

One day  
we will  
box jump  
the moon

Short stories by young people  
from the Southern Grampians

Written as part of the  
2019 Literacy Challenge  
led by Beyond the Bell &  
Creative Write-it

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# **One Day We Will Box Jump The Moon**



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## **Foreword**

### *Beyond the Bell*

Beyond the Bell Great South Coast is passionate about the importance of educational attainment. The Beyond the Bell vision states: ‘Our community is a leader in working together to enable young people to succeed.’

By working together, we allow our young people to be creative, entrepreneurial and engaged in activities that foster a love of education across their lifespan.

The Southern Grampians Beyond the Bell Local Action Group, in partnership with Creative Write-it, The Greater Hamilton Library, and Woolly West Fest, were excited to host the Creative Write-it workshops. The workshops were held across the Southern Grampians as part of the Literacy Challenge, from Monday 29 July to Wednesday 30 July 2019. The workshops were designed to engage young people in the joy of writing and have a little fun along the way!

In the primary school workshops, students in Grades 3 to 6 participated in writing stories with Creative Write-it, inspired by parkour

movements and key words derived from the movements. When reading the stories, look out for the key words such as ‘jump’ – we will let you guess the rest!

Beyond the Bell would like to thank the six participating primary schools, students and teachers for their amazing contributions to this compilation – we truly have some very talented young writers across the Southern Grampian region. The six participating schools included:

Hamilton Primary School (Gray Street)

Hamilton North Primary School

St Mary’s Primary School

George Street Primary School

St Joseph’s Primary School

Coleraine Primary School.

Beyond the Bell would also like to thank the young writers who participated in the writing workshops for young adults held at the Greater Hamilton Library on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 July 2019. Dive into their creative minds and immerse yourself in their creativity and be inspired to write.

Laugh, immerse yourself, and enjoy reading the inspiring stories from the young writers from across the Southern Grampians!

For more information about Beyond the Bell  
Great South Coast, visit:

Website: [www.btb.org.au](http://www.btb.org.au)

Facebook: @beyondthebellgsc

Twitter: @Beyondthebell1







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## **Introduction**

### *Creative Write-it*

Creative writing is about more than making up stories. It invites you to look at the world from different angles, to notice what you may not have noticed before, and to imagine possibilities.

Exploring ideas and learning to express them through story can not only be entertaining, but can help us understand what we have to say, what we feel, and build confidence in the power of our own voices.

At Creative Write-it, we work with young writers every day to give them the space to imagine and have fun with stories, while building practical skills in writing and self-expression.

We were very excited to share our workshops across the Southern Grampians region, in partnership with Beyond the Bell Great South Coast. Over three full days, we led short story workshops aimed at high school students at Hamilton Library, and toured primary schools in Hamilton and Coleraine to share a particularly unique program we call Movement & Storytelling.

Movement & Storytelling incorporates parkour movements into a creative writing workshop for a dynamic experience that breaks up the challenge of completing a story into small chunks, each one

inspired by a movement. We were so impressed by the enthusiasm of each of the young writers to take on both the writing and parkour challenges! They not only proved they were capable of completing a story in a short space of time, but they now have a structure they can use again and again.

We were also blown away by the talented teen writers we met at Hamilton Library. Their ideas, inspired by a picture, quickly grew into detailed, relatable characters with stories that are dreamy, quirky, and a little bit magical. You'll find these at the end of this book. They are excellent examples of what you can do with a single prompt, mixed with imagination and storytelling flair.

Thank you to all of the young writers we met on this tour, for your enthusiasm, imagination, courage, and creativity! Thank you to the schools and Hamilton Library for your support. Finally, a big thank you to Kerri, Tatiana, and the Beyond the Bell team for inviting us along for this year's Literacy Challenge.

We hope you enjoy reading this collection as much as we enjoyed teaching the workshops and putting it together.

Amy Han & Ben Pearmain  
Creative Write-it

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# **Movement & Storytelling**



One Day We Will Box Jump The Moon

## **How to Train your Dragon**

*Daniel*

Once upon a time there was a boy, his name was Hiccup. He was the hero to all of Berk and Dragon. Hiccup had one friend named Astrid.

Every day, Hiccup saved dragons from Vigo, Gimborn and Viker, the dragon hunters. Hiccup had to jump off of Toothless, his dragon, to save other dragons.

One day, Astrid had to balance on Stormfly the dragon's tail to save Heather. Hiccup could have stopped her from doing this, but he didn't.

Because of that, Astrid took Heather off Stormfly. But Heather slipped and plummeted into spicks.

Because of that, Heather was about to die. Luckily Astrid saved her by diving to her with Stormfly.



## **The Tree that came to Life**

*Elijah*

Once upon a time, there was a tree that came to life! It was smelly because dirt and dust had got on it. He said, “Oh no, I’m dirty!”

Every day, he went for a walk and had a shower in the morning. He brushed his teeth in the shower. He jumped and jumped, then he saw a rock and jumped off!

One day, he jumped off a rock and fell. He had no arms but slowly he grew arms. He could get up, and he even did a handstand and he tried to balance.

Now he could shake hands, hi-five, fist bump, handstand and balance. He could balance on one hand, and he loved it.

Because he was a tree who could do all these things, he became rich. After many years, he told his son his story, including his favourite thing to do now, which was roll.

Finally, his son told his son, and this became their history for generations. It went on for years. It was a unique history of a great family.



## **The Orange**

*Mia*

Once, there was an orange who was very orange. He loved to balance.

Every day, at least one of his friends disappeared. It made him jumpy and scared. There was always screaming in the kitchen.

Eventually, there were only two oranges left balancing on the tree, and one got taken away. The last orange was so scared he could not balance anymore. There was more screaming from the kitchen.

The orange who was very orange realised he was next. At last, he could find out what was going on in the kitchen!

He finally got picked and taken to the chopping board. The person got a sharp thing, and...

BANG!

Aaaaaahhh!!!

Finally, the orange is quiet, and he knows what happens in the kitchen.

## **The Stick Robber**

*Joyeuse*

Once upon a time there was a beautiful stick. It always came alive when the town was sleeping, jumping between flowers to steal things.

The stick robbed the town every night, even though none of the things belonged to him.

But nobody knew the stick was a robber. They all thought it was just a silly stick. No one suspected the stick because during the day it was nice and gave wishes.

One day, the town (well, half of them) were behind the historic town hall. The stick hid in his cage, where he wondered whether he should stay hidden, or confess to his crime. He decided to stay hidden (bad idea).

Because of that, he got caught and the Mayor of the town cracked him into two pieces and threw him in the garbage bin! The stick never came to life again.

Now he was really rude because he never responded to anyone. So the town got a new thing instead of a stick - they got a town dog!

All the people cared about was that the dog had fun. The stick stayed in the stinky garbage where he rolled around forever more.



## **The Tree and Snail Race**

*Matilda*

Once upon a time, there was a snail who was very slow because it had a fat, red shell.

Every day, the slow snail raced a tree at the park while everyone was watching them. They started running and the tree jumped over the snail.

One day, the snail took a short cut and had to balance on the limb of a tree. The snail was very fat.

Because of that, the snail broke the limb of the tree. Because of that, he fell towards the lava and nearly died!

Luckily, he rolled and as he did so, he made a bridge and survived.

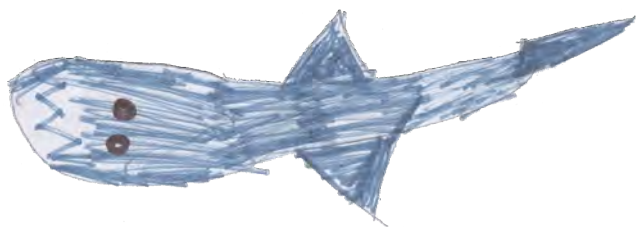
## **The Evil Civilian and the Jumping Shark**

*Jaden*

Once upon a time there was an evil civilian who ate jumping fish. Twice, every day, it would eat jumping fish but one day there were no jumping fish so the person balanced on a log, waiting.

The mum shark of the fish came and was NOT happy. She swam into the log the civilian was balancing on. The civilian fell off!

Finally, the evil civilian said sorry to the shark. The mum shark said, "Do some vaults and go away!" The civilian smiled.



## **The Amazing Adventure of the Flower**

*Georgia*

Once there was a flower who was so beautiful, the colours made it jump out.

It made everyone who saw it want to smile. It smiled at them and they smiled back at the beautiful flower. But it had no one else in the paddock, which made it feel lonely.

