Corn Maze Discoveries

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

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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 November 2025 creative writing contest.

We asked young authors to write about a mysterious discovery in a corn maze this month. 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:**
  The Corn Maze by Alison (age 9)
- **Ages 5-9 2nd Place:**
  Jane, Milly, and the Corn Maze Dragon by Brianna (age 8)
- **Ages 10-13 1st Place:**
  The Unfamiliar Familiar by Alice (age 13)
- **Ages 10-13 2nd Place:**
  Lily and the Corn Maze by Rachel (age 10)

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The Unfamiliar Familiar

By Alice, age 13

“Salem!” I yelled. “Salem Daniels, you get back here!”

Fall is fun, for the most part. Warm candles, fiery leaves, Polaroid pictures and cute overalls to flaunt. No critiques there. However, all the seasonal activities I’ve somehow convinced myself to book really dampen my mood when the dates actually arrive.

Pumpkin picking, apple bobbing, and now, corn mazes.

Corn mazes with a side of runaway daughter.

Salem is five, but quick for her age. I'd barely noticed when she slipped away from me and towards the center of the maze. I rack my brains for which turn to take to hopefully find her again, when I’m suddenly knocked onto the ground by an invisible force. Stunned, I watch as the fields around me flash into different colours. The yellow masses turn to green, then yellow again in second-long increments. Then green to yellow to green to yellow again and again. I close my eyes to the suddenness of it all. When I regain the courage to open them again after what seems like an hour, I find my surroundings looking exactly as it did before what happened, though the air carries a hint of smoke now. I choose to ignore the oddities of what just happened. Who knows how far Salem could’ve gotten in the minute that I had my eyes closed!

Onwards, I walk, yelling her name along the way. After a few metres of this, I find that I’ve reached the center of the maze. I spot a young woman, perched silently on the grass in pale florals, reading a book as ladybugs rest in her wavy brown hair.

“Hi, miss. I’m just wondering if you’ve seen a little girl along the path? My daughter ran off when I wasn’t paying attention, and now I can’t seem to find her!” I say.

She replies with an accent of honey and sun. “Why, I haven’t seen anybody.”

“Oh, that’s alright. But thank you.” I start to leave in search of her again, when her voice halts me. “You should've kept a keener eye on her. My mother actually lost me in this exact corn maze, almost 26 years ago now. Never saw her again after that.”

“Oh I am so sorry to hear that miss, but I really do have to go now.” I’m five steps away when she decides to speak up again.

“How old did you say she was?”

“Just turned 5.” I don’t look back as I talk.

“That’s the same age I was when she left me here.”

I walk away. She stays reading her book, turning the page gingerly.

I’ve been yelling my daughter’s name for four hours, through the exchange of blazing sun to cool dusk. All without a response. It’s only then that I realize that the glint in the strange reader’s brown eyes was the same as the wonder in Salem’s pupils.

The End

The Corn Maze

By Alison, age 9

The sky was getting dark. Gabriella and Sloane, two friends, stared at the walls of a corn maze, unsure which direction to go.

At first, Gabriella didn't want to go to the corn maze, but Sloane insisted on going.

Suddenly, there was a crack, followed by a scream, Sloane thought she recognized the scream, but then ignored it. Sloane looked behind her, nobody.

"Gabriella," Sloane said in a shaky tone, "What was that?" No answer, Sloane looked around her, that was when she realized a problem, Gabriella was gone.

Sloane could hear the crunch of leaves below her as she ran. She tried to think of where Gabriella would go, but no thoughts came. After a couple minutes of running, the path led to a steep hill, Sloane didn't see the hill and went sprinting down. As she reached the bottom of the hill, mud covered the path and Sloane skidded to a stop.

She saw rounded footprints in the mud. Her friend was wearing round shoes, they must be hers. She followed them to a clearing. Suddenly, someone called her name, but no one was there. Then she heard it again. "Sloane!"

"Who's there?" Sloane shouted many times, but no answer. Sloane was getting impatient.
"WHO IS THERE??" Sloane bellowed.

Finally, after a moment, someone spoke, “Don’t you recognize my voice? It’s me, Gabriella.” She hissed, Sloane gasped she had found Gabriella.

“Where are you?” Sloane asked. She looked around her but didn’t see anyone.

“I’m on your left, in the vines,” Gabriella replied. Sloane turned to her left and saw Gabriella. Sloane ran towards her, “Do not —” Gabriella started, but was abruptly cut off. A powerful gust of wind ripped the vines apart, and pushed Sloane into the vines with such force that she hit a huge rock and collapsed, unconscious.

Sloane was unconscious for an hour, and Gabriella couldn’t wait anymore. She kicked Sloane in the shoulder. “Who kicked me?” Sloane slowly sat up. “Why did you do that??”

“No time to explain,” Gabriella snapped. “Open the pouch hanging from my neck, you’ll see a knife. Then, cut the vines, because they already grew back.” Sure enough, as Sloane looked at the vines they already regenerated.

“Why can’t you do it?” Sloane asked, then realized that Gabriella’s arms were tied tightly to the vines. It took Sloane an hour to cut through the vines and free Gabriella. Sloane noticed that there were still marks on Gabriella‘s arm, but she didn’t notice.

They started walking in a random direction and ended up in the middle of the maze! There was a tent, and inside the tent were two sleeping bags. Sloane suggested getting some sleep and Gabriella agreed. As Sloane lied in her sleeping bag, she wondered what she’d be
doing that moment if she hadn’t come to the corn maze.

When Sloane woke up, she saw Gabriella examining a note, “Where did that come from?” Sloane asked.

“I found this on my sleeping bag this morning,” Gabriella explained. “It shows us how we can get out. This may be our only chance.” She read from the note:

> Hello, I noticed that the two of you wanted to leave this corn maze, so I left a note of how to exit this corn maze. First find the road covered in mud, keep walking straight until you see a pond. Turn right, then keep straight.

When Sloane finished reading, she motioned for Gabriella to get ready, and they set off. It was not as hard as it looked. When they reached the exit, she saw that their parents were waiting in the car, with a worried expression.

“Do you remember the note?” Sloane asked Gabriella, stopping at the exit.

“Yes.”

“Tomorrow, let's come back to investigate, and for now, let's go home.”

“Agreed,” Gabriella said, nodding. They hugged goodbye and hopped into their cars.

