom! Can I have a dragon as a pet?" Steven asked.

Steven's mom laughed and said, "Sure, you can have a dragon."

Steven was so excited that he climbed back up the flower stem right away. He found the dragon and yelled out, "Can we be friends?" The dragon grunted and flew closer. Steven took that as a yes and climbed onto the dragons back.

They flew down to Steven's house and the dragon landed right in his backyard. His mom looked out the window and screamed in shock!

"Hey mom! Meet my dragon!" Steven yelled, waving from the back of his new pet.

The End.

The Flower Adventure

By Kate, age 8

One day, Emerald and her younger sister Rose decided to grow a plant. Emerald and Rose both had a very big passion for nature, but their older sister Ruby did not. Together, Emerald and Rose planted a lily. Then they watered their plant.

The next day, when Emerald looked out her window, she saw her plant was growing very well! Emerald hurried to Rose's room and cried, "Rose! Rose! Rose! Come see our plant! I think we should plant some more flowers!"

Her mother called sleepily, "Quiet down please. Me and Rose are still sleeping."

Then Emerald replied, "Okay! I am taking Rose outside! I know it's still 5:00 in the morning but me and Rose are already up!"

Emerald quickly got Rose ready to go outside to check on their plant. They stepped outside and felt the nice warm breeze. They ran toward their plant which was about as tall as the clouds and the stem sparkled and in sparkling letters, it said, "Have a nice adventure!"

A leaf sprinkled some sparkling dust on them, and they became smaller and smaller until they were about the size of an ant. They had become a raindrop, and they started to float into the air.

Rose asked, "What if mom sees us? Why are we floating? Can we eat the clouds like cotton candy? Why is there so much fog?"

Emerald replied, "Whoa, whoa, whoa. One question at a time. Mom cannot see us. We are so small! We are water vapour and the heat from the sun is bringing us up into the sky. When we reach the clouds, we cannot eat it like cotton candy because clouds are just made up of water droplets in the state of gas. It is foggy because clouds are basically fog except higher in the sky. We are going into nimbostratus clouds which are rain clouds. They appear grey because the raindrops block the sun's light."

Rose was clearly distracted because she said, "I see the flower! It's a beautiful mix of rainbow colours!"

Emerald too was so distracted by the beautiful colours of the flower that she wasn't bothered by her sister not listening. Just then, Emerald spotted a bug and said, "There's a firebug!"

Rose, who was an expert on bugs, said, "That's actually a ladybug! A ladybug has a curved shell with spots, and has two tiny wings and can fly. A firebug has a round shell with different shapes. It has tiny wings but cannot fly."

The air was moist and wet. It started to rain, and Emerald and Rose were falling! As they fell, they grew back to normal size and their big soft flower caught them.

When they got inside of their house, they told their mom and Ruby who were having breakfast everything that had happened. Ruby said, "You have a silly imagination!" She walked off to her bedroom.

Their mother simply said, "What a great dream!"

Emerald and Rose smiled at each other and gave each other a high five.

The End.

The Bees

By Mitchell, age 8

One day, a boy named Bobby planted a flower in his garden. He took care of it. But he realized that the flower was growing really fast. One week later, it was already twice as tall as his house.

The roots were really big too. Bobby's neighbour, Joe, was not happy with this. The roots had grown into his garden, destroying all the crops and plants that Joe had planted. So Joe hired a lumberjack to cut the gigantic flower down. But every time the lumberjack tried to chop the flower with his sharp axe, the moment it touched the flower, they heard a loud buzzing noise that made them jump backwards.

Then, the lumberjack figured out that if he tried cutting the roots, it wouldn't make the buzzing noise. So he cut some roots. Suddenly, the gigantic flower crashed to the ground and out came a thousand giant bees! It turns out that the bees were pollinating the flower on the other side. They buzzed in confusion, but then realized what had happened.

Now Joe was really mad. The gigantic flower had landed on his garden! He turned to the lumberjack to tell him to move it, when he saw the bees. Bobby was watching everything that was happening through his bedroom window. He saw the bees charge at the lumberjack. He swung his axe, but it was no match for a thousand giant bees. The bees took him away, never to be seen again. Meanwhile, everyone ran away, but half of the bees went the exact opposite direction. Bobby was surprised that the bees could speak English, but was shocked when he heard that

they were planning to split up and make a lot of honey in different parts of the world and suffocate everyone.