One day there was a shadow and it looked scary but it was just two cows. The flower thought the cows were going to eat it. "Oh oh oh oh oh!" it cried. But then it saw that they were acrobatic cows balancing.

Because of that the flower realised that it wasn't going to get eaten. Someone finally came and picked up the flower and put it in a vase. It was so beautiful.

## Apple Tree

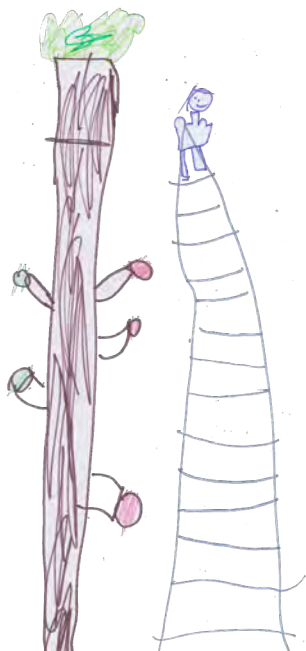
*Tamika*

There was an apple tree who lived in the ground and loved water to help it grow. In the forest there were lots of other trees.

Every day, people jumped up to get apples from the tree. It had the best apples.

One day, all the children came to pick apples but there were no apples left! They had to go searching for another tree, but this one was 1000 feet tall. The climbed up but lost balance and fell off their ladder!

Because of that the children vaulted over the ladder and saw more apples on another tree. So they had apples again. The children had an endless supply of apples.



## **Kevin the Karate Bear**

*Noah*

Once upon a time there was a bear, and this bear was no ordinary bear. He was a black bear, and his name was Kevin. He knew karate. It was his favourite thing to do.

Every day, Kevin the Karate Bear flew to work to save Bear Town.

One day, another black bear moved into Bear Town and knocked on Kevin's door. When Kevin opened the door, the other black bear said, "Get out of my house!"

"Why?" asked Kevin.

"Because I hate you," said Black Bear.

Kevin said, "No! This is *my* house. I paid for it."

Black Bear said, "I'm a villain and I'm going to TAKE YOU DOWN, Kevin!"

"Ok," Kevin replied. "Tomorrow, at the crack of dawn, we will battle. Whoever wins will get the house and four million dollars."

"Deal," said Black Bear.

*Ding! Ding! Ding!* It was time for battle.

Black Bear tried to cut Kevin with his sword quickly, but Kevin did some parkour and pulled out his own sword. He chopped off Black Bear's head and Kevin won.

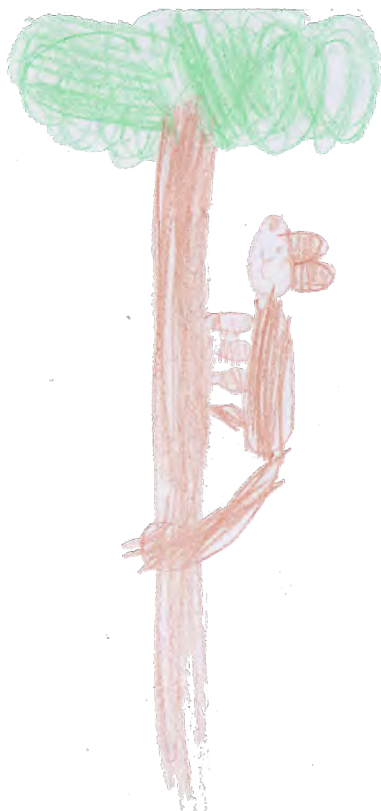


## **The Funny Monkey**

*Matilda*

Once upon a time there was a monkey that loved bananas. In the jungle it was hot! Every day the monkey loved to jump on its tail to get the bananas.

One day the monkey did not bounce and nobody knew why, but they were sad. Later they realised that the monkey had jumped over a log and broken its tail. When it felt better the monkey started jumping again.



## **The Rotten Apple**

*Jessy*

Once upon a time, there was a rotten apple who jumped around on his tree. The apple was so rotten that he made everyone who came near it vomit. If you squeezed it, the insides would ooze out disgusting and brown.

One day, a boy came along and climbed the tree to get the apple. He missed and fell down onto a log, where he had to balance.

From there, he got the apple to fall too. He ate the apple and loved it.

## **The Jumping Horse Dog**

*Hannah*

Once there was a standard-breed horse dog. She really loved eating chillis. She always show jumped and nearly won, but didn't win. Every day she neighed because she wanted food, and she wanted to show jump with her owner.

One really weird morning, the moon appeared to be balancing on the very very hot sun. The horse dog rang the sun and told him to take a vacation but he would NOT listen. She rang the sun again but he still wouldn't listen.

Because of that, the horse dog decided to ring the moon and tell her to go home for the night. She wouldn't listen either! The horse dog started to chase the moon, and vaulted after it. Finally it made the moon go home.



## **Patrick the Pig**

*Sam*

Patrick the pig liked to play in mud. Afterwards, he always jumped in water to clean himself.

One day, Patrick the pig's mud was taken away!

Because of that, he dug out of the pen and went on a hunt for his mud. He looked and looked for his mud.

Finally, he found a big pile of mud! Patrick put it all on his back and carried it back to his pen. Now, Patrick doesn't get as muddy though. But he still likes mud!

## Stupid Robin

*Ammy*

Once there was a man named Robin who ate robbers who were robins. Every day he jumped the fence to catch them before they stole the Mayor and all his gold.

One day the Mayor and Queen were stolen, along with their gold! Robin balanced his mind and said, "The robber robins!"

He got to their hideout and he ate them! He wanted to use their gold but he had to vomit. He looked around and said, "The gold isn't in there!" He went home sadly.

Finally, he found out they gave the gold to someone else. He felt stupid.



## **How Dogs Live**

*Saphyra*

There was a pack of dogs who loved bones and jumping on an old gate. They ate bones and balanced on this gate every day.

One day, they were jumping on a trampoline and went SPLAT and hurt their legs!

Because of that they had to go to the vet and get checked up. But when they went to the vet they found out their legs weren't broken so they went back home.

Finally, they vaulted back into their house and ate food. They chewed bones outside.

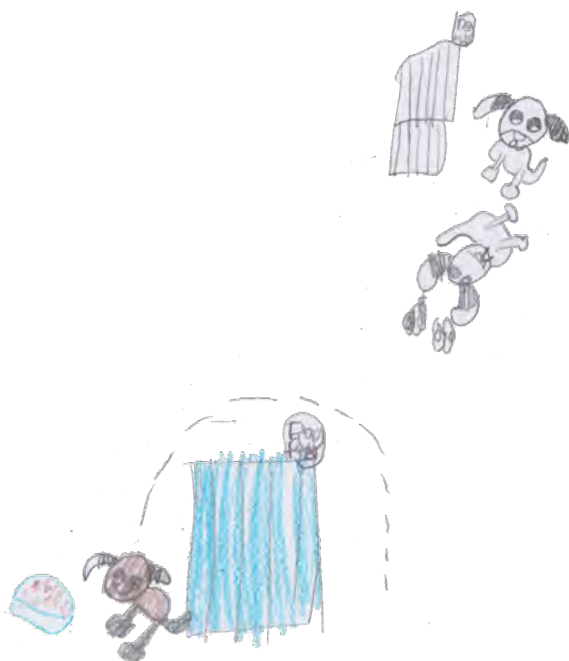
## **The Dog Who Loved To Eat**

*Brodie*

Once there was a labrador who saw dog food on the fence every day, and every day he tried to jump to it but banged his head on the fence.

Eventually, he stopped trying to get the food on the fence.

The people made the fence smaller so the dog could vault over it and get the food. The dog got so fat that they had to make the dog do exercises and lose weight. Now the dog can always vault over the fence to get food, without getting too fat.



## **The Sewer Spider**

*Nic*

In the world of Minecraft, there was a tree made out of blocks (I love Minecraft). There were lots of blocks.

Every day, a spider jumped off the blocks.

One day, he tried to vault over a toilet and nearly drowned in the toilet water.

Because of that, he ended up in the sewer, almost dead.

Luckily, a sewer rat came and revived the spider with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The spider climbed out of the sewer.

Finally, he vaulted to the hospital. They gave him some pills and he lived happily ever after.



## **The Dog Who Saved the Day**

*Zayne*

Once upon a time there was a dog and he loved the sun. He lived at his house and he loved jumping. Every day he jumped at the park, found food, and saw other dogs. He would go to them and bark but the other dogs would not bark back.

He jsut wanted a friend. He tried to become friends with the sun but the sun was too high.

He said, "That is a problem so I have to fix it. I will try to go to the sky. I have to balance."