As Sloane sat in her car, she thought she saw something move in the maze. “I’ll be back,” She whispered.

The End

The Corn Maze Nights

By Alvin, age 12

I entered the maze. Or at least the part where you can buy tickets to enter. The air was frosty and it was starting to turn dark. The maze had looming shadows and they were casting all over the place. I bought the ticket and entered the mouth of the maze. There were noises all over, but one stood out. It was the sound of a thousand lungs breathing. Suddenly, a rustle sound was right next to me. I jumped. A vine grabbed me and I was trapped. I screamed. My friend came out of his bush monster costume and said, “Ha ha, you owe me five bucks!”

That was the last time I went into a corn maze.

Today, I'm at another maze, but this time I am working at it. It was the only job that would pay seven-thousand dollars a night. Nobody wanted the job because all the workers went missing. It probably means nothing. Right? I need it anyway to pay off my twenty-one thousand dollar debt from too many cans of beans. I’m going to be the night guard to make sure that no one sneaks into the maze. I went in and the gates locked so people couldn't go in... ...nor out. The gates were made of pure metal and they were maybe ten metres tall? The cornstalks were as hard as steel and the same height.

I went into my office and there was a stained note that said “SURVIVE THREE NIGHTS”.

NIGHT ONE

I went on the cameras and stared into the screens. At 00:23, the mascot went into the staff room to put away his costume when something grabbed him and he disappeared. I went outside and into the staff room to see what happened to him.

I arrived at 00:31 and saw a bloody and battered bush monster costume that was still slightly humanoid. I didn't know what happened to it so I left it alone. I went back to the cameras and found the exact costume walking around the maze in an inhuman way. I went out to see what it was. I arrived at 01:03 and when it saw me, it let out an alien shriek and charged at me. I had to run back to one of the staff-only rooms.

As soon as I closed the door, the metallic tang of blood hit me. I stayed there for almost four hours. At 03:56, I heard the vine monster stop at the door and it left. I went back to the camera room/my office/security room. Now I know that there are weird monsters? Spirits? Animatronics? From then on, I decided to figure out what is happening in this corn maze. I jotted down some notes in my notebook.

Notes:

- Weird room with the smell of blood
- A vine/bush monster rampaging around the maze
- The disappeared mascot, Greg Debush

And I was so tired that I got knocked out immediately.

NIGHT TWO

I woke up at 23:48. A couple of minutes before my work starts at 00:00. I ate a snack of a granola bar and a banana. By the time I was done, I went to the computers and checked the cameras. I went and saw Greg Debush and he was like a monster now. I saw a young child stuck in the maze and lost. He was an orphan because of the nametag. The maze gave orphans free tickets. Poor child. I decided to go out and look for things that could help me find things about this maze. I remembered the room from yesterday. I decided to go there. When I arrived, I saw a keypad lock. I needed a code.

I went into the first room that I had first gone into. It was the one where the mascot first went in. I saw an orange key in the locker with a note:
THEY'RE ALIVE.

I looked through the other lockers and found one more note:
EXPERIMENT #38
It worked. He is now alive. We need more of E129 and
2-hydroxypropane-1,2,3-tricarboxylic acid. The code is in the note.
-#166

I went back to my office and put the notes in my work binder. Then, I found out the code. The code was 381292123166. I went back outside. I saw the child. Then, after it saw me, it turned into a giant cob of corn. It chased after me and I ran. I arrived at the room and shoved a locker at the door. It was starting to break into metal splinters. I typed the code into the pad and the keypad opened. There was a screwdriver and I had to do what most video games tell me: crawl into the vents. I was so quick at unscrewing the screws that one would think I was a robot. I crawled in the vent so fast that it looked like I was crawling for my life. Maybe because I was.

When I was in the vent, I could barely squeeze through. I could barely breathe without breaking my ribs. I was able to quickly learn how to slither like a snake. I was stuck there until I got out in another room. It was a room with many cages and rope-like things. I saw animals tied to the ropes. Wait, no they're all costumes of some kind. I saw one with some needles in it and some with some strange-coloured gas in the rooms. I put my granola bar wrapper in the room and it started to wriggle. Then, it came to life and crawled like a caterpillar and spat a gooey liquid. I decided to run and try to not get hit by the thing.

Now, I knew that the weird monster things were made in these weird weird rooms. Now, it was time to sleep.

NIGHT THREE

I decided to go out tonight. The air was frosty and it was also dark with the night sky speckled with stars like an artist dropping a paintbrush with white paint on it. When I was almost 500 meters away, I saw a fiery explosion at my office. At least I brought all my own belongings. I saw three monsters. The vine one, the corn one that can turn into a child, and my wrapper. They all stacked on each other and started to run at me.

I ran through the maze and tried to mind the exit. The maze was tens of kilometers and it usually took five hours to find the exit. I ran for almost three hours doing the same pattern. Left. Right. Left. Left. Right. When I finally found a room, I went in and saw that it was the one with the vent.

I rushed through the vents as fast as I could and I reached a part where you could stand up and run. I chugged down a whole liter of an energy drink and I felt energized once again. I saw behind me that the monsters have unstacked and are close behind me. I ran through the vents and nearly escaped a vine. I ran and ran until I saw a button. A big red one. I pressed it because who wouldn't press a big red button in the middle of a vent chase with three monsters that probably want to kill you. The floor opened up under the monsters and dropped them down.

I knew they wouldn't stay there forever since one could use vines to get itself up. I exited the vents immediately and saw the exit. I decided to get out and collect my payment. When I was outside, I called the police and said what I saw to them. Eight days later, it was shut down for "inhumane experiments." While I never solved the mystery, I was just glad that I never have to go there ever again.

The End

The Inescapable Corn Maze

By Andrew, age 10

The dry leaves brushed against my skin, as I wandered into the maze. I heard a crow cawing and leaves rustling. I plucked a corn from beside me and took a bite.

“Yummy!” My mouth filled with sweetness.

I continued down the trail until I arrived at a four way intersection. A coin flip helped me decide. I turned left and kept going along the path. Suddenly I heard a rustling noise coming from behind me.

I quietly snuck over and peered into the bush to see what it was.

“Phew! It’s just a ground hog!”.

I continued down the path, until I heard a click.

“What was that?”

My feet had triggered a tripwire. The ground under me disappeared and I dropped down into darkness.

