

A Collection of Stories (CHIJ KELLOCK) 2014

A publication project by CHIJ KELLOCK English Department

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1. Silly and Smart Dog

By Arwen Quah Sheen Pei (P4 Hibiscus)

I am Max and I am Sarah's dog. Sarah's family had a particular habit. They would always leave food on the countertop. That day, there is a piece of red, juicy and fragrant piece of meat on the counter top, but I cannot reach it. I tried to climb up but it was still too high. I tried to use a stool but it was still too high. After a while, I gave up.

The next day, I saw bones on a plate on the counter top. I used the same and a few other methods to get the bone but they did not work at all. So, again, I gave up. The following day, there were vegetables. I do not like vegetables so I did not bother and hoped that there would be meat when I came back in the afternoon.

One day, Sarah's friend, Sandy, came over to play. When Sandy walked into the kitchen, I started begging for the meatballs that were on the plate placed on the countertop. She gave me one but I wanted more. She did not give me more. Instead, she just walked away because she did not want to get herself into trouble. So I had no more meatballs.

Sarah came into the kitchen and saw the mess I made when attempting to get the food from the counter. I started crying when Sarah beat me. It was painful. I thought maybe I would learn how to open the refrigerator to steal some food. When Sarah went to work the following day, she left me alone with the very noisy parrot, my sister and my chew toys. I thought of talking to my friend (the neighbour's dog) so I took a peek through a hole in the gate.

My friends were not home! Their owner had brought them to the vet. I remembered them telling me that their owners would be taking them to the vet. Luckily, my sister was home (Oh, I forgot to mention that I have a sister and her name is Lily). But she was taking her nap.

"Oh man! I am so bored!" I said to myself.

Previously, I had my rabbit friend named Moonlight. She would always be hopping around the house. I would chase her whenever she hops around the backyard, but she passed away a few months ago.

"Yawn..." my sister had just woken from her nap. She skipped towards me joyfully like she had good news. I asked her if she wanted to play with

me and she said, "Yes!"

"Yay, finally, someone to play with!" I said.

We danced, sang, jumped all around, played hide-and-seek and tag while the very noisy parrot on the tree watched us. Then, after a few games, my sister and I decided to take a break and drink some water. We finished all the water in the dog bowl and were still thirsty! Thus, we worked together to turn on the tap from the garden hose to quench our thirst. Then, after a good drink, I had an idea!

I asked my sister if she was hungry and she replied, "Of course I am! How do you know?"

I answered, "Just guessing!"

She giggled. I told her about my plan to get food from the refrigerator. We called this plan 'Operation Yum Yum'.

We tried jumping and climbing but we could not reach the handle of the fridge. Thus, I told my idea to Lily – we would stand on each other and open the fridge, eat some food and then close the fridge.

She agreed. So this time, we worked as a team. We opened the refrigerator and ate some food to fill our hungry bellies.

Burp! The sound came from my sister's stomach when she was done eating.

"Well, at least now I know that my sister is full," I said to myself.

Just in time, as we closed the fridge, Sarah came home. We helped each other clean our mouths so that no crumbs were on our mouths. When Sarah opened the fridge, she saw small pieces of meat on the plates and screamed, "Max and Lily!"

We came running in from the living room.

"Did you eat the chicken I had left for dinner?" she asked sternly.

Lily and I looked at Sarah innocently like we did not know what she was talking about. Sarah looked at us confused and asked again, "So did you eat the chicken or not?"

Then she noticed our full bellies when we walked, "So, I see, you ate the chicken didn't you?"

We looked at Sarah in shame and snuggled up to her to ask for her forgiveness. Sarah only forgave us after hearing us whine for ten minutes. Then she went out to buy food for herself. Sarah bought chicken from the market downstairs. She then gave us the bones after eating the chicken. We enjoyed the chicken bones given to us. We appreciated the bones and ate what we could. We saved some bones for our friends because we were very full after eating the chicken from the fridge. When nightfall came, we gave the bones we had left with to our friends.

Woof! Woof! Woof! The other dogs started barking when we gave the bones to them. They enjoyed the bones too, just like we did. Luckily, they stopped barking in time, just before my owner woke up.

"Wow, these bones are awesome!" said my friend. "Thanks for the bones, Max!"

Then, I left. I observed my sister and she was not happy at all so I went to her and asked her if everything was fine. She told me that everything was fine, but her facial expressions say otherwise. I asked her again if something was going on. She told me that she felt sorry for eating Sarah's dinner. I told her that everything would be fine by tomorrow.

The next day, Sarah locked her fridge up using a special lock, so that we would not be able to steal her dinner. This time, Lily and I decided to run out for some fun. We used a ladder to get over the gate. Lily suggested we go to the dog park so that we could play with our friends. But I was thinking about an adventure. I thought if we could find our way to Sarah's office, we could play with her. We argued and could not come to a conclusion.

We realised that we did not have enough time to go to Sarah's office, so we decided to go to the dog park and play because it was closer. We went to the dog park and met many of our friends there. In the blink of an eye, we realised that it was time to go home so we waved a goodbye and left.

We climbed over the gate again using the closest tree to the house. We scared the wits out of the parrot when we were climbing up the tree as it was sleeping too.

"Rawkk!" The parrot squawked in alarm. We laughed so hard that we almost fell from the tree.

Sarah came back afterwards and did not know that we had gone out on an adventure. From that day, we made it a habit to go out and play, until... the day came when Sarah did not go to work.

Lily and I did not know that Sarah was home. So, as usual, we carefully pushed the ladder and got out of the house. Sarah was in the garden watering her plants when she saw what Lily and I were doing. She was shocked. We were more shocked when we saw Sarah.

"Oh no! We've been caught!" exclaimed Lily.

"It's going to be okay, Lily" I assured her.

Indeed, it was okay. Sarah laughed at our cleverness and forgave us. I've learnt a few things from this incident:

1st moral – When you work together, anything is possible!

2nd moral – Honesty is the best policy!

3rd moral – Be thankful of what you have!

4th moral – Learn from your mistakes!

5th moral – Treasure your brothers and sisters!

6th moral – When your mother scolds you, she loves you!

2. The Mysterious Cyber Bully By Meg Adrienne Alcano Severino (P4 Hibiscus)

Today was Sarah's first day in her new secondary school. Her locker was located next to Memphis', the school's most popular and mean girl.

Sarah was at her locker putting in her belongings when she saw Memphis glaring at her with her small, beady eyes. Sarah smiled timidly at Memphis and headed for class. Lessons were starting in ten minutes.

Despite Sarah's family being rich, kind, beautiful and intelligent, no one ever said "hello" or approached her. She was surprised that someone would even glare at her.

The first lesson of the day started. Though Sarah was the new girl in school, she was able to answer the questions when her teacher called on her.

"Wow, you're very smart," said Sarah's new classmates.

During break time, Sarah grabbed a tray of mashed potatoes and scrambled egg. While she was walking to a table, Memphis stuck out her foot to make Sarah trip. However, Sarah did not fall for mean Memphis' trick. She walked towards her table in another direction. Memphis was furious. She decided to come up with an evil plan.

When Sarah sat down, a girl approached her. "Hello, I am Nicole. Could we have lunch together?" she asked.

"Sure, Nicole," Sarah responded happily. Sarah was so happy. She had made a new friend.

That day, Sarah walked home, grinning from ear to ear. She came home and studied for a few hours. While studying, she heard her phone chime. It was a text from someone unknown saying bad things about her.

How did this person get my mobile number? Sarah thought. But she did not waste her time on such nonsensical things and decided to pass her time by making some crafts.

The next day, Sarah was well prepared for her pop quiz.

"You may start...NOW!" Miss Lee said.

After the test paper, Miss Lee instructed, "Your time is up. Put your pencils on the table and rest hands on your lap."

Ring! The lunch bell rang. Sarah headed to the library to borrow some books. As she was making her way to the library, she thought about the text

messages sent to her yesterday and wondered who the sender could be. She spent the whole lunch break thinking about who had sent those nasty messages to her yesterday. She walked aimlessly to the library sat and a corner and was lost in her thoughts. She did not even manage to meet Nicole for lunch at the canteen.

Art class started and Sarah was excited. Sarah loved Art and she enjoyed Madam Green's art lesson. During the lesson, Memphis, who was sitting beside Sarah, pulled Sarah's hair several times and crumpled drawing paper to throw at her.

"Hey! What did you do that for?" Sarah asked.

"To hurt you," Memphis replied curtly.

Sarah moved away from her seat and moved closer to the front of the class to avoid Memphis. The rest of the art lesson went by smoothly.

When school ended, Sarah walked home but again she was deep in thoughts. *It could be Memphis who had sent those messages. However, she doesn't have my number.*

When Sarah reached home, she did not feel like studying, neither did she feel like doing her homework. Just then, her phone chimed. There were three text messages from the same person who had texted her yesterday. This time she saw vulgarities in the text messages. Sarah felt sad. *What is so different about me? Do they really know me?* Sarah asked herself. Sarah was so upset that she could not even talk about it to anyone.

The next morning, Sarah went to school and attended lessons as usual. She used to love school very much but now she felt very uncomfortable and dislike school. She was seated next to Memphis and Sarah is unable to concentrate on her work as Memphis is distracting her in every way possible. Still, Sarah refused to tell anyone about the bullying.

Memphis took her sharp pencil and poked Sarah's hand.

"OUCH!" Sarah yelled.

Everyone turned to look at Sarah. Her classmates glared at her for causing a nuisance and disturbing Miss Lee's interesting lesson. Everyone told Sarah to keep quiet, except Nicole.

"Class! Keep it down!" Miss Lee shouted.

Nicole was starting to worry about Sarah. She knew that Memphis was the culprit but she could do nothing as she had no proof. She promised to speak with Sarah during lunch and to comfort her.

The lunch bell rang and Sarah went to the school playground. Sitting on a swing, Sarah could see people laughing and pointing at her, again. Then, she took a glance at Memphis, who was seated across the playground. Memphis stared and glared at her. Moments later, Memphis walked towards Sarah, she towered over Sarah and punch Sarah's face. She even kick Sarah's knee several times.

"Stop answering the questions in class, or else..." Memphis said as she continued kicking Sarah.

The crowd in the playground froze in their tracks. Sarah lay sprawled on the ground, bleeding. When Nicole saw Sarah on the ground, Nicole rushed to help Sarah up. She told some of the other children to rush to get help.

"Who did THIS?" A teacher asked in a shrill voice.

"It was Memphis. She punched and kicked Sarah," Nicole replied.

Sarah was immediately taken to the school clinic and her wounds were cleaned and dressed. She was sent home early and told not to go to school for two days.

When Sarah reached home, she decided to tell her mother how she had been treated in school. Sarah knew that the secret could no longer be kept. Sarah's mother was extremely mad and demanded for the school principal to punish Memphis.

That night, Sarah thought about the incident that had happened at the playground. *It totally made sense. Memphis must have been the one who had sent those text messages. She threatened me and it made sense that she might have been jealous of me! She did not want me to answer any questions in class.*

On Friday morning, Memphis approached Sarah when she saw Sarah walk into school.

"Are... Are.. you going to hurt me again?" Sarah asked timidly.

"No, I just wanted to say sorry for all the things I have done. I should have studied harder in order not to be jealous of you. Would you forgive me?" Memphis asked.

"Of course!" Sarah replied.

All of Sarah's classmates also apologized for being so mean to her. That day, the results of the pop quiz was released. Sarah scored an A+ while Memphis scored a C-.

"Try harder next time!" Sarah said with a wink, "If you would like, we could study together and help each other in our studies."

