

Scholastic Submission 5th grade

Once upon a time, there was a girl. A pretty enough girl—too thin, too pale. In the cruel world she lived in, she was struggling to survive. She was homeless. Every day she sat in the street begging for money. People didn't care; they threw looks, they whispered, they backed away as if she was some sort of alien. Every night she sneaked into the back of an abandoned, old coffee store. There, she had put together a few bags and other things to make a bed.

One jet-black midnight, she heard a crack, and the door from the front swung open. She quickly hid under the closest table. A person dressed in black, wearing a cloak down to their ankles, tiptoed in. She gasped without thinking and covered her mouth. The stranger slowly came closer and closer, almost knowing that she was there, as if they got some weird pleasure from making people anxiously squirm. They put their hands in their pockets, and she shrieked, "DON'T SHOOT!" They said nothing back. What they took out was gold-colored, a small circle shape with a bluish middle. She suddenly felt nauseous, like she couldn't move. The entire world around her began to shake. She closed her eyes, her screams were drowned out by a piercing noise, she held her breath, and fainted.

"Wake up." "WAKE UP!" She gasped and instantly sat upright. She was on some sort of bed in a simple room—a few paintings, a bed, a desk with some books on it. "Where am I?" she asked. Staring at her were a man and a woman, both looking like the same people who passed by me today. "She has amnesia," the man said and stared more. "We'll have to go to the hospital," he said concerningly. "On Christmas Day, are you crazy?" I, as weird as it was, said, "I'm ok." "Good, let's go down." She and her supposed parents left the room and walked down hardwood stairs.

Being down there felt like a dream. There were people dancing, and the whole room was lit up in Christmas lights. A ten-foot-tall tree in the corner seemed to comfort her in this weird new world. A table, grand and full of delicious-looking food, begged her to come take a cookie, grab a chicken leg. She knew it was wrong to take advantage when she needed to find her way back. On the other hand, what did she have to go back to? She stayed and bounced to the merry music.

The next day, she and her new parents went on a walk through the city. As they were walking, she saw the shop. Her parents ushered her in. "I'll... I'll stay outside," she stuttered. While she was waiting, she turned forward—there was herself. Maybe not her, but some girl sitting alone on the street shivering. A few people kicked her and laughed, then walked into the shop. She hurried in and asked her parents for money. They asked her why, and she said, "There's a girl outside, can you give me something for her to eat too?" They laughed as if it was some sort of joke.

Then it began—that same horrible feeling. "NO!" she screeched. The swirling stopped. People reappeared. They were all staring at me. "You all turn your noses up, you look away as if you are better than anybody who's less than you. You think your fancy houses and your fancy cars make you who you are. You have your money and warm beds and your mothers and fathers to take care of you. You wanna know about my parents? MY PARENTS ARE DEAD!" She knew her dad wasn't dead—he left—but the looks on their faces made her feel sadistically happy. Still, all of her anger came out. She felt hot. It wasn't her anger, though; she suddenly collapsed on the ground.

Sixth Grade get to know you

Please answer the following to the best of your abilities:

- 1) What is your favorite food?

I don't have one.

2) Have you lived anywhere else than Wellesley? If so, where?
I have lived in Shrewsbury and Waltham.

3) What's your favorite movie?
Hamilton or Knives out.

4) Do you participate in any athletics, sports, etc.? If so, which?
Not currently.

5) Who's your favorite cartoon character?
Don't have one.

6) What season (as in fall, winter, etc.) do you like best?
Fall.

7) What sort of job/profession do you think you'd like to have?
Lawyer.

8) What did you enjoy most about the summer?
I liked the weather

9) What did you think of online learning last year?
I liked it better than in person.

10) What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?
Reading.

11) What is your favorite subject in school?
Social Studies.

12) What is your favorite book?
The Mark of Athena

13) Who is your favorite musical artist (band, performer, etc.)?
Don't have one.

14) Do you have any siblings? If so, how many?
Yes, one younger brother.

15) Do you have any pets? If so, what kind of pet (dog, cat, etc.)?
No.

16) What activities do you like best in school (creating models, reading, presentations)?
Reading.

17) If you and your family get food from somewhere, where do you usually go?
We usually eat at home.

18) What do you expect classes to look like at WMS?
Normal, like before the pandemic.

19) What is your favorite song right now?
I don't really have one.

20) Who makes up your immediate family?
My mother, my father, my brother and my grandma.

21) What is your favorite beverage (i.e. iced tea, water, lemonade, etc.)?
Water

22) Do you know anyone else in the class? If so, who? No

Cerberus

Cerberus was born to Echidna, a half deadly and incredibly fearsome snake, half beautiful maiden and, Typhon a serpentine monster. He was brother to the Lernaean Hydra, the Chimera and Orthus, a two headed dog.

Despite being born more than thirteen hundred years ago, Cerberus has appeared in many movies and television shows such as Scoob!, My Little Pony, Harry Potter, Marvel, Final Fantasy, Animaniacs and many, many more. Most of the time he is part of the villains plan, like in Scoob! Or an obstacle like in Harry Potter and My Little Pony.

He is known for having three heads, but in a description written by Hesiod (Theogony) he had fifty heads. Most of the time he is painted with two heads and sometimes only one. He is very tall, at almost thirty feet and has lion claws. His fur is dark black. Because of his half snake parent he has a serpent for a tail, snake heads growing on his back and a mane of snakes. His three heads were thought to represent the past, present and future (obsessing over the past, feeling overwhelmed in the present and fear of the future). Other sources say that they represent birth, youth, and, old age

One important moment in Cerberus's life is the twelfth labor of Heracles. Eurystheus told Hercules to bring Cerberus up from the Underworld. Not because he wanted Cerberus, because he thought it was impossible. Hades let him but He said that Heracles cannot use a weapon. After chaining Cerberus up, he took him back to Eurystheus's kingdom then took him back to the Underworld.

Cerberus's job was to guard the Underworld and keep humans or living souls out. He also was supposed to let in new dead souls

or keep the dead from going back out to the real world. He was known as Hades's pet, Hades was the god of the UnderWorld. He was kind to the dead people who stayed inside but would eat and kill you if you tried to go back to the living.