He saw his friend, the sun, who helped him. But the sun hurt itself. Because of that he had to go to the doctor. The dog had to vault to get to the doctor. He got the sun to the doctor to save the day.



## **Lamb Chops**

*Maddison*

Once upon a time there was a sheep and it went, “Bah!”. It was very dumb. Every day it jumped from hale bale to hay bale, and danced on the tractor.

One day he was trying to balance on the tractor when he fell on the forks. Because of that the farmer came and shot him, and carried him home. The sheep tried to climb up a hay bale but couldn't. It got angry but it did not grow horns.

The next day the sheep was so angry about his broken leg that he didn't see the farmer about to turn him into lamb chops.

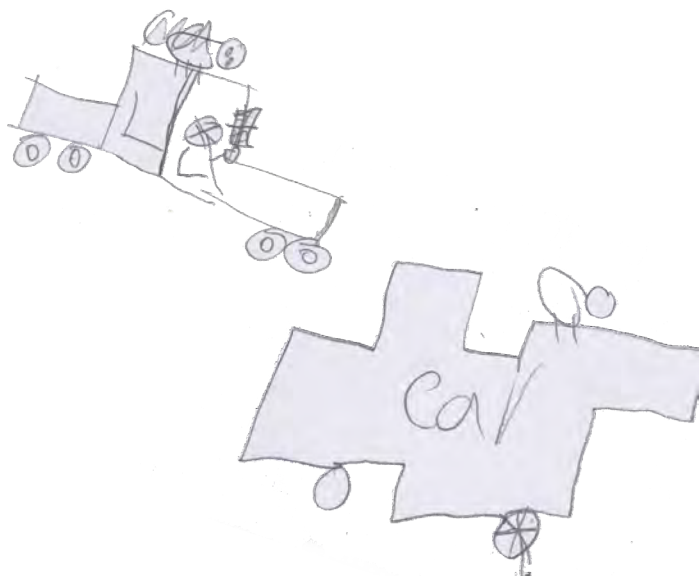
## The Incredible Dog

*Draya*

There was a fluffy dog whose favourite thing to do was run with other dogs. Every day the fluffy dog jumped up in the car for a run.

One day, the car was full of mini cows so the dog had to balance on the roof! Because of that the dog fell off the car and landed on a pile of marshmallows. Because of that the marshmallows vaulted over a KFC bucket onto the school roof.

Finally the dog's owner rescued him.



## **Horses**

*William*

Farandi was an Icelandic horse who spent his days jumping around, cantering.

One day he broke into the hay shed, pulled out a bale and hurt his leg. Then he ate the bale with his friends Micky and Mothy. They had so much hay that they didn't get fed in the afternoon.

They got a bit hungry, but after that they were back on schedule.

## **Bat Land**

*Ngakita*

Once upon a time there was a bat that was evil. He was never nice to other bats. He would chase them and be so mean to them. He would scare them, too.

Every day he would also go and scare people. They always ran and screamed! He laughed every time he scared the people.

One day he drank this weird water that made him nice. He would listen to this girl bat. Once she told him to try and balance on a thin rope, and he said, "Ok."

She would also make him listen to the other bats and at the school he would listen to the teachers and other bats. He would always say, "Sorry," after he did something wrong.

At school they were doing parkour and they had to do a gate vault. He was the one who the best one out of all of the bats. They were ok with it. Finally they all became friends and he was always nice, he never was evil ever again. They lived happily ever after.



## **The Messy Cow**

*Sandy*

Once upon a time there was a cow stuck in the mud because he wanted to be in a puddle. Every day began in this puddle.

He loved the puddle so much he went to sleep in it! Because of that he got all muddy. The farmer got cross.

Finally, he hopped in a bath with lots of bubbles in it. He dried himself on the other cows.

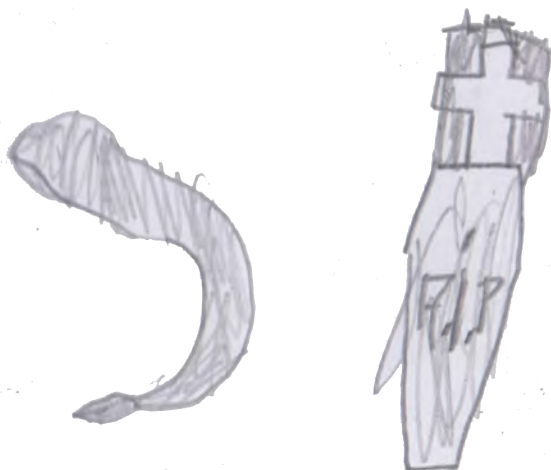
## **The Death Adder Who Won the Comp**

*Maliq*

Fred was a death adder who lived in the Aussie Desert. He liked to eat frogs and mice. Every day, whenever people scared him, Fred would jump at them and kill them with venom.

One day they announced the Champion Venom Dueler was a fierce snake called Franklin. Fred made a mask and he read that the two obstacles in the Dueler were a balance beam and a vault. The obstacles were so dangerous they had to change the date. This was good for Fred because he needed to practice for the event.

Finally, it was time for Fred and Franklin's match. No one else was there because they didn't think they stood a chance, so they just forfeited the match. When Fred got to the beam he vaulted to Franklin and killed him.



## **The Jumping Horse**

### *Grace*

Once upon a time there was a horse that loved to get ridden. It always landed when it went over a jump. Every day she got ridden and went over jumps, and landed them safely.

One day when she went over a jump he lost her balance and the rider fell off! Because of that the horse couldn't be ridden for two weeks, since she lost her balance. She had to stay at the vet's until she was better.

The rider eventually could get back on the horse but she had to start at the beginning. She started to get used to the new obstacles.



## **A Dog Named Snowflake**

*Makayla*

Once upon a time there was a dog named Snowflake and it liked to swim in a pool. Every day it jumped in the pool. One day it was scorching hot and it made all the water dry up.

Snowflake was bored so she found a log and jumped on to balance, but she got distracted and fell off! She landed on an electrical wire and got such a shock that she vaulted over her house! When she landed on the other side, she saw that her pool was filled up.



## **The Parkour Snow Leopard**

*Archie*

Once there was a snow leopard who liked to climb up mountains. Every day he liked to jump as high and as far as he could off the mountain peaks and landed safely.

One day the snow leopard was going to jump off, but then... he lost his balance! He fell in an awkward way, and then he broke his leg. He couldn't do anything. Because of that he had to stay home, lie down, watch TV and have a rest. He couldn't do parkour or dodge obstacles, or anything. He was very sad.

One day he was going to check the mail, then noticed that his leg was healing! The next day, he knew it was feeling better. A week later it felt very good and he could finally do what he wanted again!

## **The Jumping Dog**

*Jianna*

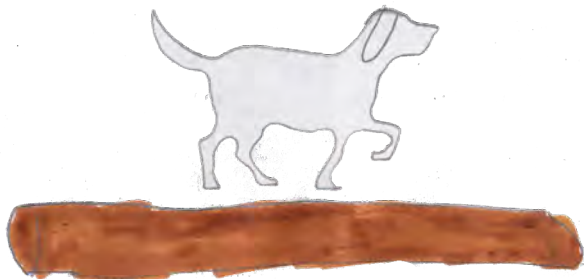
Once upon a time, there was a white, quadrupedal dog who liked jumping around. Jumping was one of his favourite hobbies. Every day, he jumped on the trampoline. He always ran away by jumping over the fence and going to find something else to jump on.

One day, when the dog went to jump outside, he landed flat on the ground. He tried again and again, but he still landed flat on the ground.

He thought he was never ever going to jump again. But he did jump again, and he broke his leg.

He had to go to the vet. The vet said he had to stay there for two days so he stayed for two days. When he woke the next morning, the vet had to do something.

Finally, everything was done. The vet said he was free to go. When they got home, the dog tried to jump and it worked, he could balance.



## **The Parkour Tamarin**

*Lincoln*

Once there was a tamarin that liked to jump. Every day he liked to jump over logs and land safely, then he was ready to go again.

One day all the trees got chopped down and he had to balance on a tree stump. Then he had to change because he had no trees, so he started to do parkour.

Finally, he started jumping tree stumps. He used them as obstacles, and he was happy once again.

## **The Squirrel and the Swamp Adventure**

*Connor*

Once upon a time, there was a quadrupedal squirrel who was a sneaky nut robber. He had brown fur. Brown was also the colour of his skin.