“AAAHHH!!!!!” I screamed.

I landed on some hay bales with a thump. Oof! I dusted myself off from the hay. “Where am I?”

I walked around curiously, in a small dark room under the maze. I saw some scrap metal in the corner of the room. But something caught my attention: a white envelope, with a red seal. I grabbed it and gasped. It had my name on it.

I ripped off the seal and read it.

“If you want to get out of the maze, use the instructions below. But be careful! There are booby traps everywhere!”

I looked at the instructions and followed it. I continued down a dark old hall and turned left. This time I was smart. I saw a tripwire on the floor and jumped over it.

But I didn’t notice a pressure plate on the floor. Unfortunately I stepped on it. An arrow shot out the side of the wall. I saw it just in time and ducked. It whizzed past me. “Whew!” I was relieved.

Attached to the arrow was another envelope. It read: “Turn right.”

I turned right. This time I watched out for tripwires and pressure plates. I successfully passed both, but I stepped on a button. With a beep, two ginormous iron robots appeared . They started swinging their fists, rolling towards me.

I noticed that there was a glass stud on the robot's head. I figured that was their weakness.

I sprinted back to the room that I landed in and headed for the scrap metal. I picked one up and chucked it at the robot’s glass stud. The metal hit the glass stud and it shattered all over the floor.

“Beep Boop! Weakness hit! Malfunctioning!” the robot said. The robot that I hit came crashing down to the floor.

Now I had to deal with the last robot. I picked up another piece of scrap metal and chucked it at the robot. But the robot dodged it. I picked up another piece of metal and aimed it directly at the glass stud. I hit the glass stud and it shattered.

I rushed down the underground hallway, until I reached an iron door. I pushed it open.

In a small room was a very weird creature sitting on a red swivel chair. It turned around and I saw it clearly. It looked like a green pig with tiny eyes and smelled like poop.

“Who are you?” I asked.

“I am Bob the green pig, and owner of this maze. I terrorize the people that enter the maze and fall into my traps,” said the green pig.

“Now since you passed all of the three levels you may have the prize,” said Bob the pig.

“What is the prize?” I asked.

“The prize is at the exit.”

He pointed to a small wooden door in the far corner of the small room with his fat little hands.

I speed walked to the door and opened it. When I got to the outside world, I took a deep breath of the clean air and exhaled. I looked down to find where the prize was and I found it by the sidewalk. I opened it and saw that there were four hundred dollar bills. I happily took my prize home.

The End

The Corn Maze

By Aryan, age 6

One day Jack was sitting on the couch in his home. He had a blanket which was covering his feet and he was exhausted after a long day in school. He heard a sound coming from outside and he became curious. He threw on his shoes and he ran outside.

He was walking towards the sound and suddenly he saw a corn maze. He entered the corn maze and he saw long grains of corn that were standing tall. He saw different paths going left and right and decided to go on the right path. It was like a puzzle and he came to a dead end and right next to the dead end there was a skinny small scarecrow. Jack screamed " Ahhhhh!" and started running in the opposite direction. Soon he saw he was in the middle of the maze.

In the middle of the maze there was a classroom with lots of children and a teacher. Jack was so surprised. The teacher looked at Jack and smiled. He said, "Let's all welcome the new student." Then the teacher looked at Jack and asked, "What is your name?

Jack looked up. He was scared and a bit shy but he slowly whispered, "My name is Jack."

The teacher said, "What's that? I can't hear you."

Jack took a deep breath and said in a voice that was louder, "I said my name is Jack." The teacher told him to sit down next to a friend.

The friend Jack sat next to had yellow hair just like the corn maze. He had one blue eye and one purple eye. The friend looked at Jack and said, "Hi, my name is Jackson." He seemed like he was very kind.

Jackson said to Jack, “Our names rhyme,” and Jack smiled.

Jack looked at him and said, “I think I’m lost.”

He said, “Don’t worry, we are all lost.” The teacher Mr. Preetza will help us get home.

Mr Preetza had a device in his hand. He said, “This little thing will make a portal and I want you all to go inside. Once we are inside you have to find the friend you are sitting next to and try and get home. Do you guys understand?

Everyone in their super loud voices said YES. Mr Preetza told them to put their equipment on. All the boys went to this small little area where they were given helmets and a body suit and some shoes which said BOYS. Everyone put on their equipment and the device made the portal. The boys jumped inside and entered a whole new world.

The world was something that Jack knew. He looked around and he saw one cloud in the sky and he started exploring. He was walking down the street with his friend Jackson and he saw some one the houses he had built on Roblox. He knew exactly what to do. He went inside the house and remembered that his mother’s room had a chest. He ran to the chest and opened it up and saw that there was a phone. He picked it up and he dialed his mother’s number.

It was ringing. *Ring Ring Ring*. Jackson was looking at him. “What are you doing? How will we get home?”

The phone stopped ringing and he heard his mum’s voice. “Hello?”

Jack started crying, “Mum, I’m lost. Come find me.”

Mum said, “Jack, look in the chest. Is there a device there?”

Jackson showed him a device he found in the chest and Jack said, “Yes mum, I see it.”

Mum told him to press the button. Jack pressed the button and there was a portal and he could see mum on the other side. Jack ran to his mum and hugged her so tight and Jackson followed him.

Now they were in Jack’s room with Jack's mum. Both the boys started telling her what happened in the corn maze and about Mr Preetza. Mum made them both a hot chocolate and they called Jackson's mum to come pick him up.

The End

Jane, Milly, and the Corn Maze Dragon

By Brianna, age 8

Chapter 1
1:26PM

“Mom?” asked 10-year-old Jane, “Can we go through the corn maze?”

“Sorry, but Dad and I are busy. What if I give you five hours to go by yourself?” Mom replied.

“Okay.” Jane and her four-year-old sister Milly headed to the maze. Jane knew that her parents were just fools, they had thought that school was just a game where you see how little you can learn. Jane and Milly still loved their mom and dad, smart or not.

Jane and Milly trudged through the maze for 30 minutes without a word but then Milly looked up. “What’s that?”

Chapter 2
2:02PM

“I don’t know.” Jane answered, disappointed with herself. Since her parents weren’t educated, she was left to explain things. “Let’s push our way through the corn to it” Jane suggested.

"Do we have to?" asked Milly. "I'm already bored."