Sometimes even a huge three headed dog can't keep people from going to the Underworld, people like Orpheus, the Cumaeian Sibyl and already said Heracles. When Orpheus tried to bring back his wife Eurydice, he couldn't pay Charon, the ferryman who brought people across the river Styx so he charmed his way with music. He charmed Cerberus to let him inside the Underworld and successfully retrieved his wife.

Aeneas, like Hercules and Orpheas, needed to go to the UnderWorld and also, like Hercules and Orpheas, Aeneas needed help. They went with the Cumean Sibyl, who brought a honeyed-cake mixed with medicine to make him fall asleep. When they approached Cerberus, the Sibyl tossed him the treat and he fell asleep.

Cerberus is still just a dog, a twenty eight foot, lion clawed, horrible human eating dog, who is still(if he was alive) loyal to Hades and anyone that serves him well. Cerberus is part of more than a hundred art pieces and did more than fifty cameos. And most importantly, he was a very good dog.

Aesops Fables

Aesop was a slave that lived in Greece BCE who supposedly wrote a collection of stories known as Aesop's Fables. Though he is not known very well Aristotle, Herodotus, and Plutarch. Even if you haven't heard of Aesop you've probably heard one of his stories, some of the most famous ones are "The Hare and The Tortoise", "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" or "The Lion and the Mouse"

His stories always have morals such as, yield to all and you will soon have nothing to yield. He wrote important lessons in the form of children's manuscripts.

One of his stories is called The Dog and the Reflection, it is about a dog with a bone who saw his reflection, when he saw it he thought it was another dog with a different bone. He wanted the

other bone but when he snapped at the reflection he lost the first one. The moral of this story is you may lose what you have grasping for more.

Another one is named The Goose with the Golden eggs. It is about a countryman who went to the nest of his goose and he found an egg that was yellow and glittery, he was going to throw it away but he realized it was pure gold so he went every day and got more gold. But as he grew rich he grew greedy and realized if he cut open the goose he could get all the gold but he killed and opened it and found nothing. The moral of this story is that greed often overreaches itself

The nurse and the wolf is a story about a crying child and promises. A nurse told a child to be quiet, or she will feed him to the wolves, it happened that a wolf was passing by and heard that. He thought that the child would cry soon so he waited, but when the child cried again he put his head through the window but the nurse only shut the window and called for help. The moral is enemies promises are made to be broken.

The last one I am going to tell you about is known as the ant and the grasshopper. One day in late fall a grasshopper was skipping in a field when he saw an ant the grasshopper said that he should come and skip with him but the ant said that he was busy getting ready for the winter. The grasshopper thought the ant was crazy. But in the winter the grasshopper was cold and hungry. The moral of this story is it is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

The first manuscripts were in latin and greek and soon after european versions in renaissance times and were read by adults as religious, social and political themes and they were used to educate children and were used for drama and song.

Though not many have heard of aesop all know at least one of his stories and his morals affect how we act today.

The Value of Failure

By Maysa Hazarika

Failure is a very important thing , it keeps you grounded, it inspires you to keep on working and it helps you find shortcuts to succeeding

People have probably told you “learn from your mistakes” you've heard it so much it doesn't matter anymore, but it still is an important and smart concept. Even billionaires have failed on the path to success. Most importantly it helps you figure out ways to succeed. All companies spent time perfecting and testing their idea for years before showing the world, and there still might have been some things that they overlooked. That is important because if you fall down you know what you need to get back up.

Experience is a very good thing to have in business because others think that you know what you're doing even if you have no idea. Failure leads you to go back and check then start again. Being fired gives you experience and to people who are strong-willed, a drive to work harder. Then a few jobs later, you have more things to put on your resume and people think of you differently. Sometimes, it does not matter how much you failed but, you much times you tried again.

All entrepreneurs have failed at least once, and they aren't ashamed. Failing is as normal to them as breathing. People who have not failed, have their confidence built up, and then failing feels even worse. Learning to accept it helps you and your ego.

A baby fails when learning to walk, a businessman fails when trying to get a job, mostly everyone fails pronouncing this word "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis". My point is everyone fails and, this might not be very pleasant to hear but, most people do not have a good way of dealing with it. A baby might throw a fit, a teenager might pout and a grown-up might even become confused. The stages of failure are:

- Stage 1: Shock and Surprise
- Stage 2: Denial
- Stage 3: Anger and Blame
- Stage 4: Depression
- Stage 5: Acceptance
- Stage 6: Insight and Change

All of these stages are important bet the sixth on might be the most. You might skip one, because of your genetics, but you probably have went through this many times. Failure is more important than success, because if you succeed the first time, it

will still feel nice but you wont get the joy of working harder, after failing. If you ask people about failure there first response will probably be that it isn't fun. They might hate it or might say the exact opposite, but there is not a high chance they will. But it is good for them and everyone else who want to improve their knowledge of something.

Failure is an important thing, but it is even more important to keep trying, and if you fail then, try again. It is a thing that happens to everyone. Failure is a very important thing , it keeps you grounded, it inspires you to keep on working and it helps you find shortcuts to succeeding.

Ben and Truman

"I don't know," Ben answered, but from that day on, for Ben at least, things were going to be different. He would make sure of that. Truman shrugged. Then he pulled open the door and held it. He looked right at Ben, and together they walked inside.

As soon as they walked in Ben took his supplies and sat far away from Kevin and for the rest of the day, he avoided him finally, on the bus home, Kevin sat next to him and said, "So, what happened"? Ben replied, "nothing happened also, I'm not going to bully Truman anymore" and got off the bus. On the bus ride home Kevin thought about what Ben said. Was he really a bully? He didn't think about himself that way, he got off the bus. That night he couldn't sleep, he decided first thing in the morning he would apologize to Kevin, Truman and Mr. Caleb.

He sat alone on the bus looking at Kevin and Truman laughing and talking. When he got off he raced to the art room "I told Ben to pull Truman's chair away but don't punish him, you should punish me" he said breathless "good to know, but you shouldn't tell me" said Mr. Caleb, Kevin nodded. In class he went to Truman's desk and said "I'm really sorry about what I did but I have changed" "I know" said Truman. On the ride home the three boys sat together and Ben thought how good it was that they changed and now had another friend.

