

LFC 2015 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

We had 44 students submit entries for one (or more) of these three writing prompts:

1. Describe what happens on the day only students show up at school.
2. What would your day be like if you were President of the USA?
3. While walking along the beach, you notice something sticking out of the sand. Describe what it could be.

Our judges again this year were Steven Giroux, Richard Diedrichsen, and Larry Haddad. They were all very impressed with all the entries, and the great imagination shown by all the participants. You are sure to be entertained and also impressed with their writing. Enjoy!

FIRST PLACE: Amayah Dennis (Grade 6)

The Mysterious Locket

Whoosh. Whoosh. The waves of the beach water swayed back and forth whilst spreading itself amongst the already damp sand. As I got up from my sand castle in the making to grab another bucket of water for my moat, I noticed a shiny object sticking out from underneath the sand. "Wonder what that is?" I whispered to myself. I slowly approached the dazzling object hoping it wasn't an animal ready to attack. I bent over the item now in plain sight to realize it was a locket! I gazed at the tattered bronze locket that was laying on the palm of my hand and with my other hand I swept away the sparkling, damp sand that scattered itself along the front of the locket. I broke my attention from the locket and scanned the beach for people who might be looking for something. I finally placed the locket around my neck and carried on with my sand castle duties.

I filled my bucket with water. The waves of the sea knocked into my legs, causing me to topple over. As soon as I came into contact with the

water, a whirling sensation blasted through me. *Splish splash.* I sliced the water with my arms trying to rise above the water to keep from drowning. With every arm thrust, I tried shaking my legs, but only my legs didn't feel like my legs. The current pulled me under and that's when I realized a scaly, green mermaid's tail had taken the place of my once human legs. "HUH?!" I gasped taking in the ocean water. I gaped at my new "legs", mouth still wide open, facial expression filled with shock. Soon enough I felt air passing through my lungs like a breath of fresh air. "GILLS!" I exclaimed. Slowly thoughts of the locket whirled through my mind. "The locket must have caused this," I said to myself. "I have to explore the ocean!" I thought, looking at the bright side of my predicament. Immediately, I was zooming around my new environment with my tail whipping me past sea animals, plant life, and an old pirate ship! *Click.* I snapped mental photos of the aquatic life, until I popped my head above the crystal blue water realizing that sun was descending. I swam towards the beach and hauled my body out of the water, crawled towards my bag, dried my legs quickly and then *WHOOSH!* The whirling sensation blasted through me again, but this time returning me to normal. I slipped off the necklace and plopped the locket in my bag. I glanced around knowing that this was the start of great things!

SECOND PLACE: Zoe Cubanski (Grade 6)

Imagination Can Take You Far...

On a Sunday morning I was walking along the beach, admiring the shells, and then suddenly, "Ow!" I screamed. Something was sticking out of the sand, and blinded me. "What is that?" Since nobody was around I decided to pick it up, but for some reason it would not come out of the ground.

So I grabbed the shovel that I was carrying, and started to dig, dig, and dig. After about an hour of

digging, the thing still wouldn't come out of the sand. I didn't know why but it felt like the object kept sinking into the ground. "Why does this thing keep sinking?" I wondered. I decided to jump on the object. "Click!" Just then, a portal opened, and I was falling and flailing to my death in sand.

"Yikes!" To my amazement, I was now hovering above a different universe.

A talking unicorn greeted me. "Zoe, I brought you here for a reason," stated the unicorn. In my mind I was thinking, unicorns can talk?

"How do you know my name?" I asked.

"That is not important now. What's important is that you have to save my universe. Our fate is in your hands," pleaded the unicorn desperately.

"How do I save this universe if I don't even know what to do? Think! What's the first step to saving a talking unicorn universe?" I asked myself.