The bees quickly built a giant pool and filled it with a bunch of sticky honey. Then, they flew off to another place. People were nervous to break the big pool because they knew it would flood. But then, some people came and dug a big hole next to the giant pool. Then, some strong people came and pushed the pool into the hole. Then they covered the hole up.

The bees came back. They were ready to make another flower. But first, they had to make sure that the pool was in the centre of the town. But they just couldn't find it. They were very confused. The citizens of the town watched as they argued. Then, they started fighting over each other. They started to use their stingers but then remembered that they could only use their stinger once. They fell to the ground, one by one. The people waited to see if any of them would somehow survive. But none did.

The End.

The Journey to Magnolieu

By Mmesoma, age 12

In the vibrant city of LA, Maya sat in her tiny garden, "Eliott! Come look at this!" she said, her thoughts a mix of curiosity and disbelief. Eliott, Maya's best friend, walked in with his messy, tousled, fluffy hair.

"What now?" he asked, leaning over Maya's shoulder.

"This flower is different from the other ones I've planted." Maya said.

"Yeah, right," Elliott laughed. "How tall do you think it's going to get?" he asked.

"As tall as the sun, maybe!" Maya exclaimed as laughter bubbled between them. As if the tulip responded to Maya's words, it shot up to a tremendous height. It towered above them, shining in the sunlight. **Poof!** Shimmering blue dust fell out of the tulip. The bud tilted, then opened its tiny petals.

"What is going on?" Elliott said,

But before Maya could reply. **Voom!** They got sucked into the tulip.

"Ah!" they screamed.

Maya looked to her arm and saw a tiny tulip crawling on it. "Elliott, look!"

"What is that?" Elliott asked as the tulip opened its pink buds.

"Hi! I'm T! Welcome to Magnolieu!"

Maya and Elliott looked around, Magnolieu looked like a landfill. "Where's everyone?" they said.

"I'll tell you" T said, "Magnolieu was a beautiful place. The songs were heavenly. One day a rose betrayed our city, She was— The Black Rose. She overthrew our king, made us sell our crops to foreigners and wiped out our civilization as we know it." T stared into Maya eyes. "Legend says that foreigners from down below will stumble upon one of our "growth" seeds, enter Magnolieu, find the staff and maybe restore it to its former glory. Together, we will go to look for this staff!" T exclaimed.

"Elliott. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Maya exclaimed.

Elliott nodded. "Let's do this team!".

T held their hands and they all flew up into the hazy skies.

They stopped at a quaint town named Montrevelle. "Here, we will find the magic staff," T said eagerly.

"Excuse me, may I come with you?" Elliott, Maya and T turned back to see a shy rose with the deepest black eyes. "I'm R and I know many things about Montrevelle! It's my hometown."

"Sure!" T exclaimed, skipping all the way to the Staff field.

"Hello!" The merchant exclaimed.

"So many staffs," R whispered, as she was drawn to a black staff with swans on it.

"Be careful, R! This could be what we are looking for," Elliot said. "Excuse me, how can I get this staff?" he asked.

"If you can hold it then it's yours."

Maya stretched her arms and held the staff, the merchant with a smile on his face nodded approvingly, and they went on their way.

Elliot glanced at R. Her fiery red eyes were gleaming at the staff. "Hey, R, what's on your mind?" Elliot asked.

"Nothing, just planning ahead for our trip to the Black Rose's castle." Elliot thought he noticed something weird but brushed it off.

"We are here," Maya yelled, as she went ahead to ring the bells of the intricate Victorian castle.

Elliot looked around. "Where is R?" he asked. No one knew.

Suddenly the doors of the castle opened up.

"Recognize me? The not-so-tiny silhouettes said before stepping out of the dark.