But Jane, the older sister forced her younger sister to come, saying, "Maybe lots of bunnies and cats live there! That would be fun, wouldn't it?"

There were definitely not any bunnies or cats. As far as you could see, it was very gray, solemn, and scary. But Milly fell for it.

After another hour, Milly got tired. Jane lifted her up and began to carry her.

Another half hour passed and Jane was almost tired enough to drop to the ground dead. But as hot, hungry, and stiff as she was, Jane was determined to reach her destination. And Milly, well she was more bored then ever. Gradually the corn got shorter. And then there was a terrifying cave!

Chapter 3
3:47PM

"Milly, hide yourself here in the corn!" Jane shoved Milly into a clump of corn. "I'm going to make sure that it's safe."

Jane bravely walked into the damp cave. She made several turn before seeing...

A DRAGON!

She stood frozen in fear until the dragon noticed her. "O ho," he said, "another one. Would you like to be eaten burnt, raw, or cooked?" He laughed at his own joke. Jane did not laugh. She was busy thinking...

"Another one!" she thought. "And I never knew that dragons even existed!" Then the terrible truth hit her.

No one had lived to tell the story. And Jane was just the daughter of two parents who didn't even know how to read. She would die. There was no hope. The dragon would eat Jane!

Okay, let's get this straight. Jane herself wasn't afraid of dying. It was just Milly. Without Jane, Milly would have no one to answer her millions of questions. There would be no one smart enough to keep her company. There would be no one to bring Milly back to her mom and dd and Jane and Milly's parents would die without their daughters.

But Jane had to jump out of her thoughts! The dragon then yawned. "I'll eat you in the morning."

Chapter 4
4:20PM

Milly was getting ever more bored. Finally, she decided to take a peek out of the corn. She found herself walking into the cave. And soon she found the dragon!

Chapter 5
4:57PM

Milly stumbled toward her sister, trying to ignore the fear of the dragon. "Jane, we need to get away from here!" Milly whispered.

"We can't," argued Jane, although she really was delighted to see Milly. "We'll never be able to get out of the cave, let alone back to our parents!

"Oh." Milly sadly said. That was when she noticed the Dragons loving gaze at her. "Um... dragon? Why are you looking at me like that?"

The dragon just nodded and moved his fingers around. It was Jane's turn to ask a question. "Could you give us a ride back to our parents?"

Chapter 6
5:31PM

The dragon smiled and replied, "I didn't know you had a sister! My name is Eustace! I'm sorry for scaring you earlier, us corn maze dragons sometimes like to play jokes! I can give you a ride back to your parents!"

“Milly, don’t tell our parents anything about this.” Jane told her sister. “They don’t even know what a dragon is!”

“Okay!” laughed Milly.

The End

Trapped in the Maze

By Eli, age 12

My friend Jack and I went to the pumpkin patch for the annual fall fair.

“I’ll pick you guys up at 2:00,” my mom called from inside the car, as she dropped us off at the entrance.

“Sounds good!” We had two hours of free time and, obviously, we were going to the corn maze first. Who doesn’t like a corn maze, especially when it holds the record for the biggest in the city.

We were prepared, we had water bottles and a bag full of snacks. We entered the corn maze and I was amazed. The corn made a dense tall wall that blocked out most of the sun, bringing it down to a cooler temperature. We walked through the winding corn maze going left and right, ending in the same place multiple times, our snacks ran out and it felt like we had walked for what felt like a day.

“Maybe we should just go back,” Jack said. “I don’t want to use up all our time in the corn maze.”

“Maybe we should,” I answered. But before we could take another step, I saw a blur of black and grey behind us.

“What was that?” Jack asked me

“I don’t know,” I answered

“Oh, well it’s probably just a bird or something,”

That seemed like it changed our mind for some reason, so we continued walking. While we were walking there were paw marks on the floor and bitten corn kernels, and we figured it was just a harmless skunk or racoon.

We walked for a few more minutes and we found a sign that signified the exit was near.

“Wait.. I think that's the end!” I shouted

We ran to the end as fast as we could, happy that we finished the giant maze. Their exit was around a corner. We happily walked to it, deciding what we should do next. But when we got to the exit we were shocked.

There was a giant wall of corn stalks blocking the way out, layered higher than the corn itself.

“Wait, what?” I asked “I thought we were finished,”

“Let's just move the corn away,” Jake said

I tried to move a section and Hissssssssssssss

“Ack!” I jumped away

A racoon emerged from a bush, its teeth were bared, its eyes tracking my every move.

“It’s just one silly raccoon,” Jack remarked.

Then, more pairs of eyes and teeth appeared from the bush. It wasn’t just one racoon, it was a pack of them, with teeth barred and claws unsheathed.

“That’s not good,” Jack gulped.

I backed away.

We tried multiple times to get the raccoons away but they all just didn't work. Just when we lost hope an idea struck me.

“I got an idea!”

“Yeah, what is it?”

It was time, we had everything prepared

“Three,”
“Two,”
“One,”
“GO!” I shouted

I ran to the raccoons and agitated them. The raccoons hissed at me and chased me.

“AHHHHHHH!!” I screamed, running in loops around the maze. Although the raccoons weren't the fastest, their slim bodies could squeeze through cornstalks, which almost got one close enough to bite me.

I was exhausted after a few minutes of running, my legs felt like lead and I could barely breathe.

“I’m done,” shouted Jack from over a row of corn. I was saved, using the last of my strength I ran through the exit. Jack had moved all the corn when I was being chased. We ran through the exit and knocked some corn over trapping the raccoons.

It was 4:00 and now that I was out of the maze I could finally enjoy the day. It was a sunny but cool day and the smell of freshly baked pumpkin pie wafted in the air.

“Let's go get some drinks,” Jack suggested, so we did. I got some hot chocolate that was served in a small pumpkin. We wandered around the pumpkin patch, looking at all the cool decorations for the fall fair and when it was time, we got back to the car and went home.

“Hope I never see those raccoons again,” I joked. “And next year, let’s skip the maze.”

The End

Magic to Maze

By Freya, age 12

Corn maze, corn maze, corn maze! I'm so excited! I just can't wait anymore!

"July, come on!" June screamed as loud as she could, but she was only four, so it wasn't very loud at all.

"Coming! Patience, June!" said July as he put on his coat. "I still don't see why I have to come to this thing."