Evolution

Creation stories

This world has many mysteries and some of them may already have been answered. There are simple ones, an example would be... Why don't snakes have legs? Or... Why is there night and day? There are more deeper ones to like... Is there someone out there who controls what we do and say? Where do all living things come from? How did earth begin? Certain religions have answers to these questions. If you are part of a religion you might have a certain way you dress or react to the world around you. These are some things that might answer any of your questions or any of the questions above.

Christians and Jews

Why don't snakes have legs?

As god's first act he created the first man, Adam. After that he made the garden of Eden and all the animals. Finally he created the first woman, Eve. God specifically told Adam and Eve to not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But one day a suspicious serpent came and convinced Eve to eat an apple from the tree. As punishment god told the serpent "upon thy belly shalt thou go and dust shalt thou eat". Making him and all other snakes slither on the ground for eternity.

Equal education

By Maya Hazarika

I think it is important for all kids no matter their gender or race, to get an education. Malala was a girl and grew up to be a politician. Just because you think someone is lower than you, you don't have to treat them like that. Think about children all over the world not doing something amazing that could change lives because you didn't let them learn how to.

Also it will be hard for children to survive if they don't know basic skills like dividing or writing. When kids grow up they wouldn't be able to get jobs which would affect their life badly. They wouldn't be able to buy food or buy anything that is crucial to surviving.

Also if you didn't go to school you would be lonely. Who wants to sit at home all day without any friends. I wouldn't and I don't think you would either. Often, people with no friends have depression and studies have proven people who are sadder than most, get sick more.

Half of our nation is woman and so if women don't get an education half of our nation doesn't have a good chance of surviving on their own.

Those are some of many reasons everyone should be able to go to school.

Cats

Cats are very adorable and a cute animal. It is a domestic animal and is kept as a pet. It has very sharp claws and keen eyes that help it in seeing during the night. That means that it has a very good nocturnal vision that is much better than humans. Cats are extremely beautiful and mesmerising

mammals, which can attract you towards itself with its laid back attitude and funny portrayal of its actions. You will be completely fascinated by the cat. It can be aggressive at times, when it is irritated or is being continuously poked. Cats are found in many colours like brown, golden, white, black or a mix of any of these two colours. A cat is an omnivore animal, that is, it can feed both on the vegetation (pulses, milk, vegetables) and other small animals. It usually likes to eat rice, fish, meat, milk, mice, small birds etc. Cats are very lazy and have a lethargic attitude towards life, they just love to sleep in a cozy and warm place. Cats can climb a tree or a fence/wall as they are extremely good at climbing. They can also jump very high and long distances. It is such an adorable and a loving animal, that they are mostly kept as pets and even the street cats are treated with lots of love and care. The Cat has got very sharp canines and pointed nails, which helps it in killing all the small animals like mice, small birds and snakes. As a pet, a cat is a very useful animal and helps in protecting or saving our rashan from rats. *The offspring of a cat is called a kitten*, it is a smaller and a cuter version of a cat. Cat has got four thin, short and sturdy limbs that helps it in walking, running and jumping for long distances. Its bright eyes help it in seeing long distances and also help during the dark. Cats are found all over the world. There is no place without a cat. Sometimes a cat can be mistaken for a tiger cub, because of its extreme similarities with it. A cat's body is completely covered with soft and beautiful fur. Cats make meow meow sound. God has provided cats with soft shoes or pads, which help a cat in walking without making a sound. A cat's walk is considered to be the most graceful walk. Cats are very helpful and amusing. It is one of the most useful animals to humans. It is friendly and fierce at the same time. They are extremely fun loving and playful. They like to play a lot and can be mischievous at times. They are extremely loving creatures and should be loved, cared and protected from any kind of pain. They are an integral part of our ecosystem and should be protected from manipulative and selfish society.

Cats are adorable and cute animals. Most of the domestic species are pets. They have way better nocturnal vision than humans, they also have sharp claws, no collarbone and can see 6 times better than people. Cats are playful and agile creatures, which can be aggressive when irritated. There are many colors of cats some are brown, golden, white, black or a mix of any of these two colours. They are omnivores, so they would normally eat rice, fish, meat, and sometimes small birds. Cats are known for being lazy, they like to sleep in cozy and warm places. Though as I said they are lazy they are also extremely good at climbing things like trees, walls and fences. They can also jump long distances. Cats offspring are kittens. Cats have bright eyes which help them see in the dark and also see

long distances. There is no place in the world without a cat. They make sounds like mreow or hiss. A cat's walk is considered to be the most graceful walk. They are helpful, cute, friendly, fierce and sometimes mischievous.

New York City

In case you didn't know a borough is a smaller city within a huge one, New York has five, The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. The Bronx is home to hand pulled mozzarella, hip hop history and baseball heroes. It has hundreds of acres of parkland, many historic homes and the world renowned Champs-Élysées.

Brooklyn is home to both hipsters and history. It is the most populous borough with a population of 2,648,403. It is famous for live music, amazing eats, pro sports and world class culture.

Manhattan is in the middle of it all. Broadway and Times Square are right in the center, but all around there are famous landmarks and household name attractions. There are also countless neighbourhoods in "the city".

Queens is very, very diverse, from the food to the art it is breathtaking. Some of its foods are mouthwatering Greek souvlaki or delicious hot pot. It is a great place to be for sports fans or even nature lovers.

On the southwest corner of the five boroughs, going on a trip to Staten Island like taking a vacation while staying in the city. You can easily get there by taking the ferry. It is famed for its beaches, parks, and a completely conserved colonial village

Cheetos

Cheetos were first made in 1948, in Dallas, Texas. The owner of the 4 billion dollar brand, since 1965 is PepsiCo. Before that, Frito-Lay was the owner before it became a subsidiary company. The first person to ever cook Cheetos was Charles Elmer Doolin.

Harry Potter

My favorite book is Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. The moral is you never know what you are capable of until you try. Harry Potter was a boy who was told he was a worthless, ungrateful rat. Then one day he got taken off to a school called Hogwarts that seemed too good to be true, though anything would seem that way compared to the Dursleys house. First he wasn't sure if he belonged with all these wizards, witches and exceptionally talented people. But after a lot of hard work and a very, very, long school year, he and his friends Ron and Hermione realized that they were wizards who were capable of a lot.