With that, the two girls buried the hatchet and together with Nicole, the trio became a common sight in the school library, buried in books, studying.

3. The Netball Championship By Stephanie Carissa Sim (P4 Ixora)

"Catch the ball, Daneille!" I shouted to Daneille as I threw the ball to her. She was the netball vice-captain so I knew I could trust her to catch the ball.

Oh! Hi there! My name is Jezelle, AKA the captain of the school's netball team. I am 11 years old and can also play the violin.

Ring ! That was the recess bell. I ran down to the canteen to get my food and enjoyed my break time with my classmates.

When I went back to class after recess, I remembered suddenly that I had a Chinese and English spelling test that day! I had totally forgotten about them and had not studied beforehand. I had no choice but to sit for the tests and try my best.

When the spelling tests were returned, it was no surprise that I had failed both tests. Worst of all, I had to show my parents the tests scores! I knew that I was in hot soup.

When I reached home, I tried to hide the fact that I had failed my spelling tests but eventually, my parents found out.

My mum screamed, "How is this possible? You always ace your spelling tests. What is this? I will not allow you to play in the netball championship until your marks improve!"

Oops ! I forgot to tell you readers that I had to play in the netball championship. Well, now you know. Anyway back to the story...

I argued, "No, Mum, I have to go, I'm the team captain!"

"N-O spells no!" my dad screamed when he found out about my results.

I had no choice. I went for the training sessions but as for the championship... You should know... I was worried. Worried because I thought without me, their team captain, they would not be able to win.

The day of the championship had arrived. After school, I went straight home. I was so worried. I was pacing around the house! I kept asking myself the same question: "Will they win?" I prayed that my team would play their best and eventually emerge as champions.

After a two-hour wait, Daneille sent me a text message. My team had won! She had also sent me photograph of the team. Everyone was smiling from ear to ear and each player was holding a trophy in her hand. I was so proud of the team!

4. The Ice-Cream Club By Erica Loh E-Wen (P4 Ixora)

Hi everyone! My name is Tina. Do you know what I like? Ice-cream! It is so refreshing especially on a hot and sunny day. I was doing my homework and licking my favourite Magnum Double Chocolate ice-cream when my doorbell rang. I sprinted down the stairs to find my best friend, Bess, waiting unhappily at the front gate. In a flash, I pressed the button to open the front gate and opened the door.

"What's wrong?" I asked curiously.

"Anna and I had a fight just now and she's not my friend anymore," Bess replied sadly.

"Come in. Let's sit down and relax for a while," I said welcomingly.

As we sat on the living room couch, Bess started to explain what had happened earlier on.

"I did better than Anna in our Math test. She was jealous about my marks. When I asked her to join me for recess she replied angrily that she did not want to be my friend anymore!"

"Don't worry. She'll come round. She is probably upset she didn't score just as well.

Anna should be better tomorrow," I replied with a smile.

Just then, I remembered that my half-eaten ice-cream was in the study room. "Fancy an ice-cream?" I asked Bess.

"Sure. If it does not trouble you," Bess replied.

I sprinted to my bedroom to get my half eaten and melted ice-cream, then ran back down to the kitchen to get a vanilla-flavoured Magnum for Bess. I chose vanilla because I knew it was Bess' favourite and it would cheer her up a little. Running back to the living room, I passed the ice-cream to Bess. I thought we should watch something funny to lighten up the mood. I picked up my laptop and searched for "Just For Laugh gags" videos on YouTube.

After an hour, Bess's mobile phone rang...

"Hello? Okay. I'll be there in five minutes."

"Sorry, my mother is taking me out for dinner. Got to go," Bess told me.

"No worries. You are welcome to visit me anytime," I told Bess happily.

That evening, after a wonderful meal of my favourite salad, an idea popped up. *I hope I will be able to help their mend friendship*, I thought.

The next day, I was so excited that I was all ready for school within five minutes.

"You sure are fast today. Whatever made you so fast?" asked my mother.

"Oh! Mmm... something good might happen today," I replied.

"Good for you. See you tonight sweetie!" My mother said in a chirpy voice.

Ring!!! Sorry reader, please do not be mistaken. This is not your doorbell ringing but it's the school's recess bell. Now back to the story...

"Hey! Bess! Anna! Over here! Join me for recess!" I shouted across the canteen.

"Both of us?" Anna asked, shocked.

"Yes!" I replied in my happiest and chirpiest voice.

"Okay then." Anna replied.

Once they reached the table that I was at, I instructed Bess to sit next to Anna. After two minutes, I excused myself and said that I was going to buy some snacks. When I returned, I saw Bess and Anna talking like nothing had happened. I smiled to myself. Yes! *My plan worked!* I thought happily.

"It's all thanks to you that we are friends again!" both Bess and Anna said in harmony.

Once home that afternoon, while licking my ice-cream (yes again!), I thought about what had happened that day. I realised that friendships are important and we should cherish them.

From that day on, Bess, Anna and I became buddies. We even formed our own club known as The Ice-Cream Club!

5. Thalia and Flash By Malaeka Samir (P4 Orchid)

Once, there lived a very special girl named Thalia. She liked helping others and making others laugh. She was energetic and would never give up. She also had a pet dragon named Flash. Thalia found Flash, when she was five years old, at her Grandmother Lola's backyard. Flash was invisible to humans but Thalia could see him because, like her parents, she had magical powers!

Thalia did not know this because her parents had passed away. Granny Lola told her that they had died in a car accident when Thalia was a baby. Granny Lola had been her caretaker and had never mentioned anything about any magical powers the magical powers that Thalia and her parents possessed.

One day, while Thalia was playing with Flash in the backyard, she did not see a piece of broken glass and stepped on it. It cut her badly so Flash helped her to the toilet to wash her wound. The moment the water came into contact with her wound, it healed immediately

"Wow!" Thalia exclaimed. She ran to her grandmother and told her what had happened. Thalia asked Granny Lola if she thought Thalia could perform magic. Granny Lola told her that she was seeing things and that magic is not real. Thalia refused to believe Granny and kept talking with Flash about it until dinnertime.

"Granny Lola is lying! I saw it with my own two eyes! I healed myself!" Thalia told Flash whilst sitting in the backyard.

Suddenly, a man appeared in the backyard. He had a hood on so Thalia and Flash could not see his face. "Please come here. I would like to tell you something," he said.

They cautiously walked towards the man.

"You must run away! The person you call Grandmother is not your real grandmother! She is an evil witch, named Ursula!" he said.

Thalia thought he was crazy and asked him who he was. "I am Master Albert. The Oracle has predicted that I must be your master to teach you how to use your powers. Without me to teach you, you will not be able to use your magical powers to defeat Ursula and she will rule the people of The Mystical and Magical. That is why you must come with me," Master Albert replied.

"Who is The Oracle and if I come, can I please take my dragon along? He is friendly," Thalia pleaded.

"The Oracle is the oldest living wizard who can tell the future. Now, let me see your dragon," Master Albert replied.

When Thalia called for Flash, he came quickly to her side.

"Okay. He seems to be the type that will grow big very quickly. He will be of help to you. By the time you have finished training, he should be big enough to use his powers too. Luckily, he does not need training," he told her.

Thalia agreed to leave with Master Albert. She and ran to her room to pack her clothes and the things she needed. She then told her grandmother that she was going to the park to play. Thalia grabbed her backpack and quickly ran to Master Albert. Without delay, he cast a magical portal to Unicorn Island, where the people of the Mystical and Magical lived. Whussshhh! They were gone.

Once they entered Unicorn Island, Thalia saw all types of creatures. Master Albert led Thalia to a house. "Get the food in the kitchen cabinet. Then, we will meet over there," he said pointing to a meadow.

"Okay", Thalia said.

"Flash you have to come with me," Master Albert told Flash, "we have to go get you more food. There is not enough in the kitchen cabinet to feed you."

They met as planned and Thalia started her training after she and Flash have eaten their fill.

Meanwhile, Ursula, used her magical ball to find out where Thalia had gone.

"So Thalia has gone to Unicorn Island to hide from me? I will find her!" Ursula roared.

She was furious and shot a power ball to the ground, leaving a huge hole in it. She headed to Unicorn Island immediately to look for Thalia. After searching all over Unicorn Island for a few weeks, Ursula went back to her lair. She needed to think and figure out where Thalia and Master Albert could be hiding.

Two years later...

"Do you think you are ready to fight Ursula?" Master Albert asked.

"Maybe," Thalia replied.

"Well, the time has come. You have completed your training. You have mastered your powers – Water, Wind, Fire and Earth. Even Flash has developed his power of Water. I can take you to Ursula's lair, The Emerald, but you will have to fight her with Flash." he said.

"I will try my best to win," Thalia said courageously.

Thalia and Flash wore their armour and went to Master Albert.

"Take this. Blow this whistle when you really need help. Only one of my friends can hear the whistle. He will come to you the moment he hears it." Master Albert said.

Master Albert then led Thalia to the Blue Unicorn Forest. "You just need to go through Blue Unicorn Forest and behind the first waterfall you'll see the lair. You must go without me. I cannot enter the forest because of the sacred rules," And without another word, he left.

At The Emerald, Ursula's magic ball glowed which meant that Thalia was nearby. She looked into the magical ball and saw Thalia heading to the lair with Flash.

"Hmm... Thalia thinks she can defeat me! We will see about that..." Ursula said. She took her magical sceptre and sat down on a chair, waiting anxiously for Thalia. Her pet snake, Slitherin, coiled her neck and hissed as if it was waiting for Thalia too.

When Thalia entered The Emerald, Ursula was waiting for her.

"Thalia, I have not seen you in a long time. Where have you been?" Ursula said slyly with a smirk creeping across her face.

"Busy training," Thalia replied.

"Well, you still cannot defeat me. I am too powerful! This is your last chance! Peasant and dragon; give up and bow down! Or die!" Ursula commanded.

"I'd rather risk my life than bow down to you! Same goes for Flash!" Thalia shouted. "So be it!" Ursula said, releasing an energy ball that was flying towards Thalia. Ursula kept shooting energy balls at Thalia but none hit her. She could not aim at all!

Thalia threw fireballs, aiming at Ursula's cloak. She aimed water balls at Ursula's face to make her choke and wind strikes to lift her up into the air. She also made the ground crack in half so that Ursula would fall in.

Flash and Slitherin were fighting ferociously too. Suddenly, Flash got knocked out!

"Nooo!!!" Thalia shouted.

Thalia summoned all of her energy and blasted Ursula and Slitherin to ashes!

She then ran to save Flash. She blew the whistle to call for Master Albert's friend.

Suddenly, an elf appeared.

"I am Elfie and I'm at your service. Elfie said while looking at Flash. Do not worry, he will survive. I know what to do," Elfie continued. He poured some magical dandelion juice on Flash's chest.

"Raa!!" Flash roared a few moments later. Thalia leaned over to Flash and hugged him, tears of joy were welling in her eyes. Elfie accompanied the exhausted Flash and Thalia home.

Master Albert was overjoyed when he saw the trio. With happiness, he admitted that he was Thalia's father! Thalia was overwhelmed and jumped for joy. She was so glad that she was reunited with her father. However, Master Albert said that Thalia's mother had indeed passed away in a car accident and has become a god and that was why Thalia could only see her mother in her dreams. Thalia was a little sad that her mother was no longer around but she knew what her mother was watching over her.

Thalia continued to have more adventures because she stayed at Master Albert's house in Unicorn Island for the rest of her life!