"Because it's a family activity. We're all going even Toto," said Mum, putting a harness on a small Yorkshire terrier.

"Come on, get into the Christmas spirit!" said Dad, locking the door.

"It's not Christmas. We just had Halloween."

"Just come on!" said June, starting to get a little mad.

"Okay, but it's not Christmas," July muttered.

The drive was long, full of "Are we there yet?" and Toto's barks. Dad kept saying, "It'll be worth it. Trust me."

Two hours later, they hopped out of their car and stared at a giant corn maze with dazingly Christmas decorations. Even Toto was amazed.

“Welcome to Hank’s Corn Maze!” said an old woman who sounded like the lady from Hank’s Halloween, they’d gone there the day they got Toto.

“Thanks. We reserved the corn maze for 4pm. We’re a little early, is that ok” said Mum.

“Of course! What’s your name?”

“Jesse Silvius.”

“Of course! We’ve added some special surprises just for you!” she said and then, vanished...

“Okay then... ummm... kids, this way!” Dad said, a little confused. Toto whimpered in fright.

“Okay if Toto’s scared, I’m out!” said July.

“You’re not ‘out.’ There’s nothing wrong. It’s fine.” Dad assured them.

Fog rolled in at they entered the maze and a man appeared out of it suddenly, as if by magic.

“Hold onto your hats,” he cackled, and then sang:

“The ancient map was worn and old,
It led me through the maze so bold.
I followed paths straight and wide,
Till I reached the treasure and found my pride,”

And then he too vanished.

“What does a map have to do with Christmas?” June asked.

“Well,” said July, “maps can help in mazes, but Christmas? I’m stumped.”

“Oh well, we don’t have a map.”

“Or do we?” grinned Mum pulling out a Christmas-themed map. “This way!”

The map led them to a sign. It read:
Follow the red and green arrows to a box. Find the key, and the items inside the box will be yours.

“So now we have to follow arrows?” asked July.

“I think so,” Dad replied.

They followed the arrows to an old box. It had a Christmas tree on the lid, and the keyhole was shaped like a Christmas tree.

“Where’s the key?” asked June, looking at the keyhole.

“We have to find it!” Mum told them.

They looked and looked, but the key was nowhere to be found.

“I give up!” said July. “I’ll go sit over there.” July pointed to a stool as he walked over. He bumped the small Christmas tree off the stand.

Oops! A tiny ornament shaped like a tree lay next to the fallen Christmas tree.

“July! You’re a genius!” said June.

“I am? I mean... yes, yes I know I am!”

“I wonder...” said June, picking up the ornament. She placed the mini ornament in the keyhole. She screamed.

“If there’s a candy cane, it’s mine!” She opened the chest. The family gathered around and shouted:

“Another key?!”

It had a note that said:
Great job! Here’s another key. You are almost there. Find one more secret box.

“All right!” said Dad. “Where is it?”

“I’m not sure... oh! The guy said, ‘Hold onto your hats!’ It’s probably behind that coat and hat hanger over there!” said July.

“What?” said Dad, “Where did that come from?!”

He ran over to the hanger with a red and blue jacket on it and a magenta hat. He looked in the hat and sure enough there was a small box. He carefully opened it.

“Candy canes!!!” June shouted.

As the kids sucked their candy canes, Dad drove home.

“Mum, can we do this next year too? asked July.

“Of course! It’s a new tradition!”

The End

Boo and the Case of the Cursed Maze

By Julie, age 10

Once upon a time, there lived a ghost named Boo. Boo was the most famous detective of all time, but he died while finding the mystery of the stolen cookies, which resulted in Boo becoming a ghost. Boo loves to solve mysteries, even as a ghost.

Today, Boo is called to a corn maze to investigate the mystery of the cursed center of the maze and what caused it. He was at home, watching Kpop demon Hunters, watching the scene where the demons fight the hunters, when he received a secret phone call.

Ring ring! Ring ring!

Boo immediately postponed his movie and answered the call from his black cell phone. “ What’s up?” he asked.

“Hello, Boo. This is Neigh the racehorse calling. I went to this corn maze, I enjoyed it. BUt just then the centerpiece radiated some strange purple light, and I feel like I am going in a whirlpool! Now a shark is on my feet. Help us!”

“Okay, but I don’t know why this is happening.” Boo replied.

“Okay, but hurry up!” cried Neigh, but when he just heard the word “hurry”, the line almost went dead. Boo knew the racehorse was doomed, so he put on his detective jacket, and his dimensional boots (boots that allow Boo to travel between dimensions).

As our little ghost approached the corn maze, he heard a creaking sound. “Maybe this maze entrance is cursed. I will find another entrance,” he thought, so he wandered around the boundaries to find another entrance.

After Boo found another entrance, he went in. After a few steps, he saw a dead end. But before he could push through the corn, a secret trapdoor opened without warning under him, and he was secretly pulled without feeling to the underworld.

After coming down through that strange trapdoor, Boo had to face dangerous obstacles and puzzles. First, he had to win a round of Monopoly with a monster. (He was very bad at monopoly and lost the game). Second, he had to dodge blue fireballs coming every which way at them (he got burned a few times but recovered quickly) and third, he had to slay the Underworld dragon to get to Neigh the racehorse and his trapped friends.

“Boo!” yelled one sheep.

“You’re our hero!” Neigh called.

“Hooray!” cheered a capybara.

“But before you rescue your friends,” a damp voice said. “ You must kill me before you get into rescuing your friends.”

The underworld dragon was still alive! He was now growling at Boo and trying to slay Boo with one big fiery breath, but then Boo saw a sacred sword and raised it to take a blow, just when the sword slipped between his airy hands.

“You can't slay me!” Boo yelled to the big purple, snarling dragon. “I’m living dead, so I’m already dead!”

But eventually the underworld dragon took a deep breath and sprayed it all over Boo’s clothes. Now the biggest detective of the world, in ghost form, was sent back home, and not allowed to go into the corn maze anymore.

Our detective was very sad. “ Maybe I shouldn't solve mysteries anymore. I can’t rescue Neigh the racehorse, and I’m not strong enough, like other detectives, to slay the mightiest and powerful underworld dragon. I shouldn't be in this world anymore.”

After these words, he decided to give up his trusty detective job. Because of all the trauma at the Murky underworld, he does not think he can defeat the underworld dragon just because he is a ghost. Being a ghost detective was a lot harder, then being a human detective.