Then this filly came up to me and said, "Are you the one that's supposed to help us?" I could hear the fear and sadness in her voice. "If you are, then go to the meeting hall, and defeat the painter," spoke the pink unicorn. As I walked, everywhere I looked I could see bright, happy colors turning into boring drab colors. "What's going on? It's like all the colors are vanishing and being replaced with muddy colors." So I kept walking until I got to the building entrance. As I burst through the door, I wanted to laugh my socks off. The painter was a dwarf, had a goatee with a dull, but powerful palette. Then he spoke, "I know I'm not much but I've got big plans. Once the whole town is drab, the unicorns will be too." Then he started to cackle evilly. I snatched a paintbrush off the floor and with my mind conjured up the most colorful thing I could think of, a gigantic rainbow. As the colors shot out of my paintbrush,

He screamed and said, "What is this?"

"It's my imagination!" I yelled, as his palette exploded. I had just saved the universe.

[Please turn over for Third Place winners.]

THIRD PLACE (tie): Erin Collier (Grade 5)
If I Were President

One early morning Mae's parents woke her up and said "We're going to Washington, D.C." Mae was still half asleep so she was excited but also tired. Once she got up she put on sweatpants and a sweatshirt so she would be comfortable on the car ride. Mae and her brother Bobby played "20 Questions" and slept.

One they reached D.C., they ate the breakfast and checked into their hotel. Then they had to rush to get ready to go to the White House. Everyone made sure that they did not have any metal on their clothes or in their hair because they would be going through a metal detector.

They began their short walk to the White House in the cold and wind. The family went through security and the metal detector without any problems and met their tour guide. Their tour lasted 2 hours and ended in the White House gift shop. Mae picked out a costume of a US Army Field Band uniform because she played the flute in their school band.

Mae wondered off while her parents were in line to pay for their gifts. Before she knew it, Mae was in the doorway of the President's Oval Office. The President invited Mae in and asked her to join his meeting about education and testing. After Mae provided her opinions about the Common Core, the Presidential fitness test, and cafeteria food, the President was quite impressed. He asked Mae to be co-president for the day.

Soon after, the President was called away and put Mae in charge of the White House for the day. The staff helped Mae prepare a speech that she gave on national TV. Mae told the country to "call someone you love and tell them that you love them". She also inspired people to have block parties to get to know their neighbors.

Finally, Mae had a party for all of the workers in the White House and thanked them for helping her be co-president for the day. At midnight, Mae's

parents took her back to their hotel. Mae was still excited but also very tired and quickly fell asleep.

THIRD PLACE (tie): Isabella Cleveland (Grade 4)
Mermaid Mischief

One beautiful, sunny morning I went to the beach. My bare feet ran in the warm summer sand. Then, my eye caught something shiny, glimmering in the sun. I picked it up and put it on. It was so shiny I could barely see it. So I ran to the water.

I finally could see the design. It looked like a mermaid. Well, out in the summer sun my feet were hot. So I dipped my feet in. I was a mermaid! I looked at my tail, it was sky blue with gorgeous teal scales shining in the sunlight. With a top that had blue flowers on it, so pretty. I could barely breathe, I dove in.

The water was cool and my skin shook. It was like an underwater world. I could breathe like I was on land. I saw different varieties of fish so colorful. I swam so gracefully underwater. It was like I had a jetpack taped to my feet. I saw a big, I mean a GIGANTIC bright light. So I swam to it so fast. I knocked into rocks and seashells, but I got there.

I saw lots of other mermaids and mermen like me. It was like New York underwater. The most wonderful thing in the city was the pink gleaming pearl on top of it. I got worried that my family was looking for me. I got an idea maybe I can ask one of the mermaids how to turn me into a human.

I found a shop that read *Human Artifacts*. I thought he might know how to get home. So I swam into the shop. He said, "How can I help you sweetie"? So I told him about the necklace and he said, "Go to the surface, take off the necklace, and you will be human". So I said, "Thank you" and swam to the surface. I jumped on the sand and took off the necklace. I was a human! "I'm never doing that again," I said. I went home and told my mom. Now *swimming like a fish* as a whole new meaning for me.

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