6. Story of Sarah By Niharika Jagdish (P4 Orchid)

Hi! My name is Sarah. I am nine years old. I study in Morrison Primary School. I have a problem. I hate going to school as there are a few bullies in my school. Simply put, I don't like the bullies. They bully me every single day. I don't like that. I want to tell my parents about them but I stop myself from doing so. My parents would then worry about me. I do not like my parents worrying about me.

One day, the principal, Mrs Lim-Tan, informed the school that there was going to be a Science competition held for the upper primary students. On hearing this, I jumped for joy and signed up for the competition, as I loved Science. But I did not know that the bullies had also signed up for the competition.

My troubles started when the bullies started bullying me. They threatened me to do the science experiments for them or they would beat me up. I had firmly replied that I would not do their experiments but they snatched all my science equipment away. I begged them to return it but all they did was laugh at me. I even warned them that I would be reporting their behaviour to my teacher and my parents. They did not heed my warning but instead teased me about my looks and ran away.

I decided to tell the teacher-in-charge of the competition, Mrs Cleetus. She looked for the bullies in their class and demanded that they return the science equipment to me immediately. This time, they had no choice but to give in. They immediately returned my belongings. She warned the bullies that she would be reporting them to the principal and that they would be punished. I thanked Mrs Cleetus profusely.

On my way back home, I noticed the bullies coming towards me. They blocked my way. They started harassing me and prevented me from moving forward. Luckily, Mrs Cleetus, who was walking past, noticed the bullies teasing me. She immediately reprimanded the bullies who ran away after apologising.

The next day, Mrs Cleetus reported the matter to the principal who immediately summoned the bullies and chided them for bullying other children. The principal later called up the parents of the bullies and conveyed that the bullies had to be suspended from school for a week. She felt that such a stern lesson was necessary so that other children do not take to bullying. The bullies were also disqualified from the Science competition.

I was very glad that the bullies had finally been punished. I hope that they would turn over a new leaf and behave properly. I now feel that it is safe to go to school and not have to worry about the bullies hereafter.

I could now safely prepare for the science competition. I had a few science experiments in mind. I decided that it would be a good idea to discuss with my parents and get their suggestions. My discussions with them were really fruitful. We finally decided that a science experiment on an eruptive volcano would be a fitting entry for the competition. I 'googled' how to do create a volcano. I found some steps on a website.

Here are the steps that need to be carried out to make a volcano.

1. First make a 'Cone' of the baking soda volcano.
2. Mix six cups of flour, 2 cups of salt, 4 tablespoons of cooking oil and 2 cups of water. The resulting mixture should be smooth and firm.
3. Stand the soda bottle in the baking pan and mould the dough around it into a volcano shape. Don't cover the hole or drop dough into it.
4. Fill the bottle most of the way full with warm water and a bit of red food colour (can be done before sculpting if you do not take so long that the water gets cold).
5. Add 6 drops of detergent to the bottle contents. The detergent helps trap the bubbles produced by the reaction so you get better lava.
6. Add 2 tablespoons baking soda to the liquid.
7. Slowly pour vinegar into the bottle. Watch out – eruption time!

After jotting down the instructions, I now had to prepare a shopping list to purchase the required materials. My shopping list was as follows:

1. 200 gms - Baking soda
2. 1 Baking pan

3. Tablespoons

I took the shopping list to my parents and told them to take me shopping. On checking the list, my mom said that there was no need to go shopping as we had everything available at home.

I carefully took the things from my mom and started the experiment. I could finally complete setting up the experiment with a great deal of help from my parents. I finally was able to make the volcano erupt. Wow! It was really bright and looked like a real one. But made at home! How I wish that I could show you how it was done. I was so proud of myself.

My parents told me to repeat the experiment several times so that I could become familiar with the steps. I agreed with them, as this would enable me to confidently carry out the experiment in front of the judges. That day, I carried out the experiment eight times!

The next day, the day of the competition, I was very confident. When it was my turn, I confidently went up on stage and presented to the judges my experiment. They really liked it and I won the first prize! I could not wait to go home to show my parents the trophy that I had won. They were very proud of me and took me out for pizza.

7. The Quest of the Cursed Spirits By Nidhi Adhikari (P4 Orchid)

Annabeth Riggles is a 13th grader who spends her summer vacation at a spirit camp. She has light blond hair and aqua coloured eyes and keeps with her at least one battle weapon. Even if she is special, she wears casual clothes.

At the age of four, a dragon attacked her and her best friend, Anna, while they were going to spirit camp for the first time. It was night time and as they were trudging along a stone path, the dragon erupted from a pile of dirt. He roared and stared at the two girls. "Surrender now or face my fury", he ordered.

"Never", cried the two girls at once. Suddenly he ran towards them like an angry bull. They dodged it and he went flying up into a tree, and got his dragon horns stuck between the branches. He tugged and tugged and tugged until he was free. He focused on Anna because she was wearing a red sweater and t-shirt. He charged towards her and was about to strike when Annabeth pushed her to the side. The dragon struck her instead of Anna. While this was happening, Anna was hiding inside a log. Annabeth was dead but luckily Anna had a pearl with her. It was the blue pearl that could heal anyone or anything and it could grant wishes too. Anna rolled the pearl across Annabeth's forehead several times. Soon Annabeth woke up. Annabeth recovered but she became immortal. Her new weakness was music from sirens.

One day, Annabeth and Anna were practising their archery skills when the danger alarm rang. When the two girls looked outside of camp, they saw giant horses. They quickly ran for their lives. The horses quickly came in and stood around the camp, standing guard and ensuring no one leaves their sight.

One of the horses went inside Annabeth's cabin. It ducked its head under her bed and found her jar of cursed spirits. These spirits were cursed so they could destroy the world but luckily a brave warrior had caught the four spirits and had kept them in this jar. The horses broke the jar before Annabeth could stop them, the four spirits were released. They flew all over the place and destroyed the camp while the horses galloped off into the woods.

That night the camp leader, Daniel, suggested that someone should go after those spirits to destroy them. He chose Clara who was the bravest and she had the best battle weapon. The girls volunteered to go with Clara.

The next morning, Annabeth and Anna were getting ready to help Clara go after the cursed spirits. While they were packing, Annabeth explained to Anna that the spirits were very dangerous and that Clara will probably get killed without any backup.

They set out at night. Soon, they all were ready and went off to the river next to the camp. Anna took out the blue pearl and wished for a ship. At once, a ship named Bermuda Beauty appeared on the still water. They set out at once and soon a great storm came and washed them all overboard. The ship was about to sink! Annabeth shrunk both she and Anna and at once they turned into falcons! They couldn't find Clara and the tide was coming in quickly so they had to leave without her.

Annabeth led the way past mountains, swamps and rivers. Soon, they reached an abandoned cave in the Himalayas Mountains. There they took out the blue pearl and asked for directions. "The spirit of wind is at the Bermuda triangle." The words glowed on the pearl, giving the girls directions as to where to go. They flew off to their next destination taking a few stops in between to rest.

Once they reached the Bermuda Triangle, the wind was so strong that they could hardly fly straight. They had to fly in pieces of debris. Annabeth created a force field to hold back the debris and it was the last force field she could create as she was exhausted from the travelling. In no time, they came face to face with one of the spirits, Wind.

Sitting on a throne made of cold, gushing wind sat the wind spirit, tornado. He laughed and bellowed, "What have we here?"

Annabeth and Anna grabbed their swords and slashed his arm. He howled in pain. Annabeth quickly grabbed her cross bow and fired dart after dart while Anna kept striking the spirit with her sword. She quickly struck the spirit's chest with a dart and it retreated into the water causing waves to come soaring up into the open air like a tsunami and girls fell into the water. Annabeth immediately took out the special bottle and sucked the wind spirit up.

At that moment, an enormous monster towered over them. It had two pairs of fangs that had droplets of venom dripping out of them. Other than four fangs, it had sharp teeth, like a shark. Its body was scaly with sharp spikes. It also had ruby red glowing eyes. It wasn't long before Annabeth noticed that she was standing in front of the guardian of the water spirit, Whirlpoolis. He was the cause of many disappearances and deaths in the Bermuda Triangle.

"Who are you?" he bellowed.

He stared at Annabeth and made a deep, angry rumble in his throat. "I know you," he bellowed, "your great-grandma defeated my master and now you and your family will pay for what she had done!"

He started to sing the song of the sirens. Annabeth started to sink into the ground, covering her ears. Luckily, Anna caught her. Both girls had only let their guard down for a split second and Whirlpoolis gobbled both the girls up.

Inside Whirlpoolis's mouth, the two girls struggled to dodge the drops of venom rolling down his tongue. Annabeth grabbed her crossbow once again, took two sandy darts and shot the sides of his mouth. He howled with pain and turned into water, leaving the girls to paddle their way to shore.

They took out their map and the blue pearl to ask the pearl where the water spirit was. It told them that he was defeated and had possessed Whirlpoolis.

The girls were shocked but glad that they have defeated two spirits so far. Anna next asked where the fire spirit was. The blue pearl informed them that he was in the depths of Koro, a volcano in Fiji.

Immediately, Annabeth transformed Anna and herself into falcons and they flew off to Fiji. On the way, Anna saw a ship and told Annabeth about it. Together, they soared down to take a look at the ship.

It had sixteen blue stained glass windows and was made out of brown wood which was painted sienna. The sails were ultramarine and a strange odour emanated from it. The ship's name was Bermuda Beauty!

Once they were on board, Annabeth transformed herself and Anna back into humans. Suddenly, Clara came round the corner and bumped into them. They helped her up and she demanded an explanation as to why they had left her behind. They explained to her all that had happened. Clara told them that she was stuck at sea for the past week!. Annabeth apologised and said that they had to continue their journey to look for the fire spirit. Again, they were transformed into falcons and they abandoned the ship.

One they reached Fiji, they made their way to Koro. At Koro, they flew above the mouth of the volcano. The lava below was bubbling hot. Out of the lava came a large fiery figure. It was the fire spirit! As they soared above the volcano, Annabeth turned them into humans and activated their rocket boots which they had created at spirit camp. The rocket boots allowed them to hover in the air. Whilst in the air, they dodged balls of fire shot by the fire spirit. All 3 of them took out their cross bows and shot as many darts of water as they could at the fire spirit. Soon, the spirit vanished and the level of lava in the volcano decreased.

The three girls flew over to a nice resort which was near the sea and checked on the special bottle. Inside the bottle were the 3 spirits, Wind, Water and Fire. The last spirit was Earth. They asked the pearl for directions of where the last spirit was. The last spirit was at the Iran desert. Again they transformed themselves into the falcons and flew off to the Iran desert.

At the desert lay the earth spirit. He was pulling up mountains of dirt and throwing them around the place. Annabeth transformed them back into humans and they activated their rocket boots once again and took out a pair of gloves. All three of them put on the gloves and twirled their fingers until a tornado was created. The tornado sucked up the earth spirit and Annabeth immediately opened the bottle and caught the spirit while it was still weak. They flew back to camp and told the campers about their victory.

At the camp, the campers cheered for the trio. A party was held that night to celebrate the victory.

8. The Unexpected By Janae Luah Yng Shin (P5 Acacia)

"Jack! Jack! Wake up!" A familiar voice rang in my eardrums. I woke up with a slight jolt and found my twin brother, Jake, standing next to my bed. He continued, stuttering, "Jack! Mom and Dad... They've been... k... killed!"

I instantly shot up from my bed as his hysterical figure stood next to me, his hands wiping tears off his face. I immediately stood up next to him and calmed him down and asked him what had happened. Once he had calmed down, he explained, "Mom, Dad and I went out to get some food for you and left you at home to rest because you slept late last night watching the World Cup. On our way there, a masked man just came up to us and stabbed Mom and Dad. From the sight of their lifeless body falling to the ground, I knew I was going to be next. So I ran home as fast as I could."