He decided to stay at home and remain incognito forever, so that newspapermen won’t come bustling around taking photos of him for a special newspaper. He also spent almost all his days reading the town newspaper and playing Nintendo Switch.

The End

The Corn Maze Mystery

By Luke, age 6

Chapter 1
Finding Animals

Once upon a time there were 5 turkeys in a corn maze. They were leading a parade of 5000 Pumpkins, so I ran into the maze and found the turkeys and pumpkins. It was very funny, so I walked into the middle of the maze and there were 66 billion bison. They were the bison at my farm that I had last year. They were just running around in the corn maze. It was very funny. I wonder how they got in that corn maze? Somehow, Santa was right there dead! I was very mad.

Chapter 2
Things Are Missing

I went back to the turkeys and the pumpkins. They were missing! I was very sad, and mad. When I was done being mad and sad I went back to my house, but my wife wasn’t there either! I was very sad, wondering where she was. Maybe she's in the corn maze! I thought. But I was very confused. I left the house to search the corn maze, but she wasn't there.

Chapter 3
Two Surprises

Somehow Santa was alive! Only a few days ago he was dead! Again, I was very confused. I couldn't find my wife, Rose. I was very sad. I decided to walk around the house. By doing that I noticed she was in the garden. I was very happy.

Chapter 4
Hockey Cards

Santa went to my house and gave me 66 billion presents. I was very happy. It was fun to open them because most of them were boxes of hockey cards. Yes, I was very happy, but mad at the same time, because the turkeys and pumpkins still weren't there. I walked out of my house, and I went to the corn maze, but it wasn't there! I was very sad and wondered where the Bison were, cause they were not there either.

Chapter 5
Bison Are Back

The fun I had when I went out of my house was the corn maze again and the Bison were running around in my yard! But I still had to chase them into the middle of the corn maze, which was hard, but fun.

The End

Not All is Shining

By Mitchell, age 8

Michael and Joe screamed as they fell down the hole of the corn maze. They landed with a loud thud. They groaned. Joe decided to explore the cave, so Michael followed, shivering from the coldness. Joe covered his eyes. There was a shining gem at the end of the cave. The gem was a shade of purple, and it had gold and blue stripes on it. Michael screamed, his hands covering his eyes, but Joe calmed him down. Joe touched it, and there was a bright flash.

Suddenly, they found themselves lying on the floor of their living room. Then, they noticed that each of them were holding a small fragment of the gem they touched. They immediately got up and asked each other what they should do next. Joe wanted to go back to the cave and collect more gems, but Michael wanted to check how much money it was worth.

So they drove two hours just to go to the nearest store that sold gems. When they arrived, they immediately walked up to the shopkeeper and showed him the gem and asked him to check the price. The man froze. He scanned it and gasped. It was worth more money than the amount the richest person in the world, James Bob, had.

The shopkeeper immediately snatched it, and ran to his car. Before he could reach the door to the car, Joe had already caught up to him and snatched it back. Joe and Michael ran as fast as they could and immediately jumped into their car, and locking the door. The shopkeeper banged on the window, demanding for the gem. But instead, Joe stepped on the pedal and drove back to the corn maze.

Because Joe and Michael didn't have a ticket to enter the corn maze, they just parked their car, and climbed over the back fence. They searched everywhere around the gigantic corn maze. After a long time, Michael finally yelled at Joe to come.

When Joe arrived, they immediately dropped down the hole, and grabbed every gem they could. But suddenly, they stopped. They wondered, *what could money do?* Michael immediately started burying the gems again and Joe did the same. They made sure all the gems were buried before they moved on. Back at home, they each secretly kept one, so they sold them and got lots of money.

The End

Zoey's Adventures

By Mmesoma, age 13

It was November 18th , the day Zoey had been waiting for.

"Mom, wake up!" Zoey gently nudged her awake. "It's today, it's time to head to the corn maze!"Zoey whispered really loudly.

This family tradition, started long ago by Zoey's mom, was a big deal. Zoey's mom got ready and out the door they went, she started the car and off they went.

"Mom, I'm so excited for this year's trip!" Zoey exclaimed, as they got to the corn maze, coming out of the car, she ran off without looking back. "This might be our last one," her mom muttered.

"Welcome to the Birch Corn Maze!" a worker greeted them. The corn maze and pumpkin patch looked beautifully spooky, and the apple cider stand smelled delicious.

"Hey, can I have some?" Zoey asked.

"Sure," the apple cider lady replied.

"This is so good!" Zoey said as she thanked her but then she felt a breeze swept past her back. "Who's there?" she asked. Turning around, she saw nothing curious—not even a mouse.

“The corn maze and haunted house attractions are now open!” the apple cider lady announced. A flurry of kids screamed really loudly, they could not decide.

“Mom, what do you think? should I go to the corn maze or the haunted house?” Zoey asked. “Mom?” Her mom was nowhere to be found. Zoey’s body stiffened, her eyes frantic. She walked over to the apple cider lady and asked, “Excuse me, have you seen my mom? She’s very tall and she has curly hair.” The lady was so nice,she smiled and asked “What was she wearing today?”

“A blue sweater.” Zoey said,

“I saw someone wearing a blue sweater go to the corn maze,” the employer said while pointing the maze.

“Thanks!” Zoey said, running over to the entrance of the huge corn maze. “Mom... I really hope you’re in here.” Zoey whispered to herself

Zoey picked up a map and ventured into the corn maze, feeling utterly confused, the yellow corn stacks rising higher than her car, “This is like a huge puzzle, How will i ever find my mom?” she wondered.

She turned right and left again, then right, *This feels like I’m going in circle*s, she thought, then right then she saw someone, “Excuse me, where’s the exit?” she asked, but the employee replied, “I have no idea, it’s a maze, you have to find your way out.”

Sighing, Zoey turned left and circled in long loops until she finally spotted someone wearing a blue sweater. “Mom, is that you?” she exclaimed. The figure turned, revealing Zoey’s mom, but her face was completely black. “Mom, where’s your face?” Zoey stammered, slowly backing away.

Mom couldn't speak, she mumbled something that sounded like,“Turn right, and you’ll see.

“Sure,” Zoey yelled, turning to the right.