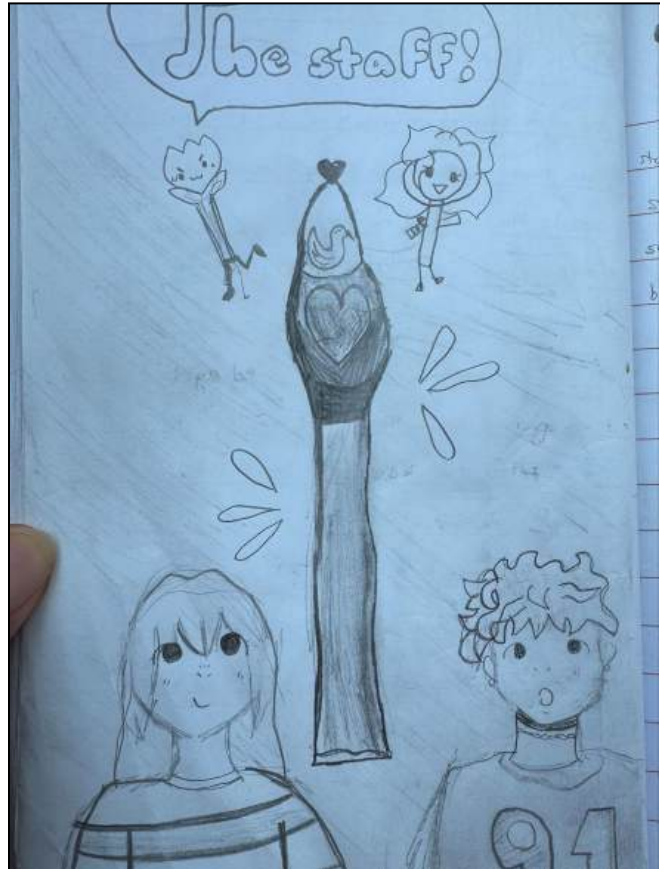
"R," they all said in shock.

"You are the Black Rose?" T asked, looking traumatized.

"Yes, I am."

T and Maya shared a look, and brought out the staff, "Arise seeds of..."

But the Black Rose lunged at T, knocking the staff off. "You can never stop me," she screamed.



Then the staff began to shake and suddenly one seed popped out.

"Quick, find a hole," Elliot screamed. More seeds started popping out.

"No, no!" the Black Rose shouted, lost in despair.

Elliot walked over to her, "You know, R, you can always make things right," he whispered.

"Never," she said, running away.

The beautiful city of Magnolieu sprouted back to life. Little daisies were dancing in the light.

"Thank you, Maya," T said, tearing up. "Now that the flowers are restored and black rose is gone, everything will be as it once was."

We said our goodbyes and we climbed down.

"That was crazy," Elliot said.

"But it was unforgettably weird," Maya said as they went about their day, trying best to ignore the tulip in the garden.

The End.

Where's My Bumblebee?

By Nolan, age 13

Tommy was a normal fourth grader. He talked like one, acted like one and was most definitely the same size as expected of fourth graders. However normal, Tommy had a not so normal pet. His pet, a bumblebee, was named Gruffy. Gruffy hummed and flew just like any other bumblebee, except he had a very special trait that distinguished him from the rest; he was ginormous! With a wingspan of five feet, he definitely wasn't an average bumblebee. Wherever Tommy went, Gruffy did too.

However, today, Gruffy was nowhere to be seen. Tommy, devastated by Gruffy's disappearance, had sprinted towards his mom, who was in the garden chopping up weeds.

Soon, Tommy discovered another horror; his mom was out cold on the damp grass of the garden. Tommy had begun to scream at this exact moment. Perhaps it was because of the sight of his unconscious mother. Perhaps. But, despite the horror of unconscious mothers, it was most likely because he spotted an extraordinarily humongous flower in the middle of the street. This flower extended all the way through the clouds, and only a small portion of one its gigantic petals was visible in the cloudy sky. It was almost as if the flower was reaching for the heavens, its stem stretching straight up into the sky.

Tommy, through all this panic, finally realized where Gruffy was. If there was a ginormous flower, of course a ginormous bumblebee would head there. Tommy was going to get Gruffy back; by going up.

After what seemed like tens of hours of climbing using his dad's climbing gear, Tommy had reached the summit of the stem but had yet another obstacle to overcome; the petals. The monstrous pink petals expanded wide and far across his town. Upon deciding the best practical option (in his opinion), Tommy began to chew at a petal believing that in a matter of time he would poke out of the other.