Stories about Unfair Things

It is important to tell stories about unfair things that have happened. One example from the text is that Bill Shishima said it himself "everyone in Amerika should know what happened to us... so it never happens again." Another reason it is important to tell stories about unfair things that have happened is, if you didn't, people would think it's okay to do it again. The final reason is times were hard for them and they wouldn't have had much to survive, so if they didn't tell other people, people would think their life is hard when it really isn't. It is important to tell stories about unfair things that have happened.

Batman

The dark knight is one of the most iconic superheroes ever, he was first seen in Detective Comics #27 in 1939 and is still popular today. Only few know that his alter-ego is Bruce Wayne, a billionaire whose parents(Thomas and Martha Wayne) were killed by Joe Chill when he was 8 years old. Batman's arch-nemesis is the Joker, and though batman gets the chance he never catches him, because he would be bored without the Joker. His adopted son, Dick Grayson is known as Robin, his sidekick he is also, an orphan.

Hawaii

Hawaii is beautiful and deadly. The volcanic island of Hawaii is home to 6 major volcanoes including Kilauea. Kilauea used to be calm; no one thought it about what would happen if it erupted. It was a place for field trips not somewhere your lives are at stake. It's not like they didn't know it was coming volcanoes are the reason that hawaii is here, a more than a million years ago magma squeezed through the cracks of the pacific ocean and hardened in the water then, more magma came, and more magma came and it formed an island. Kilauea is a shield volcano, a

shield volcano is shaped like a dome instead of having a big dramatic explosion the lava slowly oozes out. These were some reasons why hawaii is beautiful and deadly.

Purple

purple is the color of royalty. In the 1500s, Britain peasants would be punished if they wore purple. Purple is a mix of red and blue, other shades might be tinted more of each color like, violet or indigo. A few decades ago the U.S and europe took contemporary surveys which say that purple would be associated with royalty, magic and mystery.

Sincerely
-Maya

Joanne Rowling

Joanne Rowling was born on the thirty first of July, nineteen sixty five to Anne and Peter James Rowling. She has one sister, Dianne Rowling who is one year and eleven months younger than her, she often wrote stories that she read to Dianne. When she was a teenager Jessica Mitford's autobiography, *Hons and Rebels*. She read all her books and Jessica became her idol.

When she was twenty five years old she was on an four-hour-delayed train when she first thought of a school of wizardry. As soon as she got off the train she started writing, a few months later, her mother died, it influenced her writing very much, she turned her grief into Harry's.

A few years later, she moved to Porto, Portugal after one year and two months in Portugal she met Jorge Arantes at a bar and they married on the sixteenth of October nineteen ninety two and had a child one year later. She and Jorge divorced four months later.

In nineteen ninety five she had finished writing "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" the book was submitted to twelve different publishers which all rejected her. A year later, Barry Cunningham from Bloomsbury agreed to

publish it. In nineteen ninety seven June Bloomsbury printed one thousand copies of her book, half went to libraries. It shortly won several awards.

In nineteen ninety eight there was an auction for the right to publish "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" in the U.S. Scholastic won and changed the name to Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

After writing six new sequels, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was released on and broke sales records by selling nine million copies twenty four hours after being released.

The Reason for Stories that aren't Fair

BY: JOCELYN BLANCHETTE

I'm going to tell you why people write nonfiction stories that don't sound fair. In the story behind the wired fence. There is a boy and his family living happily in their house. And this is when world war 2 was going on. Everyday americans wondered what if these japanese people who live upon us were spies for the japanese army. So the u.s. Decided to send all the japanese people who lived in the u.s to prisons but until they were built they had to go to a church. everyone had to sell their homes and cars. But Bill and his family had to sell all of that plus their market that they owned and their hotel. One more thing the soldiers said they can only bring what they could hold. Like I could only bring one suitcase. Once the war was over the people got freed from the prisons. Shortly after president Ronald reagen gave all the survivors from the prison \$20,000. This is why they make these types of books because you know what life is like and how things are very unfair

Story about Maine

I looked out at the foggy mountain peaks, not the type of thing you would want for summer vacation, but this was only one day in my month long travel. I was in the backyard of my sisters beach house, an elegant and old-fashioned abode, meant to help only those who earned it. And I was determined to show how much I earned it.

Across the lawn from the magnolia I was leaning on, sat Phoebe, my best friend since seven years old, reading. I didn't need a book, being here was already as poetic as attainable. I had smokey skies, and steel colored lakes, the smell of wet grass and rain. An aesthetic that could only be achieved through experiences like this.

I stopped myself. I do know that I could romanticize life so much, that anything could be built out of nothing. I walked up to Phoebe.

"Do you know when the guys and Eva are coming?"

She shut her book and smiled.

"Oh wow, I almost forgot about your monster crush on-"

"I will actually punch you." I joked. She giggled. Phoebe was definitely my closest friend, but that's because I know how she works. If you show vulnerability, you've lost all your power. And what could be more vulnerable than telling someone your crush? It's true I invited them, to make summer vacation, a bit more enjoyable, but I couldn't tell her that.

"Not a crush anymore." I reassured her.

"Sure". She said, opening her book, for me to close it immediately.

Phoebe frowned.

"We gotta go to town. To buy stuff."

"But I wanna read"

I dragged Phoebe onto our bikes, and started to go. The good thing about our cabin is that town is just around the lake, so we could go wherever we wanted. The name of the place we visited was Turner Hollow. It sounded like a mystery. Now, I would never wish for a murder on anyone, but if there was a mystery in this town? It would be the very best vacation ever.

After getting donuts and water, what Phoebe described as "necessities", we went back home for dinner. We were interrupted by the sound of a truck, rattling through the windows. I couldn't stop myself from grinning with joy.

"Do you think that's them?" I exclaimed.