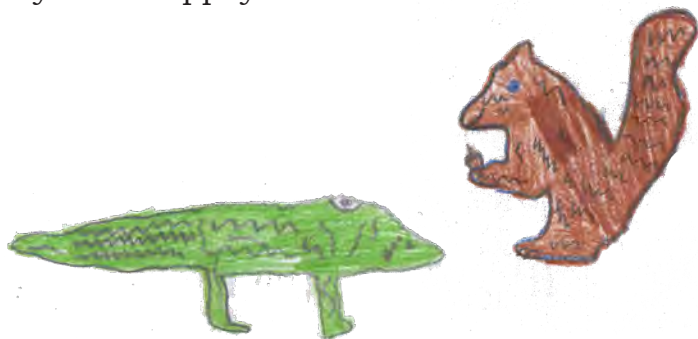
His daily routine was to go to a little area in his tree where he practiced parkour. He jumped over obstacles and ended up at the spot where he kept his nuts.

One day, the squirrel was walking in the forest when he came across a swamp with dead trees in it, so he swung through them. Some of the branches were cracking, and he had to vault through those ones to get across. But he slipped into the water...

The squirrel called to the crocodile who lived in the swamp to help him get out.

At last, the crocodile popped up and put the squirrel on his mouth. The squirrel tried to balance on his mouth until he got to the edge of the water.

The squirrel said thanks to the crocodile and they lived happily ever after.



## **The Chip Bear**

*Seamus*

Once there was a quadrupedal bear who liked chips. Every day he would eat 1,000,000 bags of chips. He liked every kind of chip: corn chips, plain chips, even bark chips. He liked every type of chip.

One day he crawled to get some chips out of the cupboard. He opened the cupboard and there were no chips so he leaped out of his pants. Because of that he had to sprint to the shop to buy some chips. But the chips had moved. Because of that, he had to climb up the shelf to get them.

Finally, he ran back to his home, ate his corn chips and watched his favourite movie (*The Big Chip*).

## **The Fox Terrier**

*Thomas*

Once there was a fox terrier that liked jumping and catching butterflies, but only the random ones.

Every day, the fox terrier went hunting for rabbits, in the same forest where he found butterflies, amongst the long logs.

One day, the fox terrier went to jump but there were no butterflies. He landed and ran to his favourite log. There were also no rabbits.

Then he saw a hunter hunting rabbits. He had scared away the butterflies.

Eventually, the hunter bought the forest. The fox terrier got exhausted and ran away.

Finally, the fox terrier was owned by a lovely lady. The fox terrier had no forest, but went every now and then to the forest to check for butterflies.



## **Oogie Boogie The Tree**

*Joran*

Once upon a time there was a tree that was tall and fat. Every day it stayed on the ground and things jumped on and off it.

One day a bear tried to balance on a branch of the tree and one of the branches snapped and the bear fell and snapped its arm. Because of that the tree was bleeding. The tree got upset and dropped its leaves onto the bear, who drowned in the leaves.

After that, nothing else would climb up the tree.



## **The Elk and the Beetle**

*Jimmy*

Once upon a time there was an elk who liked to graze on bushes and jump over logs. He had a rhino beetle for a friend. That rhino beetle lived on top of the elk's antlers, and picked up the bugs from the leaves he could reach.

Every day, the elk jumped over three logs, eight bushes, and one fox. He enjoyed this but the rhino beetle hated it.

One day, the elk vaulted a log too hard and the rhino beetle was flung off the elk's antlers. The rhino beetle barely managed to land safely. The rhino beetle was left on the ground and had to fend off all the other beetles so he could survive. He started to look for Elk.

Eight hours later he found Elk's home. He had to balance along sticks and branches to get there, but he made it.

Finally, Elk picked up the rhino beetle and carried him along for the rest of his life. Rhino Beetle fended off the bugs for Elk, while Elk got bugs off the leaves for Rhino Beetle's consumption.



## **A Bug**

*Jack*

Once upon a time there was a green bug who jumped around from leaf to leaf every day because he was bored.

One day he found a big leaf. He was relaxing and eating on the leaf. He ate so much that he became fat and fell off! After that, he had to lose weight by climbing back up.

Finally he got to the top again.

## **A Big Bad Naughty Fox**

*Xander*

Once upon a time there was a fox and it jumped over bright sewer and brand new fences. It was an orange fox. He lived in a den where it was really, really dirty.

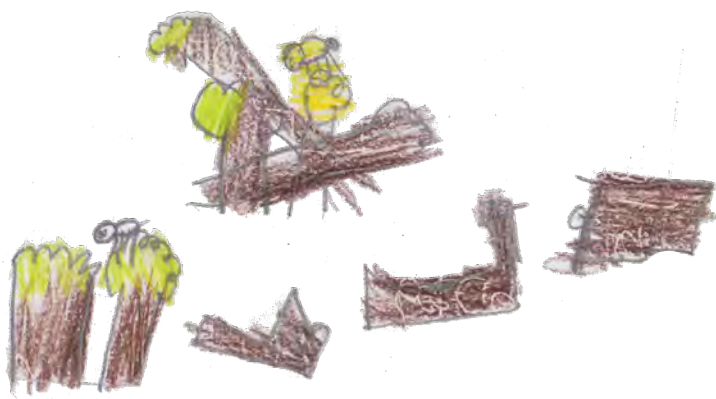
Every day, the fox woke up and jumped over fifteen big logs, then went in a farmer's paddock and ate the sheep and lambs.

One day, the fox landed off a tree and saw a farmer. He left because he got scared.

He was scared because he thought he might get spotted, but he was safe.

But then, the fox balanced on a huge log and fell off. The farmer came and saw the fox.

Meanwhile the fox saw the farmer. He ran away until he climbed a tree and slipped...



## **The Really Long Lizard**

*Archie*

Once, there was a really long lizard. It had wonderful colours on it, like a rainbow and it really liked eating worms. Every day it jumped up onto a tree.

The really long lizard had a friend, Micky, and he was a turtle.

One day, the lizard came back to his tree but it was cut down and his friend Micky was on the other side. So the lizard had to balance on the tree to get to Micky.

The next day, the lizard found another tree and he climbed up. Then the lizard and the turtle continued being friends in the bush.

## **The Puma who turned into a Tiger**

*Marianna*

Once there was a puma called Stripe. Why this name? Because he was born with stripes like a tiger. Other pumas teased him and called him a freak and an unnatural quadrupedal. This made Stripe awfully sad.

Every day, Stripe would quietly get out of bed while his parents were sleeping, eat some of the scraps leftover from dinner, and sneakily creep out of the cave. He'd run to a secret hideout he had made where he would dream of being a tiger.

One day, Stripe was in a dark corner of his cave while his parents had walked out to get ready for his third birthday. Strangely, Stripe didn't feel like waking up. His mum came in and spotted him and screamed!

Stripe woke with a start. His mum had run out of the cave to get his dad. Stripe was just about to go into a doze when he looked at his paws. The fur between the stripes was orange. Stripe realised he was now a tiger!

He walked proudly out of the cave only to find all the pumas gone. Suddenly, all of the pumas jumped out of the bushes and started to attack him. Strip reared in fright and the ground around him cracked. He ran into the forest and continued running.

Stripe walked up to a group of tigers. They were just like him. Once pumas who had turned into tigers, they were very kind and they introduced him to other tigers. Stripe spent the rest of his life as happy as he had dreamed.



## **The Bug that Likes Cheese**

*Lukas*

Once upon a time there was a bug and he was awesome! He liked cheese.

Every day he woke up and jumped out of bed to get breakfast, which was cheese.

One day, he woke up and discovered his house was split in half! He used a curtain rod to balance across the gap to get his cheese.

Now that he could think clearly, he realised that there had been an earthquake. He had to start rebuilding his house. He had to climb the highest trees and run the longest stretch of ground to gather all his materials.

Finally, the bug finished his house. It looked new and really clean, with lots of cheese.

## **The Super Monk**

*Joshua*

Once upon a time there was a man called Monk. They called him Monk because he jumped a lot. He jumped there and there, he jumped everywhere. The people in Jerusalem called him a freak and imprisoned him. He was a quadrupedal. Monk ate bananas all day, about 10-12 of them. Everyone called him Monkey. He jumped to the market to get more bananas. If he didn't have enough money, he took money and gave some to the poor.

One day, he was walking in the forest when he met a monkey. He went to pat him when the monkey bit him. Suddenly, Monk grew a tail. He was turning into a monkey!

Because of that, he had to leave the village and never see his mother again. It was a sad day, but after a week he learned to use his powers. They expanded a lot.

There was a cowboy called Hunter. He hunted every animal that was a quadrupedal. So when he heard of Monk, he found him and got him into a trap. BAM! He trapped Monk.