Eventually, just as Tommy had started to feel ginormous toothaches, the petal's thick layers had given way. Tommy, excited and proud of his work, scrambled up the hole he had made. Then, Tommy came to the realization that he forgot he was extremely allergic to pollen.

Soon, his whole face was covered with runny snot, and his eyes were so swollen it seemed like he had stuck them into a hive. Next, the coughing and sore throat arrived, and it was so unbearable that Tommy had fallen unconscious.

However, Tommy was abruptly snapped awake when he felt incredible pressure against his body. Squinting to look around he realized he was in the air. He had fallen off the flower. Frantically screaming he cried for help even while knowing it was pointless.

Just as Tommy closed his eyes accepting his fate, a miracle had occurred. Gruffy, fat and full of pollen, swooped in and had picked up Tommy with his hairy legs. Upon landing, Tommy and Gruffy both knew this was their greatest adventure yet.

The End.

Susie and the Storm Queen

By Olivia, age 5



Chapter One

One day, Susie was planting a seed for her garden. She knew it needed sun and water, so she gave it lots to grow. Then she thought about her dream of flying and she said, "I wish I could fly." All of a sudden, the plant grew so tall and shot right up to the sky and through a cloud! Susie jumped on each leaf until she reached the top. When she got to the top of the flower, she realized the flower had stopped in the middle of a cloud.

Chapter Two

Susie began to jump off the leaf, she thought she would land on a cloud, but she actually started to fly! She looked around and saw hundreds of rainbow butterflies around her. She couldn't believe her eyes. "Am I dreaming?" she said, then she pinched herself. "Ow... Definitely not a dream!"

Suddenly, she saw a baby butterfly. "Ahh!" Susie was shocked because the butterfly was turning black. She watched the butterfly slowly turn into black sand. Susie started to feel scared. "What is happening? Eek!"

Chapter Three

Susie knew something must be happening. Then she noticed all the other butterflies started to turn black too, until Susie realized she was the only one left in the clouds. She flew around, and in the clouds, she saw an evil queen. Her name was the Storm Queen. She was very naughty, she never wanted sun or rainbows, she always wanted it to be dark, rainy and stormy.

When Susie peeked down under the clouds, she noticed the black butterflies were making a storm. "Oh no, my flower!" she said. Susie flew under the clouds and saw her flower was shrinking down into the pot again. "How am I ever going to get off the clouds now?"

Chapter Four

Susie closed her eyes and whispered to the butterflies, "We need you to bring back the sun and gentle rain, to help my flower grow again and get your rainbow colour back!"

Then, it was silent, the butterflies squeaked, "Susie we need your help, you need to blow these clouds away!" So, Susie blew the clouds. The butterflies turned back into rainbow butterflies. The Storm Queen was surrounded by butterflies and now the Queen was the one turning into black sand.

The Storm Queen became a dark cloud and Susie blew her away. The butterflies were back to normal, and Susie's flower came back into the cloud. Susie climbed back down her flower.

Chapter Five

When she got back to the ground, she said, "Ahh was that all a dream?" She pinched herself again and realized it wasn't. "I think I want to do that again! Flying is just as fun as I thought it would be."

The End.

Steve and the Tall Flower

By Onyeka, age 9

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Steve. He lived with his family in downtown where it was weird. Steve had to go to boarding school. He didn't like it because the lunch was really, really bad.

He had a full day starting with gym, which he really liked because he was really good at basketball and he had a game with the neighbouring school and this time they won the game.

When they got back to school it was time for science and they had a project to plant a seed and use a special water to make it grow. The next day Steve went to the garden to check on his plant, but he was surprised when he saw a shadow talking to one of the plants. He looked like he was cursing it, but before he could say anything, the shadow ran away and the plant started to grow really, really tall.

Steve decided to climb to the top of the flower. When he got to the top, he met some very angry people and they grabbed him and threw him in jail with lots of guards outside. Steve said, "Wait why... What did I do?"

Someone came to the door, he was the king. "Are you okay?" he said and he asked the safety police to let Steve out. "There's a bad guy in our city," the king said, "But it's not you."

The king took Steve home and they went to bed.

The next day Steve woke up to a loud noise.

"The king is not breathing. What do we do now?"

Steve thought he saw the shadow smiling. It said, "I made the king gone, now I can become king ha ha ha ha!"