Shocked and broken-hearted, memories of them filled my mind as a tear rolled down my cheek. Suddenly, the sound of the television interrupted my thoughts. Apparently, I had forgotten to switch off the television earlier. It was the evening news. The screen showed a picture of a masked man whom Jake identified as the murderer.

"This man is on a killing spree. He has killed over five people and injured two," the news reporter said. "This man has yet to be found, but we have caught him on camera at Money Street. We've also found out that all victims of murder were from the Douglass family!"

"This is really bad Jake," I whispered.

"I know, oh, I know..." Jake replied, staring at me with fearfully.

"Hey, Jack, what are we going to do now?" Jake questioned me. I was clueless. We had just turned eleven and were not that bright. Fearing that the murderer would find us, we quickly packed some clothes, daily needs and food into two backpacks to help us survive for at least a few days. Without wasting a second, we rushed out of the house.

Carrying our heavy backpacks, we trudged around the city, wondering where to go. When we reached a deserted alley, I spotted a figure lurking around the shadows. I told Jake slightly stammering, "I th...think there...there's some... someone f... following us. Do you think it's that guy?"

Jake replied calmly, "I don't know but we should watch our backs..."

Then, I heard footsteps. I decided to look back. It was a masked man holding a butcher's knife, heading our way. Jake looked back and knew what to do. He swiftly removed his backpack and threw it at the man as I did the same. The man staggered back but did not fall. We ran as fast as our legs could carry us. I had no idea what to do! My mind was totally blank.

Just then, he grabbed Jake. He started to panic as I hotfooted behind the man and kicked him where the sun does not shine. With a loud grunt, he staggered back, stabbing my right shoulder as he did so, causing blood to ooze out profusely. Jake immediately took notice and ran to me and whispered, "Don't worry." Not knowing what he meant, I just fell to the ground, unconscious. The last thing I saw was Jake kicking the man in his gut, then complete darkness took over me.

When I woke up, everything was blurry but after a few blinks, I found myself on Jake's shoulders. He had carried me all the way after I fell unconscious! I felt proud to have such a brother like him. After he realized that I was waking up, Jake set me down on the ground to walk. His face had a big bruise and some minor cuts and scratches.

Concerned, I immediately asked him, "Hey, what happened? Did you kick that guy's butt?"

He smirked then replied, "Yes, and I almost died. I snatched the knife from him but he had a pocketknife stuffed in his shoe. I quickly used his knife and jabbed it into his arm but he immediately punched me square in the jaw. Then, I used the knife again to stab his gut and I ran off, carrying you, of course. Running, I saw him fall to the ground, hitting his head, hard, on it."

My brother was a hero to me. He had even ripped off a piece of his shirt to wrap it around my wound. I could not help but hug him and say, "Thanks! You're the greatest brother anyone could ever have!"

He just smiled and winked at me and said, "Thanks for protecting me."

I walked by his side until we reached a small house. Then I realised it was Matthew, our best friend's house. With one knock, the door swung open and a middle-aged lady stood there. Her blonde hair was tied up neatly in a bun. We greeted her politely and told our names before asking if Matthew was home. She said that she was Matthew's mother and asked for Matthew to come to us as she invited us in and sat us at the living room.

Not long after, Matthew came. With his blonde hair pushed into his cap, his blue eyes stood out and his dimples showed whenever he smiled. Once Matthew sat down, we explained what had happened. They decided to let us stay with them.

A few months later, the man was found. He had sustained major injuries and had been taken into custody. He was recognised as the one who had killed our relatives and parents and was guilty. He was then sentenced to life imprisonment instead of execution. Since then, we have been living in Matthew's house and we treat him as a brother. However, the dreaded and painful memory would be forever etched in our minds.

9. The Creepiest Dream By Chanel Wijaya (P5 Acacia)

My parents always complain that I am too lazy, always failing my examinations. They always tell me to put in more effort in my work and to revise, but I always do not listen.

One dark and stormy night, I was in my bedroom sleeping. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck and I was awakened by the sound of lightning. I went out of my bedroom and called out to my family members. No one answered, and I only heard the sound of wind blowing. I went outside my house and walked through the roads. I heard footsteps and saw shadows following me. Frightening thoughts went through my mind. Paralysed with fear, I ran as fast as my legs could carry me.

I reached a house filled with many rooms. I went to each room and shouted, "Hey, sister, Mum, Dad where are you? Do not play pranks on me! Come out, it is not funny you know!"

A lady with long hair covering her face and long fingernails crawled towards me with her broken arms. I ran out of the house into the forest. The trees in the forest were shaped like humans. As I ran further and further, it became darker and darker. At the end of the forest, I went into a toyshop where there were many dolls staring at me. The dolls came out of the toy box and tried to kill me with knives. I got out of the toyshop.

I ran and I came across a mansion. I went in and found many things to play with. It was like Disneyland except for one strange thing – there were no children. My stomach started to growl and decided to see if there was any food in the mansion. I walked past the kitchen where I could see through the glass door. There were many kinds of food on the table.

The only way to get into the kitchen was for me to say aloud my exam results. If my score was below 50, I could not go in. If I told a lie, I would get electrocuted. Thankfully, my results were above 50. Once I got in, I had to choose the food I wanted to eat carefully, if not, the door would not shut and woman in the forest, together with the dolls, would come after me. If I picked the right food, I could escape and go back home to be with my family.

At that point, my brain told me to get up and when I got up, I realised it was only a dream! I went into my parents' room, hugged them and told them all about my dream.

After having the terrible dream, I learnt to be more hardworking in order to do well for my examinations.

10. A Trip to USS By Lee Yeong Xuan, Jazlyn (P5 Acacia)

"I am going to USS!" I shouted.

I had been invited to a birthday party. I asked Cara, the birthday girl, who else would be going and whether she had invited Molly. Molly was an annoying girl who liked to make fun of people and reveal secrets. As such I never got along with her. Cara said that most of the girls from our class were invited, including Molly.

On the day of the party, we met outside USS. When all had arrived, we headed into USS. We could not decide which ride to take and hence, Molly decided that we should go to the haunted house. I told Cara, "I think Molly wants us to go to the haunted house because she knows that I am scared of the dark." Cara told me to stay close to her and that she would accompany throughout the visit to the haunted house.

We queued outside for a while before entering the creepy haunted house. A shiver ran down my spine as we saw a 'ghosts' and a doll popping out of nowhere. It was scary. I held onto Cara's arms tightly, telling her to not walk so quickly. When we were about to complete the haunted house visit, Molly and the other girls ran towards the exit of the haunted house leaving Cara and me all alone.

Cara and I ran as fast as we could and ran out of the haunted house. Molly and the other girls were laughing at us the moment they saw us exit from the haunted house. Our faces were pale like the 'ghosts' in the haunted house. I told the girls to stop laughing as it was Cara's birthday and we should not make fun of her.

We then headed for the rollercoaster rides. Cara and I knew that Molly was afraid of taking the rollercoaster as she had a fear of heights. Cara and I walked towards the queue and encouraged the rest of the girls to join us. Molly did not want to be left out, she had no choice but to follow suit. When it was our turn, Cara and I pulled Molly toward the first row of seats. Acting cool, she sat in the first row with us. We knew she was shaking deep down in her heart.

It was a thrilling ride! Cara and I had thoroughly enjoyed it. The moment we alighted from the rollercoaster, Molly ran towards the toilet immediately and vomited.

Cara and I were filled with remorse when we saw Molly vomiting. She looked like a mess when she stepped out of the toilet cubicle. We apologized to Molly for making her take the rollercoaster ride with us. Molly also apologised to Cara and me for making us visit the haunted house. We smiled sheepishly at each other and realized that it was very childish of us to play such pranks. Cara decided that the group should head to the nearby café for a break.

An hour later, we were back in the queues enjoying the thrilling rides, except this time, we did not force Molly to take the rides with us.

Molly and I decided to put our differences aside and enjoy the day with Cara as we did not want to spoil Cara's birthday. The ten of us had a fun-filled and enjoyable day at USS.

11. The Bus Ticket of Doom By Sherlyn Sim Shi Ling (P5 Angsana)

I climbed aboard the bus. I tapped my card on the machine, waiting to hear the familiar sound of my card being accepted. Instead, I heard the sound that meant my card was being rejected. I immediately looked at the screen panel for instructions. It read "Pay cash. Valid card." I knew that meant my card had insufficient value.

I opened my purse to look for 65 cents to pay the fare but I realised that I only had 40 cents! I was feeling so helpless that I didn't know what to do! While I stood there fretting, I texted my mother - "Don't have enough money for bus!!!" but she took quite a while to respond. I decided to tell the bus driver that I only had 40 cents.

He told me (in Chinese) to just put my coins in. After the bus driver had told me to put my coins in, I texted my, "Never mind".

My mother called me a few minutes later. She told me to use the money, which she had prepared for me in case of emergencies, in the emergency pouch. I told her that I had totally forgotten that I even had the emergency pouch! My mother told me to tell the bus driver that I had found more coins in my wallet and to pay him the unpaid 25 cents. I did as I was told.

When I got off the bus, I walked to my apartment's lift lobby. When the lift arrived, I stepped in. When I stepped out two minutes later, I was still texting the first half of this story to my best friend when I realised the door of my house looked different. I went back to the lift lobby and realised I was on the wrong level! I pressed for the lift quickly and went up to the level that I was living on. A few minor unlucky things happened after that, but there was nothing major. Thank Goodness!

12. Detective Violet By Ruth Ang (P5 Angsana)

Hello! I'm Detective Violet, and I am going to tell you about my work. Being a detective is definitely not easy. Adding on, I am very clumsy and often mess things up although I am quite sought after. We have to look for clues, follow people secretly, and disguise even ourselves! Well now, let me tell you one of my favourite cases of all time – The murder of Kate Bywille. Here goes!

It was a stormy night. I was sitting snugly in my armchair reading a book when the telephone rang. I dragged myself out of my chair and went to pick up the call.

"This is Violet Mewshle speaking," I said.

"This is the Bywille estate, and we need you to help us to investigate a case," the person on the phone spoke. "A black Mercedes-Benz will be arriving outside your house at 9 am sharp. Board it discreetly and it will take you to the Bywille estate. Good luck," he instructed.

And with that, the phone call ended.

The next day, I did as I was told and waited patiently for the car to arrive. I was awed by the car's smooth and sleek body. However, work had to be done. On arrival, I immediately started searching for clues on the victim's body. The butler told me that Miss Kate Bywille had been murdered mysteriously in the middle of the night. There were some scratch marks on her neck, but I did not think much about it.

Later in the evening, I was shown to a guest room in the mansion. As I walked up, I saw many photos. They showed Kate Bywille and another man. When asked, the butler said it was her husband. They often fought about their grandfather's will. Once, Miss Bywille threw a hot iron at him. That was the last straw. He flew off to another country. However, the plane crashed and he died and was never seen again.

At night, I crept out of my room to carry out more investigations. All of a sudden, I saw a shadow in the moonlight. The shadow belonged to a hunchback. Boom! Something hit me and I fell on my back with a loud thud.

The next morning, I found myself in my bed. The butler had found me unconscious and carried me back to my room. I went back to examine the photograph. The same man had a similar hunchback. With a shock, I realised that her killer was none other than her husband. I instructed the butler to call the police. After much snooping around, they found her husband hiding in the tool shed.