It was a bit of a game with Phoebe, acting like I didn't care about her, or acting like

It was time for games. If only we knew what would. End

Roller coaster experience

My family loves amusement parks. They are thrill-seekers and go on the scariest rides. Every year, my father and I had the job of waiting in line for them for their next ride or the food court. But on this day, my mom encouraged me to ride the roller coaster with them. Without any hesitation, it was a no from me. But she continued to nag me. "You should try it you know. I think you're tall enough now, I will hold your hand when you sit next to me." "I don't want to go," I said, shaking my head. "Come on I promise you it's really fun. I'll let you keep my arcade prizes if it's not. You're going to regret it if you don't go because this is our last ride of the day." I had to admit she could be convincing. After thinking for a while, I slowly took my mom's hand. She smiled and dragged me towards the huge line for the roller coaster.

My hands were shaking from the fear I felt. My brother assured me again that it was going to be OK. Even my dad encouraged me to go on with them. So I felt pressured to give it a try. Seeing the majestic heights of the roller coaster and other rides gave me goosebumps. I started to freak out and become pessimistic about the situation. "What if

those buckles unlock and I shoot out?" I thought to myself. I shook for 30 minutes as the line got shorter. As I got closer I could see the tremendous speed and height of the roller coaster. "Why did I say yes? WHY DID I SAY YES?" I freaked out even harder (on the inside). I turned around to look for my dad so I could back out. But he was already out of sight; he'd walked off to find a spot to wave to us while we were on our ride. So I clung to my sister and took a deep breath.

When our turn came and a guy in a red polo shirt measured my height to see if I was tall enough, I knelt down slightly. "Alright you're good," he announced "Darn it," I said to myself. "I think the front seat will be the best so we can see everything," Avik suggested. "Hey, don't you think the back will be the scariest with all those hard turns?" I said. They didn't listen to me; the three of us piled into the front. We all raised our hands as the guys in red polo shirts locked us in with seat belts that had yellow buckles. I double-checked to make sure they were locked. They didn't make me feel safe at all. I shook from fear. "Hey, it's going to be fine, trust me," mom said. Soon, there was a loud blaring noise to signal that the roller coaster was starting. It moved really slowly as we climbed up a steep incline. My eyes were closed. As I was able to feel us going up, I heard what sounded like metal gears rattling. "Please stop, please stop going up!" I yelled. I opened my eyes for a second to see where the roller coaster was. But all I saw were endless tracks that we still hadn't gotten up to. In a few seconds, the rattling noise stopped. I opened my eyes, wondering if we'd stopped. But nope, it was at its peak getting ready to drop. Soon, everybody started screaming. I was caught off guard without any preparation when the roller coaster went downhill with grand acceleration. And that was pretty much it. Without realizing it, my eyes were actually open and I was enjoying it. I was enjoying it a lot. Ever since that day, I challenge myself to go on the most scary and thrilling rides.

The Pigeon and the Seashells

Maya Hazarika

One day a seagull was flying at a beach, as he looked down he found a seashell that was sparkling and gold. Most seashells are white so this was quite unusual, so he flew down and picked it up, but as he was walking he found more and more. He picked them up and flew along. There were many seashells so he put some on his back and some on his wings. As he was flying the seashells began to weigh him down. Hmm he thought, "I'm almost on the other side, I can keep going" but, when he was about to land, he fell into the water

The moral is too much of a good thing can be dangerous.

The Fox and the Baker

A HUNGRY FOX WAS WALKING ALONG A PATH WHEN HE SMELT THE MOST DELICIOUS OF SMELLS. HE SLOWLY FOLLOWED THE SMELL TO AN OPEN WINDOW. THERE WERE ALMOST A HUNDRED DIFFERENT PASTRIES HE TOOK ONE AND THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD NOTICE, AND SURE ENOUGH, NO ONE DID. THE NEXT DAY THE FOX CAME BACK EVERY DAY AND TOOK ONE BUT TODAY HE WAS ESPECIALLY HUNGRY. HE DECIDED TO TAKE TWO. THE NEXT DAY HE TOOK THREE THEN FOUR, HIS GREED INCREASED MORE AND MORE. NOW THE BAKER HAD NOTICED SOME OF HER MOST FAMOUS PASTRIES WERE MISSING, TO CATCH THE THIEF SHE PUT HONEY OVER ALL OF THEM. WHEN THE FOX CAME AND TOOK THEM HE FOUND THAT THE PASTRIES WERE STUCK TO HIS HANDS! HE TRIED TO EAT THEM OFF BUT HIS TEETH WERE TOO SHARP AND HE CUT HIS HAND. THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS THAT GREED LEADS TO CONSEQUENCES.

Historical Diaries

April 19, 1840.

Our journey has begun, and it seems to be as hard as we all presumed. This spring has been excruciatingly dry, and water along the way has been scarce. However, we brought forty gallons of water, just enough to survive along the way. The kids have been calm, although I'm not sure they understand how long this journey will be. Albert hasn't had too much work, which is a good thing

as no one on the trail has gotten major injuries. Anyway, Peter and Caissie are drinking water right now, and I have to calm them down.

I cannot believe how absent-minded we were while packing! Night has come and we have no heat source. It might've been an instinct, because we had no firewood at home at the time, but we didn't bring any wood. Right now, since Peter is too young to go, Albert is alone in the woods at dark.

April 20, 1840.

We were awoken early this morning, from a large, spreading fire crackling through the dawn air. Another bonus of the extra gallons of water is that the fire went out quickly. It was hard work of course, lugging the barrel and pouring it without getting burnt. But it happened, and it gave us an early start to our day.

We have been facing threats such as wolves, coyotes, enemies and snakes on the trail. Of course this would be hard, but with only one rifle, this is becoming strenuous. It helps us with killing animals for food, game and protection but it just doesn't have enough firepower to properly protect us. Peter has been a bit annoying, with his "Are we there yet?" and "When are we getting west!" But if we give him his toys, he calms down. Caissie has been patient, but I can see that she knows this isn't the worst we're going to see. And Albert, I don't know what's going on with him. He's been grouchy and sullen, annoyed with almost every little problem. I think the stress is getting to all of us, but I hope that they see this will be difficult.

We have encountered a few problems already, and the streak seems to be going on. The iron rims on the wheels of our wagon decided to slip off exactly when we thought we would have smooth sailing. Albert had to work on it, he told me that since the temperatures were chaotic on the trail, and its shrinking and growing randomly. Peter is asleep, and I must do some extra praying with Caissie.