Steve ran after the shadow but he hit his head and fell down.

Wait, the king is alive. He came to Steve and woke him up and the king said, "Hi, how are you?"

Steve looked up and said, "Who are you?"

"Oh I think he's lost his mind," the king said. "You are Steve."

"Steve, who is Steve?" he said, still confused.

Just then they saw the shadow. "Quick, grab him," the king said, but he already jumped down.

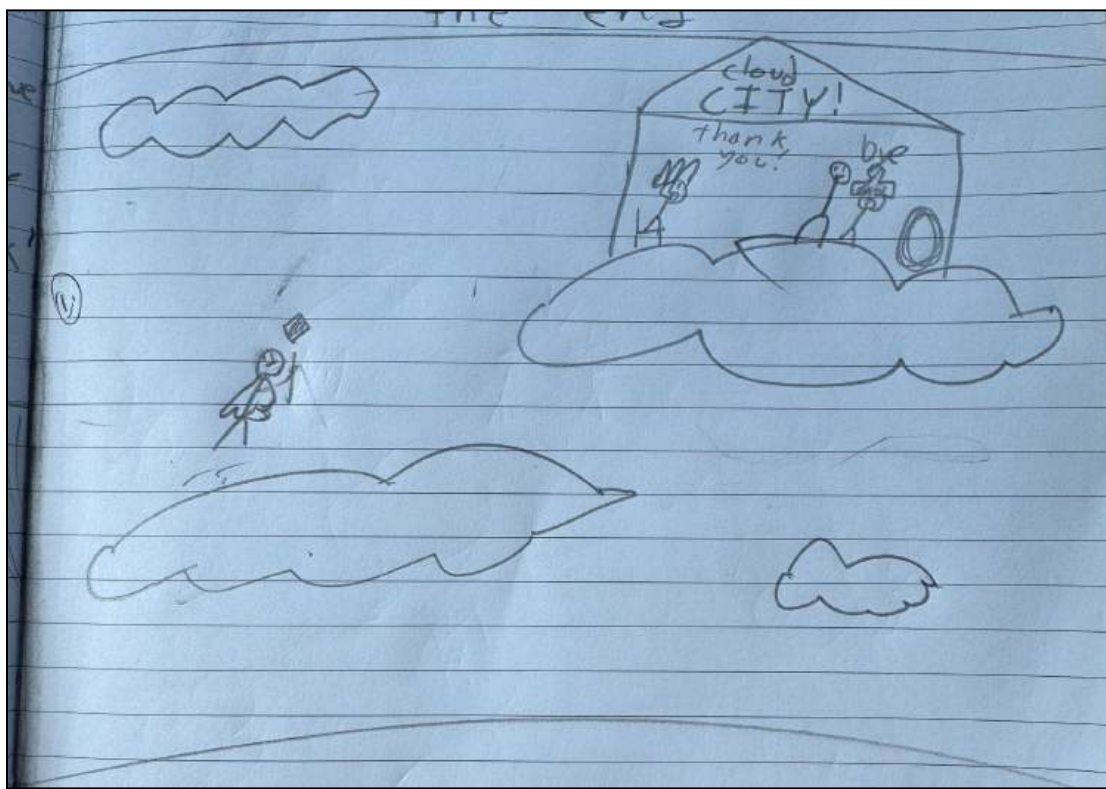
The king and Steve jumped on a moving cloud and chased after the shadow with his guards.

"Oh no, the cloud is going to crash. Hurry, we have to jump down."

"Did anyone see him? Where is the shadow?"

"I think I saw him head to the bank headquarters," said one of the guards.

"Okay, let's go get him." They ran towards the bank and Steve and the King cornered the shadow near the safe. Steve got out his taser and shot it and the shadow disappeared.



"Yay!" the king said, "Let's party." But the king looked around the city and said to Steve, "We will need to rebuild Cloud City again because all the chasing left it destroyed."

"Okay," Steve said, "Let's rebuild Cloud City."

After a week they were finally done. The king thanked Steve for helping him rebuild Cloud City.

Steve said, "I'm always happy to help, bye," and he climbed on the cloud and went back to his school when he got back down.

His friend Rico said, "Hey Steve, I haven't seen you in like three days."