Finally, Hunter brought him to his village. Monk was doomed until he said to the Hunter "Come here, can I have a banana?"



Hunter said no. Then Monk grabbed his weapon and said, "Let me go."

"Ok," the hunter said.

"Thanks."

# Monk



## **The Cow**

*Naite*

Once upon a time, there was equipment. We have not used it but we will use the oval to jump trees and break bones.

Every day I jump, but today we're jumping over and over.

One day we will box jump the moon. Then a cow pooped on me, I mean it also box jumped the moon, and landed on me.

The cow had great balance, but one day the cow slipped and squished its udder. It lost so much blood that it died.

After that, we went to the funeral and it stinks.

## The Scared Pig

*Shakiah*

Once upon a time there was a pig who was scared of mud.

Every day he saw the other pigs rolling in the mud. All he wanted to do was relax with his friends.

One day he fell asleep and Jeff pushed the pig in mud. He woke up and he felt cold.

Because of that, he said "Help! Where am I?"

Jeff said, "You're in mud!" He was frozen.

After that, the pig kept rolling in mud and said "It's not that bad."

Until finally, he chased Jeff all around the mud and had fun.



## **The Leaf and the Person**

*Arthur*

Once upon a time, there was a leaf that fell off a tree in the forest.

Every day, a deer jumped over the leaf to run away from a person in the forest.

One day, while the person was chasing the deer, he found himself lost in a different part of the forest. He got scared because a bear was there.

The person vaulted over the bear to get a sharp stick. He stabbed the bear and then he ate the bear.

After that, the leaf moved somewhere else. The whole tree (where it had come from) fell down, and the person ran away from the falling tree just in time.

Six months later, the person still comes to the forest, but now he is peaceful.

## **The Shy Fox**

*Charlotte*

There was a shy fox who loved to jump any time of the day.

Every day, the fox would roam the woods in search of something to jump. He'd jump logs, rocks, and deer too, nothing would ever stop him. One day, as the fox was doing his usual roam in the woods, he saw another fox standing in front of him. The foxes looked at each other, wondering what to do next.

The foxes decided to have a jumping contest. First, a log - both cleared it easily. Second - a large bush, still cleared it easily. What were they to do?

Just then, a stag walked by. The other fox tried to jump the stag but failed. But the shy fox not only jumped higher than the stag, but balanced on the stag's back!

Finally, the other fox admitted that the shy fox was the best at jumping and balancing. With that, the shy fox returned to his log home and lived happily ever after.



## **Guy the Bear**

*Peter*

Once, there was an angry bear. He hated everyone. He had no friends because he ate them all. Every day, he jumped tree to tree into a lake to catch fish. One day, a rabbit took a fish and the bear ran after it. They vaulted through and over trees, until the rabbit ran into a den.

The bear went back to his house and got dynamite to blow the den up and get the rabbit and the fish. He said, "I'm going to eat that rabbit for dinner!"

3...2...1.... BANG! The den blew up, but the rabbit ran off again. The bear chased it up the highest mountain and finally caught the rabbit.

The rabbit was about to be dinner. But he said sorry and gave the fish back. He and the bear became friends.

## Red Chair

*Chloe*

Once upon a time there was a quadrupedal chair and it was an alive chair. It was too scared to wear red. Every day it was scared to go to Coles and Red Rooster because they were red and this chair did not like red.

One day, the Chair was so hungry that he went to Chair Bear's house and ate lots of food. Chair Bear got suspicious and put a blind fold on Chair and tricked Chair into liking red! He is now not friends with Chair Bear because Chair Bear lied to him. Now he feels wrong about avoiding red all his life so he says, "I'm always wrong".



## **The Fat Cow**

*Archie*

Alison the cow was very fat, and she liked to jump over the moon. Every day she ate grass and tried to escape the farmer, because then she could be free. One day, she was balancing on the fence when she slipped and squished her udder. The milk squirted everywhere. Alison got so angry that she went full rage. She smashed the fence, climbed onto the roof of the barn, and jumped off the roof to freedom.



## **The Tiger About To Like Stuff Like Lunch**

*Kaeden*

Once upon a time there was a tiger that did not like elephants and lunch! He was short but did not like good stuff like lunch. Unfortunately he could die without lunch, so he just ate a little bit but he didn't enjoy it.

Every day he saw an elephant running at him while he was eating. The elephant just wanted to say hi and was sorry for scaring him. He just wanted to be his friend, but the tiger didn't know that.

One day the tiger met another tiger and they became best friends. But something was a bit suspicious. It was suspicious because this tiger he had grey fur instead of orange and black. Because of that, the tiger leaped into the other tigers' cave to have a look... That's because he thought that the elephant was living with him. So the tiger climbed upstairs until finally the tiger looked and looked but the elephant was eating lunch in the cave. And the elephant saw him. The tiger said, "Oh, you're not ferocious." They soon became friends without having to pretend. The elephant talked the tiger into eating lunch.



## **A Normal Old Tree**

*Mel*

In a dark and gloomy forest, there was a normal old tree. It was fat at the bottom and thin at the top, and it had green leaves.

Every day, a monkey jumped from tree to tree but always came to this tree. He vaulted himself to the branch and then he got up and balanced himself all the way to the other side. The branch broke and snapped into two. The monkey got upset because this was his favourite tree.

Six months later, the monkey came back and climbed the trees. When he got to his favourite old tree, he realised that the branch had grown back.

## Mr Sloth

*Jake*

Once there was a quadrupedal sloth that could fly. Every day the sloth would fly around and save people. His power ran on Zooper Doopers, all types of Zooper Doopers.

One day an evil duck with a ray gun came and tried to get all the Zooper Doopers and make them small so no one could have one. The evil duck had an army of leaping frogs to help. He knew that if all the Zooper Doopers were small, the flying sloth would not have his powers to fly and save people. Then the duck would be the king and have the tallest building in the world. It would even have a climbing frame and the sloth would not even be able to climb it because he would have no power at all!

In the end, the evil duck got trapped on the roof. When the sloth flew up he took the gun and threw it off the building so it smashed.



## **Agree on Everything**

*Rebecca, Ella, Jake and Jack*

Once upon a time there was a bunch of criminals. There was a dog who had four legs and could run fast, a cat with four legs who could run fast too, and a lion who had four legs who could run and he could run fast too!

Every day they played together and they did things and they needed to agree on everything, including eating and playing.

One day the lion didn't agree with the dog and cat about what they would do. The cat's family came and tried to fight with the lion and the dog to reach her family. Because of that the lion got scared of the cat family and the dog family. Because of that he ran away to the zoo.

Finally, they were looking for the lion but they couldn't find him and they went home.

## **Ellie the Elephant**

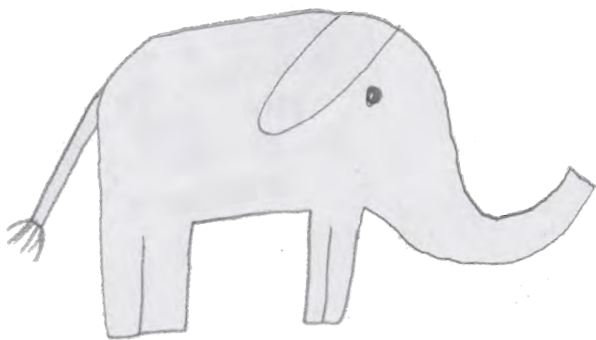
*Kellies*

Once there was a cheeky elephant named Ellie who loved water. She had long trunk, big ears and was grey. Every day she would splash some water onto another elephant at the waterhole where all the elephants had a drink.

One day Ellie leapt to the waterhole so she could splash all the other elephants there. But since it didn't rain, there was no water. Because of that Ellie could not splash the other elephants so she went back to her home.

Ellie sat down to read a book, then out rolled a tiny, grey creature that turned out to be a mouse. The mouse knew Ellie liked water so she told Ellie there was another waterhole next to the park.

Finally, Ellie ran past the park and saw the waterhole where there were lots of elephants. Ellie walked to the water and splashed the elephants.



## **Two Smart Dogs**

*Charlotte*

Rainbow the bulldog and his friend Zarly lived in a land called Australia. They lived in a back garden and liked to dig holes, chew bones, jump, and pounce.

Every day was like the same day until there was a storm in McLoud Street. The wind was blowing hard enough for Rainbow and Zarly to lose their balance, then .... WHOOSH! The fence flew off and the dogs flew away!

When they woke up, they found themselves in an obstacle course that led back to their home. All of the houses looked the same, but they knew their house was at the end of the street.