April 23, 1840.

Today, we discovered sagebrush growing up the hogs back! It was surprising really, but it isn't that out of order for something to go wrong. Maybe we just won't survive. No, I shouldn't think like that. Not much has happened the past few days, Peter has been whining, Caissie has been silent and Albert insists on doing everything. It is getting dark already, and He is still outside. I pray my thoughts won't come true.

April 24, 1840.

Well, the sagebrush clogging the trail was only the start of this cursed trip. Rattlesnakes have turned up and might bite any of us. Albert has told us to stay inside while he scares them off, and to say the truth; I hate it. I wish that he thought we are less useless. And I know these are dangerous things to think at a time like this, but it's the truth. I know he means well, but I am a bit annoyed. It might be his way of coping.

April 28, 1840.

Lazy and Betty were making such a ruckus this morning, kicking and yelling for grass. Well, when we woke up, all the grass was gone! They were whining throughout the day. At around noon, we found the animal feed, and they calmed down. Peter and Caissie wanted to ride them, unknowing that you can't actually ride a cow. I don't have to cook for the next few days, we cooked all the dry meat in the panic of what the cow will eat.

Today, Peter was complaining. Caissie tried to calm him down, leading to arguing, leading to us yelling and disaster. Long story short; Peter fell and got mildly hurt. Luckily, since Albert is a doctor, he fixed him up. Caissie feels bad and is still worrying. Peter cried throughout the evening, we gave him his toys and he calmed down and fell asleep. We were all exhausted and fell asleep early too.

April 29, 1840.

When we took a much needed break, Caissie told us it would just be a minute. When we found her, she was sitting in a field crying. Peter ran up to her and hugged her while yelling "Mama Daddy say Caissie lost! I no want Caissie lost! Why Caissie go missing?!" We almost thought we lost her, it was a terrifying scare.

April 30, 1840.

In the morning, I felt a weird sensation in my foot. I thought it was some sort of travel thing, so I forgot. Around 11:00 I felt a horrible sensation, we brought a first aid kit, so right now I am wrapping a bandage around my foot, it felt like a searing pain, right around my ankle. For a split second, I couldn't think through the pain, then my foot became numb and I became woozy. We missed a large predicament bringing that first aid kit.

We were running low on water, and now the only accessible water is murky and full of larva, we are all thirsty and dehydrated. I remember when Albert pushed me to bring an extra dutch oven, and now we can use the heavy cast iron to boil the water. We drank and had dinner.

March 1, 1840.

It has been several weeks now, and the oxen need new horseshoes. We put the shoes on while they were predictable. Lazy looked at them for a second, then went back to eating her feed and Betty didn't cooperate till the fourth time. We didn't bring Pinto beans and Sugar, which we needed for a full dinner. We had some stew and dumplings, but it didn't seem to be enough.

As we thought before, one rifle was not enough. Us and surrounding families might've stumbled on Native American grounds. The men said they were going to confront them but I fear that it'll end up being violent. Caissie and Peter are somehow sleeping through this mess. I hear a gunshot and screams. Stay on the wagon, take care of the kids. Albert said to me right before he left. They would tell them no one was in the wagons. I hope this doesn't become a war. I knew the trip would be hard, but I didn't imagine I would fear for my life. I took all of our bed covers and

covered up Caissie and Peter, just showing their mouths so they could breathe. I heard yelling, a slash like a knife through rough air, the screams of people I knew, and Albert. I moved forward, my head and body peeking through the curtains, and I saw a crossbow. An arrow coming right towards my head. I couldn't scream, paralyzed by the accuracy of the weapon.

March 3, 1840.

I am dead now, my soul has escaped from the decaying body left on the road. I am not sure if they know I am following them, but I can't just wonder if they all survived. Today, the tongue of our (sorry: their) wagon broke. It was disabled for a bit, but we fixed it soon.

It has begun to get rainy, which doesn't affect me, but it seems they are struggling. There was a leak in the wagon, and they were soaked. Peter cried so much and I tried to calm him down, then I remembered, I can't. None of them got pneumonia, luckily, but the grey skies seem to be foreshadowing a gloomy future.

March 5, 1840

They stopped and found a baby on the road! Though I have no idea how they will take care of them if Albert has to always fix the wagon, Caissie has to cook, and Peter isn't old enough to do anything. The baby instantly became sick and struggled to survive. They named her Evelyn and she is adorable, but I won't help her grow up.

It's still raining, and Evelyn is still sick. The wagon wheels are getting muddy and stuck in the dirt. They cleaned quickly, a seed of weariness in their eyes, wondering if it is worth it. An upcoming river rushed, loudly enough to make them wonder, what was happening? They had to choose, pass now or later? Sure, it would be dangerous to stay still in the rain, but even more so to cross the river. I wish I was there to tell them not to go, but again, I couldn't. They went.

Caissie fell! She held onto the reins, and when she needed to, Betsy's legs. Her body is somewhere in the river, deep under enough to not hear their cries. The amount of loss Peter has felt as his age is unbearable. Caissie was too young, and fell too deep to even join me.

March 7, 1840

Rain pushed rocks down the hills, so when they came around a bend, a landslide blocked it. I'm honestly not sure if Albert wants to do this anymore. He's been making dinner, fixing the wagon, and taking care of a three year old and a newborn. They got through after a while, but it seemed a little too long for them.

The rest of the group spotted some Buffalo close to the trail. The one positive thing is that we (sorry, they) gained a lot of meat through the hunting and now can use it for more resources.

March 9, 1840.

The wagon went off the trail! Not surprising really, with all the landslides. They fell into a cactus and had to spend all day picking the spines out of them.

September 3, 1840.

They had met all sorts of problems, and persevered in ways I couldn't imagine. Peter turned four, but he didn't get a proper birthday. It is now dry and hot in the west. We had heard stories of the heat of the Hades Desert, and they seem to be true. Albert went looking for water, and didn't return. Peter went, not taking Evelyn because of her whining.

November 1, 1840.

They finally got there! The Hades desert was horrible, but they finally reached the overall goal. They ate, relaxed and finally felt peaceful. Betty and Lazy are eating grass, Peter and Evelyn are playing and Albert is eating some cavern food. They started up Snow Pass in the morning, and they are on a schedule, they need to finish before the trail gets blocked. Somehow, the fuel gave them enough energy to get past the bitterness of the freezing snow.