But it felt like fifteen years. Steve was happy and he had a very good night's sleep filled with memories of Cloud City.

The End.

Aller and the Bear

By Pascha, age 5

There is a black wolf with white eyes. His name is Aller. He is scary and fat. His favourite foods are flowers and rabbits. He is in his cabin. Aller is starving. His tummy is growling and the sun is shining. There are blue birds chirping outside.

He sniffs around for some rabbits. He finds rabbit poo in the grass. The rabbit poo is circled and it is brown. He follows a grassy trail. He goes sneaking to a white medium rabbit. The white rabbit is eating green leaves on green branches. Aller catches and kills the rabbit with his teeth. He brings it home and takes out all the bones from the rabbit.

Aller looks around and smells for some flowers.

He runs into the forest and growls at a black bear because the bear smells like sweet flowers. Aller follows the bear to the bear's home. It looks like a cabin, and the cabin is made out of wood. The bear has a big tall sunflower that goes up to the sky in front of his house. The flower is six thousand feet high. Aller can't see what color the flower is because it is too high.

Aller wags his tail. He pulls the flower out of the ground with his sharp teeth. Green juice comes out of the stem. The juice tastes like salty leaves. It takes one minute for the flower to get down. He wags his tail again. The flower is electric violet and has about twenty-five petals. He chomps off the flower part. A soft breeze blows.

It suddenly gets foggy. When he takes out the flower, the petals push the clouds down. Then the bear comes out of its house. It couldn't really see because of the fog.

He doesn't like fog. The bear starts chasing the wolf and tries to eat him because he made it foggy.

Aller runs as fast as he can to his house. He brings the flower home in his teeth. The seeds fall out of the flower. It is hard for the bear to catch the wolf because it's all foggy. Aller shuts the door so the bear can't get in. The bear goes back home because he can't find the wolf.

Aller takes the electric violet coloured petals off and puts them on top of the dead rabbit, and then he puts the sunflower and the rabbit on the hardwood floor. He has drool coming out of his mouth. Then he slurps up his yummy dinner and then he lays down in a wood bed. He sleeps in bed and snores.

There is a thunderstorm and it rains. There are a thousand seeds in the flower. At night then the seeds grow and grow and grow right in front of Aller's door. It looks like a huge garden. Then the next day it is still raining. He looks outside and suddenly sees something. He sees those flowers and takes one each day. And then he looks for another rabbit.

The End.

The Flower Growing Story

By Scarlett, age 11

One day in Arizona a young girl named Lily went to the flower shop and bought a random box of flower seeds for a game. She planted the flower seeds without reading the instructions. She thought it would be more fun this way. She also planted other plants since she had an extra pack of seeds, and she had some time.

Lily took really good care of the flower she bought. The next year one of the flowers was taller than her mansion and she was so worried that she regretted not looking at the tag. She called her neighbor Charlotte. Charlotte's job was to be a researcher, so when she saw the flower, she gasped, and her eyes became bigger for a second.

They took days and days and they couldn't figure out the mystery. When it was Lily's birthday March 17th her family and cousins came over to celebrate her birthday. Lily's younger cousins were very interested and kept asking questions. Lily didn't really want to tell them the real story or else she sounded silly. So she said that that will be the world's biggest sunflower. After the party and everyone left, she went to sleep and thought why did she not read the tag. Then she remembered that it was going to be fun and she was regretting it.

Two months went by and Lily was making a strawberry banana smoothie. When she finished making the smoothie she went out to the backyard to continue solving this mystery. Lily said that her smoothie was delicious and continued drinking while solving this mystery. When she was walking back to her giant plant she tripped on a

rock and spilled a little bit of her smoothie on the giant plant and her other plants. So all of them turned into little babies. So now there is another problem, the problem is that now all her plants are too tiny.

Lily called Charlotte back and she was surprised that they were gone, but Lily had to tell Charlotte that all the plants shrunk. Charlotte giggled for a minute and said, "Oh my gosh!" Charlotte asked how Lily made it shrink in the first place.

Lily said that she tripped on a rock. Charlotte thought of adding a little bit of water to let it grow a little or else it would be too big again. So, they tried doing that for a week, but it did not work. The next week she tried having a break until the plant got too big again. She tried adding a splash of the smoothie and she thought it wouldn't work, but in a month, it turned back to normal and Lily was happy and said that she was never going to do that again.