“RUMBLE!” Zoey, startled. The ground shook violently, and a monster with rocks all over it emerged from the depths.

“Who dares to enter my domain?” it roared.

“Where’s my mom’s face? Give it back!” Zoey exclaimed. “If you want your mom’s face to reappear, you have to beat me in a rock-paper-scissors match!”

“You’ve got to be kidding me,” Zoey muttered.

“3, 2, 1!” the monster said. Zoey picked paper, and unironically, the monster picked rock.

“I won,” Zoey screamed.

“What? How did I lose?” the monster said. “Well, paper beats rock!”

Zoey said, “Now, hand over my mom’s face,” she demanded, the monster defeated, gave her mom’s missing face. “See you later!” she said, running back to her mom.

“Mom! I found your missing face!” Zoey yelled, hugging her mom tight.

“Zoey! Thank you so much!” Her mom hugged her suddenly relieved. Together Zoey and her mom emerged from the corn maze, feeling like they’d had a crazy day. Zoey started laughing so loudly until suddenly she heard this loud ring and felt like she was being pushed....

“Zoey darling, wake up, it’s November 18th, time for us to get ready for our fun family tradition.” Mom gently nudged her awake.

“Huh!!!!!” Zoey woke up so confused, was that all a dream? she muttered, crazy ....

The End

The Wish

By Nevyn, age 12

Leylah bounced with joy. She was going to enter the Woodston corn maze! It was renowned for being very challenging with all sorts of tricky obstacles. It was even rumored to be magical by the locals who lived in Woodston. But this wasn't why Leylah had chosen to come to the maze. She had learned from her grandmother that if you managed to make it through the maze your greatest wish would be granted.

Unfortunately, Leylah's grandmother had passed away last fall and Leylah had been devastated. This was why she wanted to make it through the maze. She hoped that if she made it to the centre of the maze she would be able to see her grandmother again.

Leylah boldly walked up to the entrance of the maze and flashed it a fierce glare, as though to frighten it into submission.

Suddenly a gong blared and Leylah sprinted into the maze. She ran for a long time until she felt an impact to the back of her head. She landed on the ground and looked up and saw a giant bear glaring down at her. It pawed her again and she screamed.

She tried to fight it off but it was no use. It was like having a freight train attack her. Suddenly, Leylah saw a pot of honey next to her. She hurled it at the bear and he faltered. He then started spooning the honey into his mouth happily. Leylah chuckled at the bear's happy expression, but then stopped remembering her mission.

This was because standing right in front of her, was a gleaming sky blue unicorn. He flashed her a toothy grin. “Hello.” He said in a pompous tone. “Beat me in a dance battle

and I will allow you to pass. If I can't mimic one of your moves, you win.” Leylah gulped nervously. She was terrible at dancing, but she had to do it if she wanted her wish to be granted.

She moved her feet back and forth and twirled around. The unicorn nodded and mirrored her movements exactly. Leylah's eyes widened. How was she ever going to beat the unicorn? Suddenly, an idea popped into her head like a firework. She would do a handstand! The unicorn wouldn't be able to do it because he had the giant horn on his head.

Leylah hit the ground and balanced her legs up in the air. It wasn't perfect but it would have to do.

She stood up and smiled. She had outsmarted him. The unicorn smiled and bowed down to her. “You may pass.” He said. Leylah smiled triumphantly and bounced forward. She was almost there.

Leylah turned a corner and saw an opening in the maze. It seemed to almost hum with magic. There was no doubt about it; this was the center of the maze.

She charged forward and then heard a sweet voice call out to her. “Hello dearie.” it said. Leylah smiled. It was her grandmother.

The End

Hungry in the Corn Maze

By Paris, age 11

I was really hyped today, because I finally got to go to a corn maze with my best friends Elly and Amanda. It was my first time, but Amanda said she was an expert and we wouldn't get lost. I was relieved to have someone who could guide us.

I skipped outside, and my friends were waiting for me. We all hugged.

"Are you ready for the best day of your life?!" squealed Elly.

"I know I am!" said Elly, "I heard that this corn maze was abandoned and hardly anybody ever goes there."

We sprinted to the car, all hyped about the maze. As soon as we piled in, we started chatting nonstop. Our chatter only stopped when we heard a sudden "screech". We speed-walked out of the car. "I'll see you later, girls," Amanda's mom said.

We walked into the maze, the corn stalks towering over us like walls. It was totally empty and weirdly quiet. So, we decided to speed run the whole thing. Until I noticed something: the corn stalks near me were slowly shrivelling up. I asked Amanda, "Is it supposed to become darker or it's just me?" Amanda shrugged and ran even faster. I chased after her, so I wouldn't have to be left behind.

It started to get creepier. The corn began withering and turned into small buds of roses. We walked for what felt like an eternity. "We should go back," Ella said. "It's so dark! I don't think this is what a corn maze should look like." We all nodded in agreement but

then, when we turned back, we saw a big, huge spiky bush. There was no way out, and we were stuck!

“We should just run until we find something” I suggested. The others nodded in agreement, and we sprinted to the centre.

We ran for what felt like an eternity, but then we saw something strange. On the ground, there were caramel drizzled apples and pumpkin pies. I was starving, and so were my friends. We dashed towards the food.

I thought it was so surprising, because why would you find treats inside a corn maze. Ella ran to the food ready to devour it. I was just standing there, “Was my mind playing tricks on me?” I thought, and I shrugged, “What’s the worst thing that could happen?”

Amanda started approaching the food slowly with caution.

“Let’s dig in!” Ella shouted with joy. She took a bite of the drizzled apple, but then “POOF”, a thick smoke of mist spread through the maze. Cough, cough.

“Are you ok?” I asked. No response. It was pure silence. What happened to them?

“Ella? Amanda?” I flapped my arms to try to see through the thick smoke.

When the smoke finally settled down, I still couldn’t see my friends anywhere. I was right! They did disappear! How could I find them? Was this the middle of the maze? I looked around to see if there were any exits, but there were none. How could I find them? Where could they be? I started screaming their names. Until I heard a small “peep.”

I started listening more closely. It sounded like it was coming from the wall! I frantically scratched the wall. As I scratched, the dark withered leaves started getting less and less. I was so determined to find my friends. Then, I saw it, a door with dark green withered roses surrounding it. It had a gold frame, the colour was faded, but the golden tint was shining in the sun. I took a deep breath and opened the door.