Our (notice I said our, not their) adventure is over. They made it through and have reached fulfilment with their journey.

Being a Champion

In my opinion, being a champion means that you achieved something that you wanted.

For example, Redmond tore his hamstring in the middle of the race but he kept on going. Also, his father saw that he was hurt and helped him finish, so his father kind of was a champion too. He didn't win but he limped to the finish line which he worked really hard at to achieve.

Another example is when Hamblin and D'Agostino tripped on each other they both helped each other up and finished the race together even though they were injured they still finished and after people saw how they helped each other and might have won if they didn't, they got to go to the finals.

Finally, when Cory was playing he saw Jason's brother in the stands, his brother didn't visit a lot so he saw how much it meant to Jason. He faked an injury so Jason would get to play. They won the game because of Jason's great playing.

In conclusion, in my opinion being a champion means that you have achieved something you wanted

Public speaking is for informing, motivating and persuading others. It's dreaded by some, but it is important for everyone, it helps you with people skills, confidence and it also helps the world.

The skill of public speaking can help you anywhere, home, work or anywhere else in the world, people have won elections because they are better at speaking in public. It helps you in the business world, school, and even on stage. Being able to persuade can help you get a promotion if you have the right reasons or it can help you stay calm during an argument.

Public speaking lets you inform people of issues they need to know about. For example if someone is being bullied or you are lecturing someone about customer service. You can make a difference even if you are only telling a few people about something

Motivating people is an important thing. You can make a person feel good about themselves or help a group work together

When you are talking it's important not to talk so much you're just blabbering or to, sound to casual people think you don't care. These are some things you should do so people don't make the wrong assumptions

When you are speaking it's important not to lose a person's focus, it can make you lose confidence and make other people think of you as boring. You should try to be funny and likable but still stay close to the topic. If you don't it could backfire and you wouldn't get what you wanted in the first place.

Don't sound nervous, you should act like you're confident even if you aren't. Talk like you know what you're saying. If you act tense they wouldn't want to go with your idea.

Glossophobia or the fear of public speaking is very common, it's easy when you're a kid and you can sit in the back of the class and not raise your hand but in real life standing out is important. If you are scared of talking in public you should practice or stop overthinking. Before you do it you should relax so you are calm before speaking.

The more you practice the better you are. Sometimes, one mistake can make you lose your confidence and make more mistakes. People will be impressed if you memorize your speech. You should go over it a lot and try to revise and make your speech the best it can be

A reason why people speak in public is to influence others or to convince someone to go with their idea. Activists give speeches to help their cause, employees with unfair working conditions give speeches to get people to go on strike and anyone who has a goal, has to speak in public at least once to achieve it.

Even if you are great at speaking in public its always important to try and get better. Public speaking is important because every successful person is great at it and it helps you speak your mind confidently.

Maya's Wacky shoes

One Thursday afternoon I was walking a few blocks to the nearest shoe store. When I went inside the shoe store I couldn't find anything good enough, just when I was about to leave the cashier handed me purple and green sneakers, I tried them on, they fit perfectly. "On the house the cashier said to me " maybe you should walk home in your other shoes". She said eyeing the new shoes. When I got home I went straight to my room and tried them on suddenly, my whole bedroom started to move and morph into a forest. I didn't know what to do but all of a sudden, I couldn't feel anything, there was a magnetic pull taking me into the forest and I let it pull me in.

When I opened my eyes I felt like I was in a dream. Everything around me was blue, from Iceberg to Navy all I could see was blue, blue grass, blue trees, bluebirds. My nose inhaled the scent of saltwater. My skin tingled, I shivered and I let out a huge breath that left steam hovering in front of my face.

A man came up to me who looked about in his late 40's, and was holding something that looked like a pair of shoes. I looked down at my own new shoes and asked **"excuse me do you know where I am"**? "No one knows where or what this place is, the shoes take them here and we live here until our lives are done" he said grimly. A woman walked by and she said her name was Mrs. Perl. I recognized her, a few years ago she was on every single news channel there was. People say she got kidnapped or abducted but nobody actually knows. "There must be some way to get out of here" I tried to say hopefully, focusing back on the main issue. "Everyone I know has tried at least a million times but also failed, it's still a nice place to stay though" he said quietly but I noticed he raised his voice at the end to make a point. I bit my lip, said thanks and walked away. I saw a stream of water from the corner of my eye. I walked over there and tripped on a twig, I tried to steady myself but it was no use. I couldn't see or feel anything, It was like I forgot how to swim. Then what felt like a century later, I woke up in my own bed in my own room, I sprinted downstairs and ran into the mudroom, I didn't see the shoes. I went back upstairs and my mom told me it was Thursday morning and to get ready for school.

On the bus ride I thought about the trip my shoes took me on. I hope one day I can bring back everyone who put those wacky shoes on. But for now I'll buy my shoes somewhere else.

By Maya Hazarika

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4th Grade School lunch

It's 10 degrees outside. I was so excited to bite into my warm burger but when I did "OUCH."

Cold. Raw. Meat. My class agrees that 4th grade lunches should be better. When we get to lunch I'm excited to eat a warm lunch, but then I get there and the food is cold. The 1st graders get the fresh hot lunch when we get the cold stuff. I think we should reheat the lunches when they get cold or we should have a microwave the students can use even if the lunches are from home. Also lunch ladies should get a lot of credit for preparing these great lunches.

By: Jocelyn Blanchette

Kobe Bryant

The lost legend

By Aadi Jagannathan and Evan Liu

Kobe Bryant, number 24, age 41 and his daughter Gianna (13 years old) died in a helicopter crash on the 26th of January 10:00 AM. There were 9 passengers in total. Officials say it was because of the foggy weather. The reason they were in a helicopter was because they were going to Gianna's travel basketball game. Kobe always takes helicopters to avoid the frequent

LA traffic. Kobe usually takes a chopper to work and the dreadful day never would have happened if he took a car, but unaware of the possible situations he took a helicopter. But the sad part is that he was such a hard worker! He had a 20 year NBA career and his last career shot was absolutely INSANE!! He was very very kind. He donated thousands, even millions to charity. He did a lot of work to improve our community. It is terribly sad that he died.