At the station, he confessed to killing Miss Bywille. He was angry that she had the will to herself. He had faked a plane crash so he would be "dead"

and Miss Bywille would let her guard down.

As I trudged home, I thought of all the events that had happened. Ring! I was snapped out of my thoughts.

"Hello. Violet Meshle speaking."

"Miss Meshle? We need you to help us investigate a case!"

So much of me thinking about going home for a rest! Well, that marks the end of my story. Good bye!

13. Sammy's Story By Fok En Yi (P5 Angsana)

Meow! Woof! Roar! Sammy drove around the park in her solar-energised cart, making all the animal sounds she knew. Sammy was a girl who looked like boy, except for the fact that she had the voice of a girl. She had one special gift: she could mimic any sound possible. She could also build amazing contraptions occasionally, like the cart she was riding in now, and her battery-operated iron bird that hovered six inches above ground.

Sammy was feeling too gloomy for the blue sky today. Again, she had been scolded on how useless she was. She had only broken the clasp of her mother's useless pearl necklace! "They'll never understand and they'll never do! Bah!" Sammy grumbled. She understood that her parents' dislike for her was beyond huge for goodness knows what reason.

Suddenly, a strong wind blew. A dark cloud covered the sun. Sammy's cart slowed down. Her cart had run out of solar energy. Sammy groaned. As she was about to get out and push the cart home, the wind became a gale and pushed the cart. She almost tumbled out! Then, a ray of blinding white light appeared. Sammy's cart was sucked into the light together with poor Sammy in it!

"Whoa!" Sammy yelled and she grasped the sides of her rocking cart. Her heart thumped loudly. She shut her eyes. After about a minute, Sammy was thrown onto the cold ground. She opened her eyes and looked around. She seemed to be in a big metal box with only a few torches placed here and there. A large flock of birds flew near the ceiling. One swooped down to greet her.

"Hello Sammy!" it croaked in a robot-like voice.

Sammy realised that it was her iron bird! Its skin was cold and metallic. Its wings were folded neatly at the side of its large metal body. Sammy looked hard at the bird's feet. They looked strong and stable. Sammy quickly took up the rope attached to her cart and tied it firmly around the creature's leg. Then Sammy herself clambered onto its back. Ooh! It was cold! Like in the real world, the bird had joysticks, buttons and pedals fixed in it. Sammy pressed the 'Fly' button. Then she twiddled the joystick to control the directions of the flight. It was surprising to discover that the bird could actually fly more than a hundred feet in the air!

Sammy whooped in excitement as she dived and flew upside-down. Without noticing, she flew straight into an opening in the wall. The bird landed with a bump on the floor.

"This is Hardcore Parkour. Watch out for lava and acid pools, targets slamming into your face and custard pies that blur your vision," the bird managed to croak before its battery ran out. Sammy untied her cart and looked around the room. It was empty and bare. Sammy remembered a sound that could destroy steel! Maybe she could trigger all the traps so she could walk through safely! Sammy sucked in her breath, and with a stomp, she barked out "GAAAAAK!"

At once, the walls were dented. Custard pies came flying at Sammy. She dodged each one perfectly. A few targets swung out. The acid and lava pools were revealed. Sammy carried her cart and stepped over a lava pool. As her toes brushed the floor, a custard pie came out of nowhere and hit Sammy's shoulder. The filling dribbled down her shirt.

"Serious? Not all the things were triggered?" Sammy whimpered, seeing a blue liquid in the pie filling: the vision-blurring fluid. Sammy decided to just make a run for it. She leaped lightly over the pools of bubbling acid and lava. Many targets swung out at Sammy but she avoided them. No more custard pies came her way.

Another flash of blinding light sucked Sammy into it. She felt like all the energy in her had been taken away as the light swallowed her into another room. Her arms let go of the cart. She flopped onto the steel floor. Then, a force lifted her into the air. She was pinned against the wall. Cuffs snapped at her wrists and ankles. Sammy shook her head, struggling to wake up. A cloaked figure suddenly came out of nowhere, like he had just come out of the wall.

"Well, well, well. Look who we have got here. Sammy Ginta," the figure laughed evilly.

Sammy jolted awake at her name. She wondered how the figure knew her name.

"You want to know why your parents hate you, no? Why, simple. It's all in here, young lady. Every word. Just make the sound of a vampire bat and I'll let you read it," the figure said, gesturing to a book lying on an antique table behind him. Sammy was tempted to start squeaking like a vampire bat, but out of her mouth came a strong "NO", so strong it knocked the figure back.

Sammy was amazed at herself. She never knew she could do that! She began saying "NO," at the figure, her voice becoming louder and bolder each time. Finally, she had forced the figure to the ground.

"Unlock these cuffs or you'll suffer the wrath of my voice," Sammy commanded.

The figure waved a hand over Sammy, repeating "Nota et recludam".

The cuffs fell off like magic. Sammy then fastened the cuffs to the figure himself and punched his face. The figure lay still, unconscious. He would remain like that. Sammy went up to the book and opened it. The cover turned from a murky brown to gleaming golden. As Sammy read the story, tears filled her eyes.

The story told of how her family had a daughter called Rita. On her sixteenth birthday, Rita received only a bouquet of flowers as the family was too poor to afford a cake for her. Rita was so angry that she took the old family heirloom and pawned it very cheaply. She then squandered the money on a cake for herself. After that, she committed suicide instead of facing her parents. Since then, the Ginta family had hated girls and ridded the family of all females except the wives. Sammy was lucky as her parents were not violent and decided to just foster her. Sammy's tears rolled down her face. She actually had a sister. Sammy thought of how she would be living with another girl around the house. As one of her tears touched the floor, another ray of light swallowed Sammy into it. Her cart came along too.

Sammy then found herself back in the park in her cart, moving at a snail's pace. Sammy got out and ran back home, pulling her cart with her. As she reached the front door, her father stood there, arms akimbo.

"Where have you been? It's almost lunchtime and I already told you to be back by eleven, didn't I?" he scolded.

To his utmost surprise, Sammy went forward and hugged the man. She explained everything that had happened. The father had to agree as he knew of Rita, who was his earliest child. Sammy's parents tried to make it up to Sammy by buying her the latest Xbox game - Runner the Master. From thereon, Sammy was happy and bright, unlike when she was ignored by her parents. Indeed, your parents' love for you is priceless.

14. Mary and Alice By Lim Lin (P5 Angsana)

Here comes Mary with her schoolbag unzipped, again. She doesn't have as many friends as her perfect older sister, Alice. Every morning, the two sisters would take two separate paths to school and back, so that nobody would know that they are actually sisters. Although Alice cared for Mary and loved her, she would mock, tease and make fun of her like the other pupils so as to not ruin her reputation as a perfect student.

One day in school, Mary had accidentally tripped over her shoelaces and fell on the rough floor with a loud thud. Some pupils saw her and asked if she was okay and if she needed to go to the general office. Alice and her group of friends saw the commotion, and when they saw that it was Mary who got injured. Alice said, "Why are you so clumsy? Ever heard of tying your shoelaces? Can't you be more careful?"

The other pupils began to laugh at Mary as well. When Mary heard the laughing and mocking, she felt pain, both physically and emotionally, and almost burst into tears.

When Alice returned home that afternoon, she saw Mary applying medication on her wound. She went up to Mary to help her, Mary immediately snatched the medication from Alice, ran into the bedroom and slammed the door. Alice stood outside the room and asked politely, "Mary, can you please let me in? I want to help you."

"After all you had done to me, why do you still want to help me? Why are you doing this to me?" Mary said tearfully.

Alice knew that she was in the wrong, but could not bring herself to tell Mary the truth. Alice decided to leave Mary alone that day. As time passed, Alice began to behave in the same manner as she had in school whilst she was at home, without knowing the pain that Mary was suffering.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. Mary had two amazing friends, Purity and Helen. Purity was a joyful and sarcastic friend who could always cheer Mary up, while Helen was an intelligent student who helped Mary with her schoolwork after school. They were always there for each other.

One evening during dinner, Mary and Alice's mother asked the sisters, "Why can't two of you just get along?"

Mary had no reply. However, Alice wanted to be the good girl, so she lied that Mary has been bullying her since the beginning of the year. Before Mary could say anything, Mother angrily reprimanded Mary, without knowing the ugly truth.

The following day, when Mary and her two friends were at the school canteen having lunch, Mary told her friends that she did not want to eat that day. Her two friends were concerned about Mary and asked her what was wrong. Mary gave a soft reply, "I'm fine, it's just that I have lost my appetite, that's all."

Purity who had felt this pain before, replied, "Look here Mary, I know that your sister hates you a lot, but we are your friends, and we will help you no matter what."

Mary was so touched by her words that she was overwhelmed with tears. Later in the day, Alice and her friends saw Mary, Purity and Helen in the school canteen.

Immediately, Alice started gossiping about Mary. Helen went up to them and asked angrily, "What do you want?"

They did not reply.

Mary could not take the gossiping and ran away. While running, she did not notice a puddle of water next to the garbage bin. She slipped and fell into the garbage bin. The other pupils who saw the incident laughed hysterically as Mary was covered with trash.

Alice saw that this was a golden opportunity, she declared to everyone in the canteen, "I have a confession to make. Mary is my little sister."

Everyone was shocked.

Alice continued while looking at Purity and Helen, "She also told me that she hated you two. What a horrible friend she is!"

Purity and Helen stepped closer to Mary and asked, "Is she telling the truth?"

Before Mary could say a word, Alice interrupted, "Of course, she even told me to keep it a secret!"

Mary clambered out of the garbage bin, ran to Purity and Helen and said with tears in her eyes, "She is lying! I have never said that before. You got to believe me!"

However, the only reply they gave was "Whatever..."

After that, Alice hugged the two of them and pretended to feel sorry. As she turned back, she mouthed the word "loser" to Mary, and left with Purity and Helen instantly.

Not long after, when Mary returned home, she told her mother what had happened in school that day and the truth behind how Alice was treating her. Mary asked her mother to help explain the misunderstanding to Purity and Helen. After two long telephone conversations, Mary felt better, and was relieved that she still had her friends.

The next day, Purity and Helen went up to Mary and said, "We're sorry about yesterday. We hope you're okay. Please forgive us, will you?"

Mary immediately said 'yes' and added that she was happy to have her friends back. In the days that followed, Helen had helped Mary with her studies and her results improved.

Finally, the truth behind why Alice likes to tease and mock Mary was out. Alice confessed to her mother that it was because Mary's results. She wanted Mary to do well in her studies so she came up with such tricks and ideas so that Helen could stand by Mary and help Mary.

Now, Mary is doing very well in her studies and the pair of siblings have reconciled.

15. The Strange Encounter By Chaela Teo Yunshi (P5 Angsana)

Whenever I see a dog, I will remember the strange encounter I had.

I was on an island resort for my honeymoon. I had just gone surfing with my husband, Ben, and we were looking for hermit crabs to keep as pets. Before nightfall, I told Ben I was going for a beachside walk before dinner, he warned, "Be careful, Mary!" I reassured him and went on with my walk. To this day, I regret every moment of my walk.

About ten minutes after my walk, I was unconscious.

An hour later, I regained consciousness and found myself in a three metre deep pit in the ground. I realised why I was taken. It occurred to me that I was kidnapped! My kidnapper was a big burly man and he had a scar on his left cheek. He realised I was awake and pushed me harder into the pit, my head hit a rock and I lost consciousness again. The second time I woke up, my kidnapper was gone. I thought that he was probably resting somewhere. I tried to get out of the pit but I was unsuccessful. I started shouting for help and to get some. An ex-police dog heard me. It tried to pull me out of the pit but failed. Soon I heard the sirens of the police car, the dog started barking to attract the attention of the police. After what seemed like an eternity, I was pulled up by the dog and a few policemen. Apparently, my husband had called the police when I did not return as promised.