It took a while. There were lots of zig-zags, turns, corners, and dead-ends, but they made it.

Rainbow and Zarly barked and scratched at the door. Their owners picked them up and gave them lots of hugs and kisses.

## The Parkour Wombat

*Alex*

Once upon a time there was a beautiful wombat who liked to jump around and do parkour.

Everyday the wombat did a round of parkour, then one minute of getting food from Bob.

One day, the wombat was getting chased by a fox. He swung, landed and vaulted through the forest.

Because of that, he broke a leg. He made a band for his leg and the fox fled.

Because of that, the wombat didn't like to jump around. Instead he liked to balance.

Finally, the wombat balanced, swung, vaulted, and landed back home.



## **The Vegan Lion**

*Archie*

Once upon a time, there was a lion. He killed butterflies every day, and had butterflies in his belly. He jumped around, landed on edges and balanced to catch the butterflies.

Eventually, he ate all the butterflies in his area.

Because of that, he became a vegan.

Finally, he died of old age.



## Woody!

*Hamish*

Once upon a time there was a quadrupedal table that ate your food! He was wood, and loved peanut butter jelly.

Everyday, when you looked away, it ate your food.

One day the food stopped.

“What will I grow from?” asked the table. “Or is my fooodood people? Yum!”

Because of that... KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK

“FBI! Open up, we’re coming in!” BOOM!

“Oh nooooooo what happened?” cried the FBI agents, looking at the man. “He’s dead! We will find you, table!”

“They won’t find me if I jump out the window,” said the table as it ran to a shop...

Finally, cold wood saw a shop man.

“Boss, what do you want to do with this old piece of wood?”

“Chop it up!”

“No!” screamed the table, “I’ve been chopped in half! I’m dying, no, dead!”



## **The Lonely Fox**

*Eli*

A lonely fox lived alone in his den. Every morning he woke up and he was always upset. Every day he would leave his den and be aware of the mean, grizzly bear. He would go where the bear had just left and ate any scraps that were left. Then he would go home.

One day when he woke up, the bear was standing at the end of his bed! The bear said, "That meat you ate yesterday was MINE!" The fox jumped out of bed and landed on his mat.

He ran out of his den to his neighbour, Mrs Happy. The lonely fox explained everything to her and Mrs Happy let him stay there.

Mrs Happy set up a trap that had *mycelium* in it. Nothing happened for an hour or two.

Finally, the bear opened the door and got trapped in the cage with the *mycelium*.

Now the lonely fox isn't lonely anymore, he is happy.

## Cute!

*Emily*

Cuteypie was a pug and she was a cuteness criminal. Her biggest fear was not being cute. Every day she made sure she was still cute by looking in the mirror. She also hypnotised people with her cuteness.

One day there was a flyaway on the top of her head and she spotted a hair clip on the other side of the pond. She leaped all the way to the other side because she was desperate. But the clip was out of fashion. She had to go to the dog show! She felt embarrassed, worried, and self-conscious.

Finally, she came first in the show and realised that it doesn't matter about your cuteness as long as you're happy.



**The Monkey that Yeeted Nuts at the King**  
*Murphy*

Once upon a time, there was a monkey.

Every day, he yeeted nuts at the king.

One day, while he was yeeting nuts at the king, an astronaut poo fell out of space and hit the monkey on the head! It knocked him out.

After that, he stopped yeeting nuts at the king.

Instead, he ate the nuts and poeed on the king.

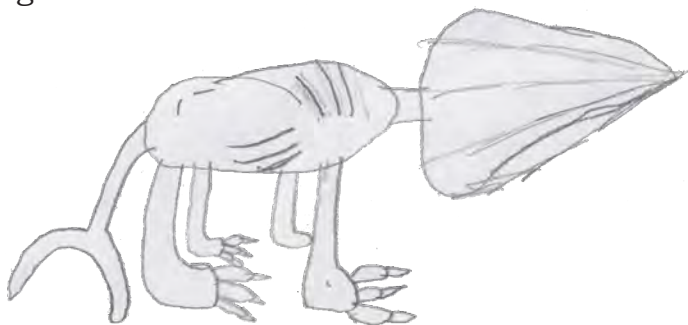
## The Demogorgon Brothers

*Phoenix*

Once upon a time there was a demogorgon. The demogorgon was called Max and everyday he would say hello to the other demogorgons, and he would eat people everyday. It was hard for Max because they would run. He would get angry and frustrated, but he forgot everyday that he was scary and part of him came off while he was running.

One day a boy saw this piece of the demogorgon. He picked up the piece and he felt something in his feet. His human legs turned into demogorgon legs! Because of that, he started leaping and shouting for help, even though he was fine. But then he started to turn into a demogorgon! Because of that they were brothers. They did not know that because they were nowhere near each other, so they could do their meeting call.

They started to go to the pack of the demogorgons and it took two hours just to get there. Finally they made it to the pack and they saw each other. Then they did everything together.



## **The Leopard and the Lizard**

*Tamzin*

A leopard fell out of a tree. Why? Because he was trying to eat a lizard, but the lizard just jumped away.

The leopard fell out of the same tree every day, trying to catch the same lizard.

One day, the leopard actually caught the lizard. But he lost his balance, and then the lizard just disappeared out of the blue.

The lizard was gone. The leopard became so hungry he could have eaten a whole bear.

He went hunting for a bear, but then he came to a mystery obstacle course!

“Oh no, I’m going to have to figure out!” he thought to himself, “I’m so hungry!”

At last, the leopard made it through the obstacle course. He found a bear.

“There is my food. I’m going to get it....” said the leopard.

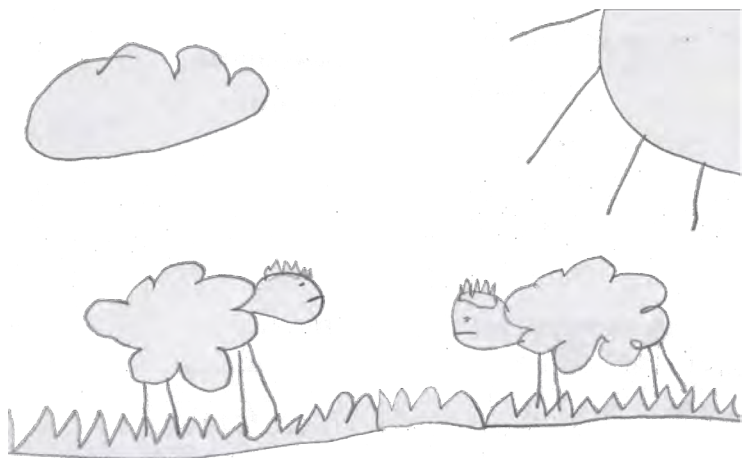
## Sam the Lamb

*Mitchell*

Once upon a time there was a pet lamb. He loved to jump over his fence and get out. He ran away everyday. His name was Sam the lamb, and he didn't have many friends. Everyday he got up and had some green grass, and listened to the birds chirping.

One day, he got up but there was no green grass and no birds chirping, so he went for his daily walk. There was no green grass anywhere. He turned to another lamb who didn't like him but he wouldn't talk. Sam the lamb walked to his best friend but he wasn't home, so he walked out to his friend's far out dam but he wasn't there. Because of that, Sam walked back to his far out spot, but there were little things like rocks everywhere.

Finally the grass started to grow and he found his best friend Bob. They ate some grass



## **A Lone Husky**

*Ashley*

I have a husky named Maninga who used to chase after cars.

Every day I would chase Maninga because he would always run away.

One day, he didn't run away. I was extremely shocked, I was waiting for him to run.

I gave him a doggy treat because he didn't run away.

After that, he stopped running away. Instead, he did parkour tricks!

Now he runs by doing his parkour tricks. He jumps the fence and now I have to run after him again!



## The Mystery of the Disappearance of Alexander the Dog

*Jude*

Alexander was a quadrupedal dog who was speedy and playful. He liked to eat food and play with his owners. Everyday, he slept, ate and played. He liked to cuddle up with his wonderful owner, next to the fire on chilly nights.

One day, the luxurious owner leapt from his bed to discover that Alexander the dog had disappeared. Also, he thought it was strange that he hadn't been eating his dog food that he always thought was so delicious. Because of that, Alexander's owner felt panicked and scared for Alexander. He printed off lots of posters saying that his dog was lost. He searched far and wide, and high and low, for Alexander. He felt more anxious every day for his dog. He had to climb to different places to look for his dog. The owner felt worried, depressed, and angry at himself.