Interview

This issues person

Mrs. McCubrey

We visited the principal's office to interview Miss McCubrey about us, what did she say? Read on...

Q:What is the most important thing you want kids at Floral to know?

A: "I think that the most important thing would be that everyone belongs here."

Q:Do you think that being principal has a big impact on the school?

A: "Yes but I am not the only one there are many adults here who make a big impact."

Q:How long have you been principal?

A: "Eight years, but I was vice principal for four years."

Q:How do you feel about being principal?

A: "I love it, I love watching students and teachers learning and teaching."

Transroute

I still vividly recall the first time I walked home, back in sixth grade, sometime in October. The sense of thrill it brought promised freedom and autonomy, a cherished taste of independence. As I grew older, however, the reality of relying on others for rides became apparent. With my parents always busy and unable to drive me places, coupled with the current safety concerns surrounding public transportation for youth in America, it became clear that alternative solutions were needed. This is where my invention comes in—an app designed not only to reduce CO2 emissions but also to prioritize the safety of both drivers and youth passengers.

In the town I live in, the only methods of transportation are public buses, trains, driving, biking or walking. Biking and walking are obviously effective, but only for short distances. Driving may get one far, but increases traffic and CO2 emissions, not to mention, it can never be consistently reliable for youth/people without driving licenses. Trains/the commuter rail, is overpriced, overcrowded, and in no way convenient for youth. Lastly, public buses are just hard to feel safe in, (or about, if your child is taking it). All easy methods of transportation have obvious (and crucial) cons, that prevent one from relying on it. Not having a reliable way to get around, makes one's life much strenuous than it needs to be.

This thinking led me to conceptualize and develop Transroute—an innovative app aimed at revolutionizing the way youth engage with transportation while promoting environmental stewardship. Transroute is more than just a platform; it's a movement that harnesses the power of technology, education, and community engagement to cultivate a culture of sustainable mobility among youth.

At the heart of Transroute lies a multifaceted approach that leverages technology, education, and community engagement to drive meaningful change. From a carpooling marketplace to an accessible platform, Transroute offers a range of innovative features designed to make sustainable transportation accessible and appealing to youth. By adding to the transportation experience and fostering a sense of community, Transroute empowers youth to become active participants in building a greener, more sustainable future.

Transroute is not only reimagining the way we move from place to place but also laying the groundwork for a greener, more sustainable planet for generations to come.

What distinguishes Transroute from other popular ride services aimed towards children(i.e Uber-kids, Zum, Kid-moto), is that it focuses on growing relationships within a

community through carpooling. As one of the lesser known alternatives to driving, carpooling is underrated in its ability to lessen CO2 emissions, build relationships through routine, and reduce stress. For example, every Friday, my brother plays soccer at a clinic about 30 minutes away. He plays with three of his friends, about an hour or so after school. Their routine for this is to have one parent (changes every week), take the kids home, give them a snack, and then drive them there. I find this to be an impressive and convenient solution, because my parents don't have more time of their own, because someone else is driving him, and my brother gets to spend a lot more time with his friends. It's become one of the most routine and practical parts of our week, all because of the simple act of carpooling.

Imagine all of this, but substantially more accessible and within reach. Transroute takes the act of carpooling and puts it online. Parents can sign up as part-time drivers (if they do, will have to go through thorough background checks), who take drives within a radius of their choice (probably 5-20 miles), and log on for whatever hours of their choice as well. However, drivers must log at least one hour a week to stay part time. When a parent signs up, their children may take 30 rides a month for free (then 1.00 a ride paid to the app). For weekly commitments, (sports practice, rehearsal, jobs), parents or kids may schedule sessions that repeat, and will still earn points from it. I'd like to mention that if a child signs up, and their parent would not like to be a part time driver, the child pays a flat fee of 9.99 a month for membership.

Full time drivers are paid 1.00 a mile by the app, and must log at least 3 trips a working day to keep their status. These drivers do not have to be parents, but obviously can be. If they do not sign up with children, they must go through the same background checks, plus an interview for their motivations for the job. They are limited to driving within the state, and are limited to four working days a week.

Adding on, I would like the app to almost be formatted as a social platform. Parents may follow other parents - (and message them), get badges for reaching certain milestones of points earned from drives, and monitor their children's activity. This also applies to safety, in the following ways

- Parents may block drivers that their children had a negative experience with
- Block locations that may be deemed unsafe for kids to go alone
- Set preferences for drivers - maybe only people the parents follow

Regarding the point system, every shared ride (more than 1 party in the car at a time), gives ten extra points for the driver, because it targets and lessens CO2 emissions. Each drive over 1 mile earns ten points, over ten miles earns 20 points, over 20 miles earns 30 points, etc. Once reaching 200 points, part-time drivers may be paid by the app, 3.00 a ride - this resets every month.

Lastly, (and in my opinion most importantly), - this app caters to children's freedom and safety by making the drives convenient, and limiting parental controls. Ages 12-17 may use it on their own. Once asking for a drive, the app will supply an ETA, based on the driver's location from the pickup point, and traffic conditions. If the car arrives at least 15 minutes later than the ETA, children will be paid 1 dollar back. Adding on, when starting a trip, children have the option to pay 50 cents extra for a guaranteed private trip (i.e. no other parties will be picked up until they have arrived at their destination). Lastly, at the point where a kid picks a destination, the point where they arrive, they may message their driver, or send any amount of tips.

In conclusion, Transroute represents a pivotal solution to the pressing issues of transportation safety, environmental sustainability, and youth autonomy. Inspired by personal experiences and driven by a desire to make a meaningful difference, this innovative app redefines the way we approach mobility, particularly for young individuals. By seamlessly integrating technology, education, and community engagement, Transroute not only provides a practical alternative to traditional transportation methods but also fosters a sense of environmental consciousness and social connectivity. Through features like carpooling, parental controls, and a rewarding point system, Transroute effectively addresses the challenges faced

by both youth and parents, ensuring safer, greener, and more convenient journeys. By empowering the next generation to navigate their world with confidence and responsibility, Transroute paves the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for all.