The next day, the police asked me what my kidnapper looked like, I described as clearly as I could. A few days later, they arrested my kidnapper. From that day onwards, I barely went out for a walk at night.

16. The Fat Royal Duck By Angela Cheah Ai Jia (P5 Angsana)

Albert Duckington lived in the compound of the Duckington Palace. He swam leisurely on the crystal clear water of the Swan Lake in the morning sun. He walked lazily on the well-manicured lawn in the breezy afternoon. No! No! No! Hold your imagination. He is not the duke, not the prince, but a fat yellow duck with a fat buttock swinging from left to right whenever he moved his feet.

One ordinary afternoon, Albert was resting under the window of the royal kitchen, taking shade from the scorching sun. While daydreaming about his next meal, he overheard a conversation in the royal kitchen.

"The King of France is paying a royal visit to Her Majesty. I am tasked to prepare the royal banquet. I want to make a good impression on our guest." said the Duke of Duckington.

"French? French? French! Duck a l'Orange!" exclaimed the royal chef with a twinkle in his eyes.

"Duck? I thought all ducks in England belong to Her Majesty and it is a treason to kill one and our head would be chopped at the tower?" questioned the Duke.

"No, no, no! It only applies to swans and not ducks! Our ducks are fat and plump! Their tender and juicy meat is perfect with the orange sauce." said the chef with saliva dripping from his mouth.

"Our ducks? Me? My meat swimming in the orange sauce? I must run for my life!" Albert thought in his mind with a shiver down his spine. His buttocks swung from left to right as he ran back home to inform his fellow ducks.

Albert and his fellow ducks hatched a plan. They threw sleeping berries into the well of the palace. When the chef drank from it, he would sleep for a day. When the palace guards drank from it, they would sleep for a day. When everyone in the palace was under the spell of the sleeping berries on the

night without moon, Albert and his fellow ducks packed their belongings and swam down the Duckington River to find their new home.

17. A Huge Secret Revealed By Cady Freda Tang Jing Xuan (P5 Casuarina)

Ding Dong! The wedding bells rang. It was the wedding of Princess Jade of Fairyland and Jack of the human world. Jack was a rich man who got access to Fairyland by doing good deeds.

One year after their wedding, Princess Jade and Jack had a baby girl and they named her Chloe. Chloe was half-fairy, half-human and had a special power – ballet dancing. On the day that she was born, ballet dancing was invented.

Princess Jade wanted to settle down in the human world for good and give up her throne in Fairyland and let her sisters take over. When her father, King Roland, found out her plan, he was furious. He immediately went to the human world to get Princess Jade back to Fairyland.

When Princess Jade's father reached the human world, he told her to say her last words to Jack.

She told Jack, "Jack, take care of Chloe and tell her that I died in a car accident. Please, and don't ever let Chloe know about her powers. If she finds out, she will be taken back to Fairyland. If she knows the secret but does not want to return to Fairyland, her powers would be taken away from her. She is the first fairy to have ballet powers and the only way she can advance her powers is to stay in the human world and dance. The more she dances, the better her powers will get and she can make history in Fairyland this way. Remember, only let Chloe know of her powers on her eighteenth birthday."

Princess Jade was immediately taken back to Fairyland and she was locked up in her room. Many guards were sent to stand guard outside her room to prevent her from escaping.

Five years passed and Chloe was sent to kindergarten. She realised her classmates had mothers but she did not have one and asked her dad about it.

"Papa, why do my classmates have mummies, but I do not have one?"

Her father replied, "Chloe, dear, listen to me. Your mother died in a car accident. Don't be too sad. Go for your classes and later when you get home, I will show you pictures of your mother, okay?"

After school, Chloe's father took her home and showed her his wedding pictures. Upon seeing her father tearing when looking through the pictures, Chloe told herself not to mention about her mother again as she did not want her father to be upset.

A few years passed and Chloe was ten now. She had long chocolate brown hair and brown eyes. She had a flair for dancing and was sent to the Royal Beijing Ballet Dancing Academy. Like every other day, Chloe went for her ballet lessons, but today was her first grade ballet examination. She saw many of her friends' mothers helping them get ready. No one helped her. She wished her mother was there to help, but she did not dare mention anything about her as she was afraid her father might be upset again. After six months, she received her results and she achieved a distinction and she was glad to be the best in her class.

Another six years passed and Chloe was sixteen. She had recently gone for a ballet competition and came in first. She was keen to show her father her trophy. When she was outside his room, she heard a sweet voice saying, "Jack, how is Chloe doing? I am here as my father had passed away last week of old age and I have inherited his position. I am now free to do whatever I want. I just want to check on Chloe as I have not seen her for many years."

Jack replied, "Jade, our daughter is fine. I sent her to Royal Beijing Ballet Dancing Academy as you said she could only improve her ballet powers by staying in the human world and dance. The teacher often praises her for her movements are as graceful as a swan, bringing out the expressions of the dance perfectly."

Chloe was shocked when she heard her father told a lady named Jade that she was her daughter and she also heard she has powers and it was ballet powers. She was shocked to hear such things. She ran into the room.

"What's going on?" she demanded.

Queen Jade ran to hug her daughter and explained, "Chloe, I am your mother. There is something I must tell you and you must make a wise choice. Firstly, you are a half-human and half-fairy. Your powers are ballet dancing, and now that you know you are a fairy, you must return to Fairyland as it is a fairy law."

"Mum, must I really go back to Fairyland? Actually, I really like it here as my friends are here."

"Chloe, I am so sorry. You have to go back after you have found out that fairies actually exist. If not, your powers would be taken away and ballet would no longer exist, as you are the first fairy to have ballet powers. Ballet dancing was created the day you were born. Think about this and make the wise choice. I know it is a difficult choice. I will give you a few days to think about it. I will come back three days later."

After Queen Jade left, Chloe thought about the choice she was given. She thought if she were to stay in the human world, ballet dancing would be extinct and hence she decided to go back to Fairyland and ballet dancing would not be extinct this way.

The next day, she withdrew from the Royal Beijing Ballet Dancing Academy.

Two days later, her mum came and asked Chloe what her choice was and Chloe said, "To continue doing what I like, I will go back in Fairyland."

Queen Jade took Chloe and her husband back to Fairyland. Chloe was glad she had made the right choice, as she knew that more and more young girls would start to like ballet dancing.

18. Cat Rescue By Chloe Siew (P5 Casuarina)

It was another boring day in school for Trista's classmates. However, Trista hoped that the day in school would never end. Why? She hated to go home because she would not get any attention or she would get bullied by her older sister, Gabriela.

Trista then noticed her desk partner, Lavender secretly reading.

"Are you bored? Do you want to play tic-tac-toe with me?" whispered Trista

"We could use my mini-whiteboard," Trista added.

"Okay, sure," Lavender said cautiously, looking at the class monitor who seated two rows behind her.

Before the two friends could get started, the school bell rang, signalling the end of the school day. Trista sighed and packed her things in her bag while Lavender waited for Trista. Lavender was not in a rush as her older sister had extra classes in school.

Lavender saw Trista's gloomy face and tried cheering her up.

"Er, Trista, maybe if you really hate going home, um... Maybe you can stay back in school with me while we wait for my sister. We can then we can take the school bus back home at 4 o'clock."

"Okay!" Trista replied, feeling a little happier.

Lavender and Trista went down to the canteen to have their lunch. Lavender bought her food from the canteen, and with Trista, started eating. They finished their food really fast so that they could have a walk in the park.

Just then, Trista heard a strange voice... It sounded nothing like a human. It sounded whispery.

"Did you hear that?" Trista asked.

"Hear what?" Lavender asked.

"A voice!" Trista stopped talking when she saw Lavender's confused face.

"Trista, we don't mean to scare you but we need your help. What you are hearing now are animal voices!" the voice came again.

Trista looked around wondering where the voice could be coming from. It was an animal's voice but where was the animal?

"We are behind the bushes, the one behind your friend," the animal voices replied.

Trista pulled Lavender along with her and explained everything to her. They peered behind the bushes. There were a kitten, a green frog and three white hamsters. Lavender covered her mouth with her two hands one overlapping with another.

"So what is the problem anyway?" Trista asked.

"It's my friend, Cutie. She is a cat that has just been bought from a pet shop. Her owner does not really take good care of her. She is stuck in a huge cage like the one in the pet store. Can you help her? You know the owner. She's your neighbour Alicia," the kitten replied.

Trista told Lavender what the kitten had said and Lavender nodded. Trista had to translate because Lavender did not understand what the animals were saying.

"We will think of a way to help Cutie, okay?" Trista told the animals.

The animals nodded in response.

It was already 3.45pm on Lavender's watch and the school bus leaves at four in the afternoon. They quickly waved goodbye to the animals and left for the school bus.

Trista and Lavender sat at the second row of seats with their pencil and paper ready to write down the information they know of Alicia so that they could save Cutie.

"Alicia's parents' working hours are Wednesday to Sunday 9am to about 8.30pm in the evening. Let me tell you the plan I have in mind. I will distract Alicia saying that I want to play with her. Then you can tell her that you need to use her toilet. Then, you go find Cutie, let her out of the cage and put her in your bag. Then, we'll leave the house," Lavender whispered to Trista.

The girls decided to meet on Sunday at 6pm. They went to Alicia's house. A girl with chocolate brown eyes black and straight hair tied up into a ponytail opened the door.

"Hi! Tris, and... you are?" Alicia said cheerfully shifting her eyes from Trista to Lavender.

"Oh! Um... I am Lavender, Trista's best friend." Lavender replied with a smile.

"Er, yes? How may I help you?" Alicia asked.

"Oh, right. I thought that you are always lonely without anyone at home and I thought of bringing my friend along to play with you," Trista replied.

"Really, you will play with me?" Alicia answered, her eyes sparkling with joy.

"Yeah, of course!" Trista and Lavender replied.

Trista and Lavender entered Alicia's house.

"I heard that you just bought a cat. May we know where it is?" Trista asked trying to get their plan going.

"Oh, it is right there in the kitchen," Alicia pointed in the direction of the kitchen.

Lavender and Trista saw a huge cage. It was almost as tall as them but it was still very small for a cat to stay in for almost the whole day. Then they saw Cutie in the cage. Cutie was a skinny tabby cat with black and white fur and yellowish-green eyes.

"Hi Cutie, I am here to save you from Alicia, okay?" Trista started to talk to Cutie.

"Yes, I really want to get out of here." Cutie said.

Trista told Cutie what she and Lavender had planned. Alicia came into the kitchen just then. She brought out a few board games to play with Lavender and Trista. When it was time to leave, Trista did as planned and managed to get Cutie into her bag. It was seven in the evening and Trista and Lavender left waving goodbye.

"Cutie, you will be sent to the SPCA. I really hope a nice owner will adopt you soon," Trista said.

"Thanks for all the help. I will really miss you," Cutie replied sweetly.

"Lavender will take you to SPCA today," Trista told Cutie.

Lavender went home with Cutie. She fed her, played with her before sending her to the SPCA.

Trista went home and saw Gabriela sitting on the sofa watching her favourite movie. Trista liked the movie too and so sat down but away from Gabriela and watched the movie. After about fifteen minutes, Trista remembered that she needed to draw a picture of a bear for Lavender so she went into her room to draw. Lavender had been asking for the drawing for ages but she still had not got it from Trista.