The End.

Race to the Sun

By Shumaio, age 13

When the early morning awoke the colony of friendly aphids, Pip and Doodle decided to get up and explore their vibrant backyard of wonders before the rest.

As Pip swam through the weeds and grasses, Doodle found it hard to keep up. Until- "Oh my gosh!" Pip gasped and for once seemed to hold her tongue as they stood beneath the tallest thing and tried to see the top. Was it the sun? The massive yellow bulb of light seemed so mesmerizing that the young aphids were too stunned to speak. But wait, was that a ladder to the sun? The thick green stem with lush leaves seemed to lead them to the massive orb.

"We need to tell your father," Doodle says between gasps of air.

Pip's father, the leader of the aphid colony, was the one to make the decisions and ideas as their aphid family always looked up to him. Pip decided that telling him would be a good idea before other bugs took the sun.

Back at their home, Pip and Doodle spewed out the idea to others about reaching the sun, some seemed unsure and others excited for a new adventure but Pip's dad was the obvious deciding factor. "The view up there must be the best view ever!" Pip gushed.

"Yeah, and the leaves! They are so yummy, I bet we can eat our way up!" Doodle added.

As the rest of the Aphids telegraphed their thoughts Pip's father was the most unreadable. "Well," Pip's father replied, "I guess we could," as the entire colony erupted with cheer.

And just like that, their race began.

After the night of planning and a hearty old dance, the aphids fell asleep, except Pip who was so excited she spent the entire night dreaming about their race tomorrow.

And soon, the morning arrived. "Okay everyone, let's tidy up and get started!"

Soon they arrived at the ladder to the sun and started climbing and well, eating the leaves. "Come on doodle catch up, we are nowhere close to the sun!" Pip yelled in an irritated way.

"Coming," Doodle says although it was completely untrue, Doodle was just there for the food.

As the day grew older Pip began to feel tired, little did she know that there might be other unfriendly guests in the way.

"Okay guys, let's rest," Pip's dad yelled to the colony.

Pip and Doodle were looking around at the beautiful afternoon scenery, but wait, there was a red round shape heading towards them as Pip tensed up, it couldn't be, right?

Unfortunately, Pip's predictions were very much correct, it seemed like the world stopped. A ladybug, its seven sleek black dots and a murderous look the ladybug was creeping up on them! "Everyone watch out!" Pip yelled but it was too late, the ladybug was already at their legs.

"Wait!" Doodle shouted at the ladybug. "What if we did a dance battle, the winner gets to earn the sun, the loser has to go back!"

As everyone turns their head around with pure confusion Pip wants to climb into a hole of dirt. Miraculously, the ladybug seemed to consider and agreed that maybe dancing was better than eating these annoying aphids and nodded.

The ladybug started with its cool moves and combos, Doodle and Pip were about to clap at the end but realized that they shouldn't. Sure the Aphid can have some cool moves, but nothing like the ladybug.

And then just like that Pip got an idea and whispered it to their group. Finally, it was their time to shine. At the start, Pip was there dancing alone but then her idea came to life. The entire team started dancing and smiling and giving it their all. And finally, Doodle ended with a great flip and it was done. The ladybug was shocked and let them go on. The breathless aphids erupted into a cheer and continued on their race.

Finally, it was time they could see the end. As Pip took her first steps on the magnificent thing she realized it wasn't at all the sun. It was the tallest sunflower of all above the clouds.

Pip was devastated until Doodle came. "Hey, this is it?" he asked, Pip looked at the ground and nodded.

"No it isn't Pip, look at how much we climbed," as they looked down and everything looked small. "And look at how much we accomplished," he said while Pip broke into a smile, "And look at how much I ate," he said, dramatically patting his belly as Pip laughed.

"And look up," she whispered.

The night danced in with the beautiful sky, the stars flickering together, and the cheesy moon shone. Pip and Doodle looked up and saw the beautiful shades of blue and black, the perfect night sky. How does it feel, to be on top of the world?

The End.