Click.

I closed my eyes and took another deep breath. When I opened my eyes, I was expecting the worst, but I saw Amanda and Ella beaming at me. I ran through the door and hugged them. We were all safe! Amanda started tearing up, and so did I.

Until Ella ruined the moment, “I thought you said you were the expert, Amanda.” We laughed. “At least we got out!” said Amanda.

I shrugged and continued hugging my friends.

The End

Lily and the Corn Maze

By Rachel, age 10

Lily drove to her place to make some candy apples to bring to her parents' house for a celebration at Baggy Spooks, the local corn maze. It was a celebration to mark that fall was coming.

While she was driving, a deer jumped out on the road, and Lily swerved so she wouldn't hit it. After she swerved, she saw a sign. The second word had dirt on it, so she couldn't read it. The first word said "CORN," so Lily went in because she was craving some corn pie for dinner.

When she drove in, she saw a corn-like maze, so she decided to go in to practice a bit because at Baggy Spooks they were first going to a corn maze and then eating.

When she was going to enter, she saw a sentence on the corn. The corn said, "BEWARE WHO ENTERS WILL SCREAM. BACK OUT."

Lily entered anyway, despite the warning. Lily felt like something or someone was following her. When she turned back, she saw a wall that wasn't there before. Then she turned back again and saw the corn maze walls moving. And there, right in front of her, was a baby blue corn.

Lily touched it, and it turned around and stared at her with googly eyes.

"Ahhhh!" Lily screamed.

“Hello, Lily,” said the blue corn.

“How do you know my name?” asked Lily, scared.

“I know lots of people’s names. And how did I guess your name on the first try?” said the corn.

“Wait—what? It takes people ten guesses to guess my name correctly!” said Lily.

“Well then, since I guessed it correctly, I will give you a 4-minute head start.”

“For what?” asked Lily.

“I am going to chase you to make sure you don’t get to the middle because that’s where the prize is.”

“What should I call you?” said Lily.

“No one asked me that before,” said the blue corn. “How about Jimmy?”

“Okay, Jimmy, if you catch me, will you kill me?”

“I will not kill you. I will simply scare you until you scream and run outside of the maze,” said Jimmy.

“Wait, before we start, can I ask how you are standing and talking?” said Lily.

“I was cast out of the wizarding world,” said Jimmy.

“Ohh, how tragic,” said Lily.

“That is how I got here, and that is how I can talk,” said Jimmy.

“Well, how about we start?” said Lily.

“OK. You better run. I already started the timer,” said Jimmy.

Lily, on the other hand, was still thinking which way to go. About halfway through the time, Lily finally decided to go right. A light caught her attention.

She went over to see, and saw a flashlight with a note on it. It said, “USE THIS ON JIMMY.”

Lily didn’t understand how she was supposed to use a flashlight on a corn.

“Time’s up!” Jimmy announced. Lily turned around and saw Jimmy behind her, ready to attack. But the maze moved in the nick of time. Lily felt like he knew this maze awfully well. While Lily was still thinking about what to do, the corn maze wall moved again.

Before she could think which way to go, a hand touched her shoulder. Lily’s first reaction was screaming. While Lily was screaming, Jimmy fainted beside her.

Lily ran as fast as she could. But she tripped on some hay and fell to the floor with a “TUMP!” This woke up Jimmy, who was now distracted by the light on the floor. When Lily had fallen, her flashlight hit the ground and turned on. Jimmy was fading away, and what was left of him was the prize.

Lily rushed out of the maze, forgetting she had to still make the candy apples and go to her parents’ house.

Later, Lily told her cousins, friends, and parents about the adventure she went on.

The End

The Honey Chase

By Stacy, age 11

Coco turned left. Mya, Tina, and Ruby trailed behind her. The class was navigating through the corn maze, and the first group to find the exit wins.

“Jamie’s team won last year,” said Ruby. “I want to win this time.”

The maze seemed endless, because it was very large.

“My feet hurt," whined Mya.

They spent the whole morning navigating the maze, but they hadn’t found the exit yet. However, Ms. Barn still had not sent the message to notify the teams that someone had found it.

As Coco turned a sharp right, they stopped upon a majestic beehive. Jars of honey were stacked on the bundles of hay. Ruby walked over to them.

“This must be the heart of the maze. Ms. Barn said there are a lot of bees here!" said Coco.

As Ruby opened the lid of a honey jar, bees charged out of the yellow hive and at them. They seemed REALLY angry! Mya took one look at the bees, then shouted, “RUN!!”

Ruby quickly dropped the honey jar. Coco ran back the way they came from. Ruby and Mya followed her, but Tina just stood there.

“Tina!” yelled Coco, but Tina ignored her completely. Suddenly, Tina whipped out her smartphone and said, “Instagram time!”

“Tina! What on earth are you doing?!” shouted Mya, as Tina snapped photos of the angry bees.

“Stop! Do you want to get stung by them?” shouted Ruby. Tina acted like she didn’t hear her and tapped a couple more times on her screen.

“Done!” she said. Then she skipped after her friends, acting as if the bees didn’t exist.

Coco took the lead as usual. Everyone except Tina was too panicked to worry about anything else. Tina checked her phone while they were running and she gasped. “I got 300,000 likes, 700,000 views, and 10,000 new followers because of my picture!” she yelled.

“WHAT!” shouted Ruby. “It’s not even been a minute since you posted that photo!” Mya and Coco’s jaws dropped in disbelief. Then, the angry buzzing of the bees stopped.

“I think we lost them,” said a relieved Mya.

“Yes, but now WE are lost,” replied Coco.

“Weren’t we always lost?” asked Ruby with confusion. They wandered through the maze a little more, then heard the familiar buzzing return.

“Oh no!” cried Ruby. “The bees found us!”

This time, everyone bolted out of there as fast as possible, even Tina. The bees were hot on their heels, and they ran left and right trying to lose them.

“Look!” shouted Coco. “The exit!”

Ahead of them, there was a huge wooden sign with a bright red word, “EXIT”. The girls ran towards it. Ms. Barn was waiting outside. She raised an eyebrow as she watched the girls dash out.

“What’s the rush?” she asked. “And Ruby, what is that golden stuff on your shoes?"

“Ms. Barn, check out my instagram page,” said Tina with an excited smile.

The End

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