Before Trista could get started with her drawing, there was a tinkling sound and a letter appeared in front of her. Feeling excited, Trista ripped the envelope and saw a message written on it.

Dear Trista,

Thank you so much for helping us save Cutie. She is now in SPCA with many other cat friends. We might have more of these missions for you to accomplish, as we need help from someone who understands us and knows the humans more than us. Alicia and her parents are now under a spell so Alicia would not remember anything about you going over to her house and Cutie. As for the cage, we vanished it into thin air.

We hope that you keep your magical ability a secret.

Regards,

Mr Frog, Ms Kitten and the three white hamsters

(The animals you saw in the bush at school)

Trista smiled as she read the letter. She placed it in her drawer and locked it so no one would know her secret. She started to draw the bear for Lavender and wondered what her next adventure would be.

19. Hard Work Pays Off! By Megan Fan (P5 Casuarina)

"Mummy, can I participate in the Worldwide Competition for violinists? I really want to go because I love competitions and I love to play the violin, remember?" asked Jaide.

There was a Worldwide Competition for violinists coming up and Jaide had wanted to participate in it. But her no-nonsense stern mother replied furiously, "I told you already. The answer is a NO!! This answer remains as it is unless you score at least an A* and 3As in the SA2 next month!"

"I guess I must work extremely hard this month," Jaide told herself.

Jaide Lee came from a wealthy family but grew up with only a mother and an elder sister, Jamie Lee. Jaide spent most of her free time reading, eating and watching the television. But she was especially talented in playing the violin. She loved to play the violin, so every day after school, her best friends would either see her in the library reading, doing homework or in a quiet place practicing her violin alone or with her sister.

However, this and next month, Jaide would go home to study and do her homework. Jaide had black wavy short hair and was in primary 5 this year. With bad eyesight, she never took off her spectacles unless she was sleeping.

Every day, after school from September to the middle of October, Jaide and her sister would take the school bus home and they would study all day and all night long – but obviously with lots of breaks every now and then. Since Jaide was a fast learner, she never slowed down in her studying speed. Neither did Jamie. Their mother was a strict and stern no-nonsense lady as discipline was the first rule in the house of the Lees. Before the strict master of the house went out for work, she would set assessment books for the sisters and remind Jaide that if she wanted to participate in the competition, she

would have to score incredibly well.

After one and a half months of studying and reading, came the examinations.

On the day of Jaide's oral examination, she did very well. She read the passages well and answered the questions. In the composition examinations, she remembered quite a few vocabulary words and used them in her writing. However, she got a little stuck in her Chinese composition and did not know what exactly she should write.

The real problems were in the written paper. She found the English paper easy but did not understand the questions in the Chinese paper. Jaide was really digging her brain for the answers and managed to squeeze out some answers at the last minute. The Math and Science papers were not that simple but she knew the formulas to some of the answers.

When Jaide received her results, she almost cried for joy. For her English, she scored an A*. Chinese – B, Mathematics – A* and for her Science, she scored an A. When she showed her results to her friends, they were so surprised by the wonderful results.

All of them complimented her for her excellent results. "2A*, 1A and one B... I think you are the top in class this year!!! You did so well!!!" Jaide's best friend praised her.

Jaide was beside herself with elation and was very satisfied with her results! She had never felt this kind of happiness. Her hard work had paid off!

When Jaide's mother saw her results, she tried to hide her smile but Jaide could feel that deep down in her mother's heart, she was very happy with Jaide's result. Eventually, Jaide's mother approved of her to participate in the competition!

20. The Stone of The Past By Chan Wai-Eng Ailsa (P5 Casuarina)

The icy-cold winter holidays were over and I was packing my luggage for my return to Luna's Boarding School of Witchcraft. Oh dear, I forgot to introduce myself! My name is Silver Crescent, aged eleven, an orphan and a witch. I have long electric green hair and black eyes. Like I said, I am an orphan and I live alone in a two-storey bungalow that was left behind by my parents. They died at sea five years ago. As I was saying, I was packing my luggage to go back to school.

"I sure am hoping that this year will be a peaceful one," I thought to myself as I waited for the flying school bus to arrive and pick me up.

I was so naïve to think that life at a witch school would be peaceful, as something big would be happening soon!

When I arrived at school, chatter could be heard in all directions. Everyone was talking about what they did over the holidays, where they had gone and what they had bought. I headed for the notice board to see which dormitory I had been posted to and luckily, my roommates were my two best friends, Angela and Charmaine.

"I went on a round-the-world-cruise during the holidays and I bought nine new parkas, a pair of winter boots and of course, new dresses! And you won't believe the number of parties I had been invited to!" I nearly puked at the sickeningly sweet voice who said that, as I carried my luggage into my assigned dormitory room.

It was none other than the voice of my arch-enemy, Amy. She was a rich girl whose father was extremely powerful in the government. Because of that, she liked to throw her weight around and bully people. She started this enmity between us in first grade, when she had tripped me on purpose and had taunted me about my dead parents. I had little restraint over my powers and before I knew it, Amy had turned into a bullfrog. I got detention for a month but it was so worth it.

"Look what the cat brought in! Do you have no money to buy new robes? Or is it some new fashion?" Amy's high-pitched voice broke through my train of thought.

I glowered at her. *Was it a crime to wear last year's blazers? Was she the Fashion Police?*

"At least she's got brains! Did yours ooze out of our ears like maple syrup?" my best friends, Angela and Charmaine said, Teleporting out of nowhere.

"Why you little....." Amy yelled, nearly hitting Charmaine with her fist.

"Amy, leave them alone. Don't talk to trash like them! Come on let's go!" Amy's best friend, Dawn said, tugging on her arm lightly in an attempt to steer Amy to their dormitory.

Amy gave a little huff of anger but allowed herself to be steered to her dormitory. I saw her give us what I call the 'Evil Eye'. I grinned to myself before resuming unpacking my luggage while chatting to Angela and Charmaine about what they did during the holidays until the announcement came over the magic sound system for us to go down to the Great Hall for the Start-Of-The-Year feast.

"Look what outfit Mrs Gold is wearing," Charmaine hissed to me and I turned to look at Mrs Gold. I swear, my eyeballs nearly popped out of my sockets.

Mrs Gold, our History of Magical Objects teacher, was sporting a gold outfit with sequins that highly resembled scales and it was completed by a tail-like thing that I could not identify.

"Do you think they got the name wrong?" Angela said in a concerned tone.

"Why?" I asked her, curious to what her reply would be.

"It should be Mrs Goldfish!" Angela replied with a snigger which triggered off the laughter between me and Charmaine.

Amy shot a dirty look at the three of us and our manners. She was the perfect prefect in our classes, the role model, the fantastic girl who handed in her homework on time, the top girl in the level. You get the idea... She was highly favoured by her teachers and fellow schoolmates and that naturally made her a popular girl.

"I only have two words to say to you: Dig in!" the principal said and the food magically appeared on our plates!

"You know, I think something fishy is going on around here and it's not the fish soup we're drinking. Mark my words, Amy is doing something big," Angela whispered, jerking her head in the direction of Amy and her little fan group, who were gossiping as well as pointing in our direction.

Angela's gut feeling had never been wrong so far and we all knew it.

"Owl delivery!" someone shouted as owls flew in from all open windows. (mails in the witch and wizard's world are delivered by owls)

Angela's prediction was completely forgotten as the post owls dropped us our letters or parcels. I had received a parcel and a letter from my werewolf friend, Natalie. I ripped open the envelope to read the letter first.

Dear Little Moon,

Happy Birthday to you! Sorry I didn't manage to visit you over the holidays as I had to go on some official business with the Werewolf Community. Did you know I've gotten a promotion? I am the Prime Minister's assistant! And there's some information you should know. It's all on the flyer in the parcel, along with your birthday present. I will be back to teach Defence against Magical Animals next week. Have a nice day!

With happiness,

Natalie Wolf

Little Moon was her nickname for me, as my surname was Crescent. After reading this letter, I proceeded to rip the parcel and inside, I found a flyer, 50 dollars of wizard money and a new wand.

"Golly, is Professor Natalie rich?!" Charmaine asked, flabbergasted by the money and wand.

I chuckled to myself before reading the flyer.

Come one, come all! Come and join the Ruby-Red stone competition! Find the stone in a complicated maze and you get to keep it! But beware, monsters lurk at every corner. Some ask riddles that if you solve, you may pass. Some will try to kill you while others may be friendly. To sign up, talk to Mr G.Houl

from the village and if you can answer his riddle, the location, date and time will be given to you on the spot! Answer wrong and he may kill you! 5 million people has been killed so beware!

Head of The Society of Magic Objects,

Martina

"Do you think this is what Amy was talking about?" I nudged Angela, showing her the flyer.

"That sounds interesting, why don't you go and take part?" Charmaine whispered, reading the flyer over my shoulder.

"And why should I? 5 million people have died! I want to live a long life!" I said, stabbing the flyer, half-kidding.

The argument went on forever and in the end, instead of discussing what we should do about the flyer, Angela and Charmaine tried to persuade me to take part.

"Do you know what the stone is? If you win, you can ask the stone anything about people's pasts! That includes your parents!" Charmaine, waving her arms around in exaggeration.

That gave me food for thought. I would be able to find out how exactly my parents died. I felt torn at whether I should take part or just live normally.

"Fine, I'll take part but if I die, I am going to haunt you when I turn into a ghost." I relented, letting my shoulders droop.

"Hooray!" Angela and Charmaine cheered, which naturally attracted the attention of Amy and her gang.

Glaring daggers at me, I heard her whisper something like 'just because she knows Professor Natalie, she thinks she can throw her weight around' and 'she thinks she is so cool'.

"May I have your attention please? Thank you. As most of you know, there is a competition in town to find an ancient magic stone. I am here just to let you know that all second grades onwards may take part. School will be closed on the day of the competition itself so that the school may cheer for the contestants. Enjoy yourselves as there will be no school today and you are all free to visit town!" our principal, Mrs Luna said to us warmly, to applause and whistles as most of us dashed straight to the village.

Angela, Charmaine and I teleported to our dormitory to get our moneybags before running down the stairs to the village. It was a quaint place, where the shops were all rather old-fashioned, with white tiles and marble tables, along with the ceiling fans that when 'click click' all the time. The three of us swung by the sweetshop called Sweet Home. Angela purchased Levitating sweets, which could make you levitate when you suck on them. Charmaine bought some Sugar Quills, which you could suck in class, pretending to be thinking! As for me, I bought Everlasting Bubble Gum, which I like to chew in class much to the annoyance of the teacher. After that, we went to Beer's Home to grab a cup of butterbeer when we saw Mr G.houl.

"Go and ask him the riddle!" Charmaine said, nudging her arm to mine.

"Okay," I whispered back before walking up to him.

"Are you here to sign up for the Ruby-stone competition?" he asked me, a vacant look in his eyes.

And when I nodded, he asked me a riddle.

"13 is 8, 8 is 5, 5 is 4 and 4 is perfect. Tell me what the pattern is." he asked.

13 is 8, 8 is 5, 5 is 4 and 4 is perfect? I thought to myself, than when it dawned on me.

"Easy. There are 8 letters in the word 13, 5 letters in the word 8, 4 letters in the word 5 and 4 letters in the word 4, making it perfect!" I whispered in triumph.

"Correct. The date is 2 weeks from now, the time is 12.30 to 5pm and the location is Witches Cross." He wheezed, before walking away in the opposite direction.

"That's our girl! You are going to have a shot at this stone of past!" Charmaine cheered as I told them the good news as we headed up to the school, but I felt scared, and dreaded the date of the competition to arrive.