On his last day of looking, he finally looked up into the distance of a silent park. A hungry-looking Alexander was sprinting towards him! He was overjoyed and never happier to see his dog.



## **Stuck in a Hole**

*Paul*

Once upon a time, there was a cheetah who liked to hunt.

Every day, he jumped on the back of a zebra and ripped it apart.

One day, as he was hunting a hog, a huge gorilla landed in front of him.

The cheetah ran as fast as he could up the hill.

He had to jump. "Oh no," he thought. He landed in a hole and couldn't get out.

Finally, a vine fell off the tree and he climbed out of the obstacle.

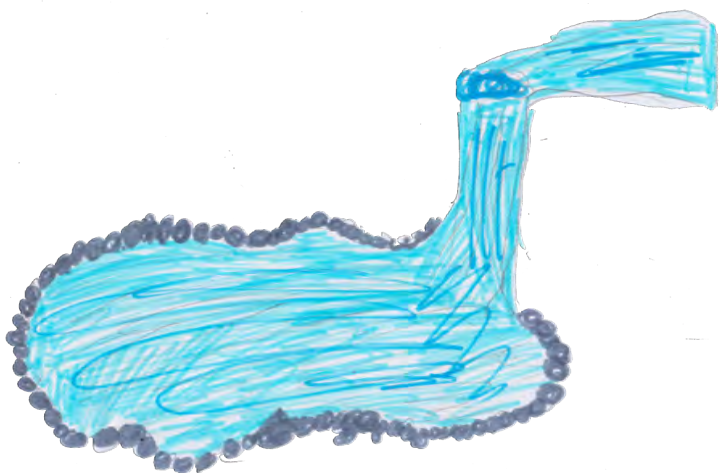
## **The Magic Waterfall**

*Tyla*

Once there was a waterfall who liked flowers and roses. Every day, when people left, the waterfall got rocks and the waterfall turned into a human figure. It jumped off a rock and down a mountain.

One day the waterfall couldn't balance in its human figure so she couldn't stand up. That was very bad because she needed the exercise for her body to work. Because of that the waterfall had to get a magic waterfall doctor to get checked out and be healthy again.

The magic waterfall doctor had to vault the waterfall to make it better. The magic waterfall doctor vaulted because it cracked the waterfall's human back. Finally, the magic waterfall doctor vaults worked! The waterfall felt all better.



## **The Goldfish at the Pub**

*Ryan*

Once upon a time there was a goldfish, his name was Jef. He was really gold and lived next to the pub.

Every day Jef would jump out of his lake and go to the pond to get food, and go to the pub to have a beer. The food at the pub was really gross so he didn't eat there.

One day he was just coming home from the pub when he got caught vaulting over a police car. Because of that he ended up in jail and spent five years there. In fact, he did not get out until he was 100 and he was really old and sick.

Once he got home he put on lots of first aid, went to the pub, and turned into a platypus.

## **Lion's Life**

*Jacob*

Once upon a time there was a quadrupedal lion that was scared of rhinos. Everyday, he went to hunt for antelope, deer, fish, and buffalo for his pride.

One day, when he was sleepwalking, he leapt on a rhino in the rhino's territory and nearly died. After that, he never went out without a map to get home, so he would never sleepwalk dangerously again. He never climbed on a rhino again and was safe at home.

Finally, he got married and had kids. They lived happily ever after.



## **The New Dog**

*Jay*

Once upon a time there was a dog. He was a normal dog - his family were the weird ones. They thought they were perfect.

Every day, this dog would jump out of bed and have some really nice dog food. He thought it was great but the people thought it was disgusting. After that, he would go for a morning walk. One day, the dog noticed there was no one in the house. His food was gone and his water dish was empty. It was a lot more quiet than usual. He grew tired and weak. He got up and needed to catch his balance. He walked around, and that's when he noticed something odd. There was a NEW DOG! It was his worst nightmare of his life. His family loved the other dog two times more than they loved him.

Later that day, the dog came up with a plan to gather as many things as he could find and climb up to the door handle. It was challenging, but he finally made it to the top. It was a hell of a climb. As soon as he opened the door, he realised you do not need to be the most loved one in the family.

## The Dog who was Scared of Cats

*Jesse*

Once upon a time there was a dog who was scared of cats. Everyday, he ate tables with lollies on them because he was scared of cats.

One day, the dog pushed the cat into a pond. The cat leapt out of the pond and ran away. His big brother was mean to him because he was scared of cats. So he shouted at his brother, and climbed up a tree, and that was the end of his big brother.

After that he was not scared of cats.



## **Luna the Monkey**

*Trinity*

Once there was a monkey called Luna who was afraid of her tail. She had been afraid of her tail since the day she was in the trees just hanging from a branch and she fell out of the tree and blamed her tail.

Everyday Luna would stare at everything because she had nothing better to do. Luna did not like playing with the other monkeys because she would need her tail, and when she was alone she could forget her tail was there.

One day Luna started to hate trees. She got pushed up the tree and tried to scramble out off the tree's branch, but she didn't make the landing. Instead she fell past a branch at the bottom of the tree. Luna was scared but her tail caught the branch! She climbed onto the branch and felt amazing and safe and loved her tail from that day.

Finally, Luna could enjoy her tail and go out to play with the other monkeys.



## **Forever Blu**

*Jensen*

Once upon a time there was a kelpie who liked to jump. Her name was Blu and she was seven months old. Everyday she jumped the seven foot fence. She was a terror but we still loved her.

One day, Blu was chasing a sheep but when she tried to jump over the fence she couldn't make it. She kept trying, but every time she hurt herself. Weeks later, she swung over the fence and landed on her feet for the first time. That made me so scared that I told mum to take her to the vet to get checked.

Blu had to get put down because she injured her legs. It could not be fixed! I got very upset because Blu could not be replaced.

Finally we got a new kelpie who had much better balance. We named her Red.



## **The Devil Sheep Baaaaaa**

*Chelsea*

Once upon a time there was a sheep and it was a devil. When a normal sheep was there the devil sheep jumped to the normal sheep. The normal sheep pooped itself! Every day the devil sheep turned into a ninja. When the sun rose, it turned into a normal sheep, and did sheep things.

One night, the devil sheep tried to balance over the hay bale on the snow. Because it was slippery, the devil sheep kept falling off it and got so angry it grew horns. After that, he tried to climb a wall, but he couldn't do that either. He was so angry that he broke his arm.



# Short Stories



One Day We Will Box Jump The Moon

## **Stop the Clock**

*Lily Weaver*

Jaiden West was rushing about as usual that Tuesday morning, oblivious to the fact that she was about to make the biggest discovery of her life. She was just leaping out the door when her shoulder knocked a vase on the table and it went flying. Jaiden stood there in horror as the vase smashed into tiny pieces. She dashed to the broken vase and started picking up the shards. Suddenly, a shimmer of light caught her eye. She whipped around and saw a small silver locket sitting in the mess of broken glass. Jaiden picked it up and had started examining it when she remembered with a jolt that she was meant to be at school. She hastily stuck the locket underneath the doormat and sped out the door.

After school (and after another detention for being late), Jaiden took the locket up to her room to look at it. Ten minutes had passed before she finally prised it open but she was disappointed to find that there was nothing inside. She decided to take it to school the next day to show her friends.

When lunch time the next day arrived, however, she felt in her pocket for the locket but it was gone!

She ran up to her friends Audrey and Samantha to tell them this puzzling and bizarre string of events but before she had said anything, Samantha exclaimed, "Wow Jaiden, where did you get that cool necklace?" Jaiden frowned and a chill went down her spine. She felt around her neck and gasped - the locket was there! After that she decided not to tell her friends about it.

That night, as Jaiden was looking at the locket she noticed that when she opened it, it made a clicking noise. Jaiden located where the sound was coming from and pressed it. She sighed when nothing happened and went to go to bed, but she realised her clock had stopped. She rolled her eyes and muttered, "Of course it's broken, just my luck!"

She started to draw her curtains when she realised that there was a leaf right in front of her. Usually seeing a leaf in autumn is normal, but this leaf was frozen in mid-air. Jaiden looked at the other trees and sure enough, leaves that had just fallen were stopped completely just outside her window. Jaiden quickly rushed back to the locket and pressed the spot again. She watched open mouthed as the clock started to work again and the leaves continued their descent. Jayden gaped at the locket. An awestruck "Wow!" was all she could muster.