The Adventure to Skyland

By Taylor, age 9

Sam was an eight year old boy who lived in a cottage with his family. It was just him, his mom and dad, in a big cozy cottage beside a beautiful farm. On this farm, farmers grew sunflowers that created a lovely yellow field. One night, a garden fairy was bored and decided to cast a spell onto one of the sunflowers. Suddenly, the plant grew ten times the size of the barn.

When Sam's family woke up, they saw this masterpiece. They were all very excited about this flower, but the parents were too old to climb it and see. They sent Sam by himself to hopefully discover what was at the top. Sam packed some snacks, a walkie talkie to contact his mom and a sword for protection. He began his journey, saying bye to his mom and dad. He was excited but also scared as he started to climb.

He was climbing for about fifteen minutes when he saw a sign that read, "Skyland, you have reached the middle of nowhere." He opened a floating door and stepped onto a cloud floor. He was smack in the middle of Skyland. Skyland was exactly what you would imagine it would look like. It was a city made of clouds. There was a hotel of clouds, shops, houses, but no roads. I mean how could you get a car into the sky? Sam discovered that everyone in Skyland travelled by UFOs. He walked to a nearby UFO shop where he met an unusual looking salesman. This was with no man, but an alien.

The alien with the name tag, Zoom, said, "Hello, what are you looking to buy today sir?" Zoom had three eyes, light blue skin and was six foot five. Sam did not know that aliens could be so tall.

"Can I borrow a UFO?" asked Sam. As Zoom began to show Sam the selection, Sam remembered he had no money. His only option was to steal the UFO and return it once he was done, of course.

Sam took the UFO to the sky hotel offering free one-day stays for visitors. There was a problem though because once Sam parked his UFO in the hotel parking lot, he couldn't find it anymore.

He went to room 208 to figure out what to do. While he was in the room, he started to get hungry. He decided to go to the restaurant near the hotel. When he got there, he saw that Zoom was inside the restaurant! When Zoom saw him, he started chasing him, yelling for him to give him back his UFO.

Sam ran quickly to the hotel and ran upstairs to his room, shut the door and waited to see if Zoom followed him. Sam was very tired, so he took a nap.

When he woke up, he thought Skyland was a very dangerous place and he also missed his mom and dad. He searched for the UFO and luckily found it. He returned it to Zoom, found the plant and started to climb down it. It took fifteen minutes to climb down the sunflower plant. He went back home happily to see his parents to tell them all about his sunflower, Skyland adventure!

The End.

Winnie and the Magical Wand

By Timothy, age 7

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Winnie. She was walking around in her garden that she lived in, and she decided to plant a sunflower.

While it was growing, she used her magical wand to pretend that she was going to make it very tall, and then she accidentally pressed the button of the magical sprinkles!!! She was standing next to the flower and it started to grow very, very tall and very, very fast!!

She was relieved that she was not over it, and she jumped for excitement but then the first leaf grew right under her when she jumped, and her magical wand made the flower get sticky and she got stuck to it.

Then, when she reached the top she saw a bird land on a magical cloud, it landed on it without falling. Winnie used the power of her magical wand, which by the way makes magical food, to unstick herself from the leaf. After that, she leapt off into the magical cloud, and she walked around looking at the view and then she crashed into a giant's invisible castle.

At that time, a giant heard a thump from outside, so he went to check on the other side of the door. But, he didn't see anyone outside, because Winnie was so tiny. Then Winnie secretly came into the castle, the giant saw her and screamed, "Awwwwwww!!!!!"

Winnie said, "Don't be scared, my name is Winnie, what is your name?"

The giant answered in a big low voice, "My name is Giant."

Then Winnie said, "I am not going to hurt you, but are you going to hurt me?" And then she screamed, "AAAHHHHHH!!!" After she screamed, she said, "Well, are you going to h-h-hurt me?"

"No, but I can help you get back to your home."

So, she said, "Yes please!"

The giant helped her in a dangerous way, with his finger he flicked her down. Then, she was screaming, "AAAHHHHHH!!!"

She landed on the bottom leaf of the flower she planted. She was relieved that she didn't fall on the ground. But the funny part was when she jumped for excitement again, the leaf cracked and she started screaming, "AAAHHHHHH!!!" again, and then this time she landed on the ground safely back on her feet. At that moment, she started kissing the ground!!

The End.



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