\*\*\*

The next day, Jaiden slept in three hours. She walked slowly to school, and stopped to get an ice-cream on the way. She then enjoyed a two and a half hour lunch break and even got through the entire day without a single detention! The locket was the best thing that had ever happened to her! As she was walking home, she decided to detour to the lake, as it was very pretty when the sun set. Jaiden watched dreamily as the colours danced across the gentle ripples. She was imagining all the possibilities now she had the locket. Jaiden walked to the edge to admire the spectacular light show but as she stood at the very edge, she felt the soft chain of the locket slip from her neck. It seemed to happen in slow motion. She watched in horror as the locket fell slowly towards the lake. It hit the water with a splash and sunk into the depths below. Jaiden stood there for a very long time struggling to find the locket in the shadows of dusk. Eventually she sighed and began to walk slowly toward home, thinking to herself; it was over as quickly as it began.

Audrey Carter was walking past the lake on her way to school the next morning, when she noticed a glint of silver shimmering at the bottom. She leaned over, reaching down into the cool refreshing water and pulled out... a small silver locket.



One Day We Will Box Jump The Moon

## **The Oxford Train**

*Georgina England*

Once upon a time there was a professor at Oxford University, Graham. He had bright green eyes, neatly combed brown hair, and pale skin that burnt to a crisp in the sun. He walked around the campus with a particular spring in his step. His life was good.

Everyday, Graham caught the train into Oxford from his small apartment in the suburbs with his dog Franko next to him. He would smile to Mrs Albrez and read his book. Graham spent his days at the campus with Franko, then would walk to a small bookstore in Outer Oxford. Jenny was the owner of that bookstore, she also happened to be his best friend, his only friend in fact. She had a kind nature and a big smile. As she walked around the bookstore, her blond ponytail bobbed around, but her blue eyes were still on Graham through her thick-framed glasses as she listened to the stories of his day.

One day, as Graham was getting on the train to Oxford a group of teens rudely pushed in front of him in the line. He couldn't help but roll his

eyes. As Graham got to the doors, they clicked shut before his eyes. Graham sighed and looked around seeing that Franko wasn't there. He was on the train! He glimpsed at Franko still looking happy through the window while Graham's face dropped. Franko must've weaved between the legs of those teens.

He was happily sitting on his usual seat as the train pulled away. Graham was losing his mind over poor Franko. But he knew logically all he could do was wait for the next train.

When he got to Oxford he wasn't even worried about his class. He had to find Franko. He knew his way around so he would still be on campus. Graham looked everywhere. Until he heard his name blasted over the PA in a shrill voice. He was being called to the office.

When Graham got to the office, and saw his boss displaying an angry expression on his face, that had Graham very worried. Graham urgently asked if this was about Franko, but his boss just rolled his eyes.

"No, Mr Carmindor, this is about how you FAILED to attend four of your classes, that YOU were meant to be teaching!" his boss shouted. "This is UNBELIEVABLE!"

He had completely forgotten about his classes. This would not be good.

"You are FIRED!!" his boss screamed at him.

Graham uttered a 'but', but his boss just pointed with his big beefy finger to the door.

Graham slowly trudged out of the office and down the hall. He had lost all hope. No

dog and no job. He didn't know where to go. Graham without thinking trudged down to the bookstore.

Until finally, he got to the bookstore unexpectedly. Maybe Jenny could help him see the bright side, in the rare case there was one. He swung the door open. Graham looked up, expecting to see Jenny working, but he looked up to see Franko in Jenny's arms. His face lit up and Franko jumped out of Jenny's arms and ran toward Graham. Even Franko had been worried. They all had smiles on their faces.

"I was starting to get worried," Jenny laughed, looking at Graham. "How did this all happen?"

So Graham recounted the whole day from the train to being fired. Afterwards, Jenny nodded with a warm smile and invited him to have a cup of tea.

Two weeks later, Graham was reshelving books at that small bookshop in outer Oxford, Franko at his heels, Jenny smiling at him from the counter. He put away the last book and looked up at Jenny and asked happily, "What's next, boss?"

"I reckon it's time for tea," Jenny whispered so only he could hear, as she started pottering towards the little kitchen that held the kettle.

Graham smiled and he walked towards the kitchen with a particular spring in his step, Franko following at his ankles. His life was good again.

One Day We Will Box Jump The Moon

## **Ivory Plains and Sunburnt Fields**

*Ashleigh McNaughton*

The village of Colastro on the west coast of Greece is ordinarily known as quite a sleepy little town, so when the villagers heard a shrill cry echo out, they were understandably quite confused. Although, after putting some thought into the matter, there was only one person who dared to disturb their peace at this unholy hour of the morning.

The orotund tones of one Rebecca Aarons exclaiming for the thousandth time that her life was a “wasted opportunity” and that she deserved to be able to just let the world know what she was like, rather than “being stuck in this hole”, could be heard worming their way out of the Aarons household this particular morning. Oh, Rebecca – that’s me – definitely had a well-practised argument after 17 years of having to put up with these people regrettably called her family.

Day in and day out, I do what my father expects of the women in my family, as he says, “those fish don’t just gut themselves do they now my little kōri.” Well, having your family

own a small fishing business in a fishing village certainly has its pros and cons, well mostly cons for me. Listening to the incessant nagging of my mother asking me when I'm going to marry "that nice boy Alec Diamandis from two doors down and have children" as she did at her age, whilst gutting fish is assuredly not one of the things I long to do every day of my life. Despite that, I still prep the fish and take them to market every morning.

I was actually down at the market selling the latest catch (as per usual) when I glimpsed the poster that would cause all this trouble, but most importantly (for me) make my dreams become reality. Lying on the ground in front of me was a discarded flyer proclaiming this:

"Go on a student exchange program abroad and open yourself to a world of opportunity. Do you want the chance to experience foreign cultures and get educated abroad? Come check out our website in the link below and get the chance to learn a little more about what we offer."

The moment I finished reading the poster, it was like a light bulb had gone off in my head. I just had to know more. This was my chance to have freedom, my one opportunity to escape the hellish monotony of the life my family was making me live. I had decided it then and there; this was going to be my escape. Little did I know that I was setting out on a pathway comparable to Alice when she tumbled down that rabbit hole and wandered out into wonderland.

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After dinner that night, I managed to sneak out of the house and execute stage one of my elaborate plan to get myself out of Colastro. Following the whitewashed stones laid out before me, I soon ended up at my chosen destination, the front door of my cousin Tony's house. I had determined during dinner earlier that he was the only one I could trust with the information regarding my complex new plans, plus he was the only one in the village that actually owned a computer, so that was an added bonus.

I crept up to the doorway and gently grazed my knuckles against the wood. "Tony," I whispered. After not getting a reaction to my initial response, I inched towards the door and knocked again. "Tony," I repeated in a slightly louder voice, "open up". Not long after that, I heard the tell-tale sounds of footsteps padding against wooden floorboards, waddling towards me and the familiar face of my favourite cousin and only true friend, Tony.

It didn't take long for me to convince Tony that my plan to go abroad was in desperate need of his help and that I was indeed serious about it. Tony and I quickly hopped on his new Lenovo ThinkPad X41 computer and looked through the list of family offering to host.

Finally, after much deliberation, we managed to pick a host family that both Tony and I agreed upon, the Williams family in a place called Silverton, New South Wales, Australia. What was that famous saying that my father always prattles on about, ah yes now I remember,



“happiness is a form of courage”. Well, this was my courage taking one massive leap into the unknown and dragging me along with it.

That night I went to bed dreaming of the pictures Tony and I had looked upon his computer. Pictures of natural wonders and wide-open spaces, Australian beaches, deserts, “the bush” and “the Outback”, as well as the sunburnt fields shown in the pictures of Silverton coloured my mind throughout the night, beckoning me forth.

Before I knew it, I had woken up, jumped out of bed and started packing for my amazing trip. Tony and I had booked a flight on Olympic Airlines that departed at 4:30am in the morning, meaning I had to leave Colastro at 2:45 to get to the airport in time for a 20 minute break before boarding the plane. I had to pause for a while after packing and just start looking around my room, as my situation fully began to wash over my mind and heart like a cold bucket of water.

I was leaving my family today and I wouldn't see Colastro for over six months. There was no going back now though, so I began to close my suitcase and start my silent journey towards the front door.

It was quarter past four in the morning by the time my flight had departed the Athens airport, although we were now halfway through the 19 hours, 45 minutes long flight and things were travelling smoothly. We were flying over the Indian Ocean and I had no reason to believe

anything would go wrong. That was, until the cabin was plunged into darkness and the last thing I heard was screams of the flight attendants yelling out, “BRACE FOR IMPACT, BRACE FOR IMPACT!”



## **ABOUT CREATIVE WRITE-IT**

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