When you dread something, time passes even more quickly for that event to arrive. The two weeks passed by and the day of the competition came before I knew it. I was nervous, barely eating the delicious pancakes or waffles which I usually would have scoffed down in a flash, and downed it with my favourite apple juice. One more piece of bad news, Amy is taking part in the contest and she is extremely good at spells and stuff like that.

"This one is totally in the bag, I mean, did you see the other contestants? One of them is Lucky, the girl who can't cast a spell to save her life! When I get the stone, I am going to be rich and famous and you're going to be lucky you know me." I heard Amy prattle on and on about how famous she was going to be and everyone would have to obey her every command.

"Don't worry, always remember we are there, watching you and rooting for you," Angela said, and I immediately felt calmer.

I did a last minute flip through my spell book before they called on all the contestants.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, I present to you, the ever-changing maze! On your mark contestants, ready, get set, go!" the commenter's voice screamed and I ran like mad, through the hedges by blasting them with my wand, swerving around the corners until I have to skid to a stop when I see the first creature I encounter.

A Sphinx. They are well-known for their clever riddles and ruthless ways if you answer their riddles wrongly.

"It can run, but never walks, it has a mouth but doesn't talk, it never sleeps but has a bed, it wears no hat but has a head." The Sphinx said.

After thinking for a minute or two, I replied river and the Sphinx grudgingly let me through. I continued running at top speed when I spotted Amy ahead. I aimed a Freezing Curse at her, which would make her stay frozen for the next half an hour. I hit her and when I walked up to her, I chuckled and moved on. I met creature after creature, from dragons, to three-headed-dogs, answering riddles about the sun, sea and sky when I finally reached the centre of the maze. I grabbed the Ruby-stone just as Amy and the rest of the contestants burst in. The look of pure shock and fury on Amy's face was priceless and I laughed at it internally.

"May I announce, the winner of the competition, Silver Crescent," The commenter boomed as I received my trophy.

My parents, who had not died at sea, was found three years later after I consulted the Ruby-stone of their fate and my family was reunited.

I guess you say I lived happily ever after with my family, so I guess this is THE END

21. The Twins By Isabelle Aeria Chan Wen Ting (P5 Cherry)

A pair of twins, Annabelle and Crystabelle, lived in a beautiful mansion. Crystabelle was a sporty girl, an expert of different kinds of ball games and many sports activities like swimming, gymnastics while Annabelle was the artistic one. She could draw famous artists and superstars like One Direction, Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber and many other people.

They were such opposites. Crystabelle was very loud spoken while Annabelle was very shy. Crystabelle's hair was like the ocean waving side to side and her eyes sparkled whenever she winked while Annabelle's hair was as bright as gold and she had big eyes set in coal-black lashes. Crystabelle and Annabelle were orphans since five but at the age of eight, a wealthy couple adopted them.

One Monday morning on their way to school, both twins saw a group of girls giving out flyers publicising a team roller-blading competition. They longed to join, but Crystabelle remembered that Annabelle did not really know how to roller-blade. They joined the contest anyway.

When Annabelle tried to roller-blade, she fell and cried for help. Her father came out of the house and saw Annabelle sitting at the corner sobbing. Her father saw the flyer that was lying on the floor. The flyer stated, "You can use powered roller-blades." Once the girls' father saw the flyer, he immediately went to his lab to invent rocket-blades.

After a few days, he had finally finished the rocket-blades. Her father passed the blades to Annabelle to test it out. Once she put it on, she was blading beautifully. She bladed all around Sentosa Island, where she lived. Annabelle showed Crystabelle the roller-blades and Crystabelle could not

believe her eyes. Crystabelle begged her father to make her a pair of rocket-blades before the competition.

"You're just in luck, Crystabelle, I have made one just for you too!" their father told them.

The next day, it was the roller-blading competition. The twins jumped out of bed and immediately got dressed and took a taxi to roller-blading stadium. When they reached the stadium, they had just ten minutes to get ready. When the ten minutes were up, all contestants were in the track getting ready to start the race.

"Beep..." the horn sounded. The race has started. All the teams started using their boosts but Annabelle and Crystabelle saved the boost for last. After roller-blading for nineteen laps, there was one more lap to win the race. Another team was in the lead.

The twins saved the boost for last. They pulled a string to trigger the boost and they were in the lead again. The twins were closer to the finish line and they won the race! The twins screamed loudly and were jumping for joy.

The twins stood on the podium with two other teams. They received the trophy from Mrs Tan, who was the President of the roller-blade association. The twins raised their trophies with smiles on their faces. The twins hoped that they would win another competition in the future.

22. Violet the Wind Master By Goy Shin Wyn Dana (P5 Cherry)

Violet was a student at Eastern Primary school. Violet was a popular student and most of the time she hung out in big groups. But when she graduated, things changed...

Violet was now in Min Secondary School. It was one of the best schools. But she did not know that her worst enemy – Nancy, was also there!

"Hi, Violet! Nancy said as the pair met in the hall. "I bet you will be in the worst class. Loser!" Nancy continued while checking her newly-polished nails. Violet ignored Nancy and moved away. She did not meet Nancy again till break time...

"Oops! Sorry about that spill!" apologised Nancy.

Violet was sure it was not an accident that Nancy had spilled her drink on Violet's uniform. Violet got angry and the wind soon became very strong. The angrier she was, the stronger the wind became. It was as if Violet's anger was controlling the wind!

What Violet did not know was that she had secret powers. Her parents had to keep it from Violet till she turned twenty-eight. Violet's ancestors were actually the masters of the sun and lightning. They were known to be very powerful beings who could control sun rays and lightning.

For the next few weeks, Violet was teased by Nancy. As usual she would ignore Nancy, but deep down, Violet was actually very angry. With this anger, the winds will blow and they grew in strength as Violet became madder. Violet noticed this coincidence and felt that something was not right. She decided to ask her parents if they knew anything.

When Violet got home one day, she told her parents about how the wind blew whenever she was angry and how its strength would grow as she became angrier.

"How could that be!" Violet's mother exclaimed. "You are just imagining things." She continued.

"I think we should tell her now," her father suggested.

Violet's mother suggested that she and her father talk in the room before they speak to Violet. She heard them talking in their bedroom about the secret power that she possessed. She continued to press her ear against the white door to listen for more details but to no avail. When it sounded as if her parents' conversation was over, Violet ran to her room immediately and pretended to read.

Her parents came into the room and told her about the secret power that she possessed. Apparently, the power that she was possessing was not the power she was supposed to have. Violet's control of the wind was a newly created power. A power newly created by Violet that even her parents were not aware of. They also told Violet that she could not tell anybody about her power unless they were in danger and that would mean that she could only use her power to help people out of danger.

It took Violet a long time to get the hang of her power. Violet was soon the wind master. She did not tell anyone about her secret, not even her best friends till one day...

Violet was in the girls' washroom washing hands. Water gushed out from the tap and wet her pinafore. Immediately, Violet thought of commanding the wind to blow so that her pinafore would dry in no time. As she was commanding the wind, Violet's friends, Twilight and Roxy, stepped into the washroom as they had wanted to check on her. To their horror, they saw Violet raising her hand in the air, a small cyclone was forming in Violet's hand. They were shocked! Violet dropped her hand immediately and the air in the washroom came to a standstill.

Violet knew she had no choice and ended up explaining everything to them and told them to keep it a secret and not tell anyone.

23. The Wizard School By Ngan Ka Yao (P5 Cherry)

Kelly arrived home from a long day of work at the café. She worked as a waitress but she had all along wanted to be a wizard. Her little sister, Megan, knew of her dream and had secretly helped Kelly to participate in all kinds of lotteries and competitions that would give her a chance to learn how to be a wizard as the prizes to these lotteries and competitions were exclusive wizard training classes at the Wizard School.

Megan was watching the annual Wizard Procession on television. It involved wizards from other kingdoms entering the Wizard School so as to train to become a wizard and to reach their fullest potential as a wizard. Every year, a commoner was allowed entry to the school – if they won the lottery for a scholarship.

The Wizard Procession attracted the attention of Kelly, but she did not show it. She instead asked Megan if their mother, who had been ill and hospitalised, was okay. Megan told Kelly that the doctors said their mother's condition was stable.

Kelly wished that their mother would recover from breast cancer and that Megan could grow up in a better environment. They lived in the poorest part of the city and often had not enough money. They had to scrimp and save till Kelly's next pay day.

From the television, came the announcer's voice: "The winner of the scholarship is Kelly Willison!"

Kelly was in shock! I have won! Although Kelly did not want to leave her family behind, she knew that this would be a good chance for her to build a better life for her sister and mother. With a heavy heart, she left for Wizard School in a carriage with a guard named Brock, two weeks later.

When Kelly reached the school, she was welcome by Charlie, a cute sprite who recognised her. The chairman of the school, Kevin Privet, took Kelly to her locker, explaining things about the school along the way. Every student had a sprite who acted as a personal assistant. At the welcome ceremony, everyone gathered in the hall to get their training weapons. Kelly received a bow. Mr Privet explained that her bow's power would be stronger once she completed the semester.

The next day, it class, everyone tried out their new weapons. Mr Privet told Kelly that being a wizard is about character and confidence. One without the other is a problem, and he told Kelly that no one can make her feel inferior without her consent. With help from Mr Privet, Kelly greatly improved in her magic powers and more.

Two days before the graduation ceremony, Mr Privet announced that the girls would get a chance to explore the palace. They were allowed this golden opportunity as the would-be queen, Hadley, had allowed it. She was the cousin of Queen Isla. She would be crowned on the day of the graduation ceremony.

Kelly had heard rumors about the crown of Queen Isla, which would light up when put on the rightful heir. She was curious to see it. When exploring, Kelly saw a portrait of lot of kings and queens of this kingdom, but one portrait was the most unusual for her. The person in that portrait looked like her, but it was actually Queen Isla when she was eighteen years old. Next, she saw a crystal heart-shape necklace that was similar to hers, around Queen Isla's

neck.

Kelly's necklace had been given to her by her biological mother. Kelly thought that she could be the lady in the portrait, because in this kingdom, there was a Princess Sophia who had apparently died, in a tsunami when Kelly was a year old. Kelly was found by her adoptive mother at the doorstep of the house they are living in now. Counting the years, Kelly thought she could be the rightful heir!

She now needed to find the magic crown to prove her identity. Kelly left the group of girls by excusing herself to the washroom. With Charlie, they went up to the third floor, which had a secret room, where all the treasures were hidden. The moment Kelly and Charlie step into the room, the door closed automatically. She was stuck while the cousin of Queen Isla, Hadley, was going to be crowned.

However, there was no time to lose. They had to search for proof to prove that Kelly was the rightful heir. After a long search, they found a scroll that was hand-written by Princess Sophia. The truth was going to be revealed soon.

The duo now had to look for a way out of the room. When Kelly was figuring out a way to escape, Charlie accidentally knocked a cover off a box of electrical wires. Kelly wired up her mobile phone to the keypad and used the phone buttons to enter a password from inside the room. They escaped and arrived at the graduation ceremony just in time for Kelly to make a claim to the crown. Kelly raised the scroll for all to see. Everyone gasped.

"I am the rightful heir to the crown!" Kelly declared.

Megan and her mother watched the graduation party from home, shocked.

The royal judge, who crowns the queen, placed the crown on Kelly's head. It lit up and she transformed to a wizard queen. Kelly gave a speech about how she was honoured to be the queen of Gardenia and that she would serve her people to the best of her ability.

In the evening, at the graduation party, everyone danced and enjoyed themselves. Everyone was glad that the rightful heir was crowned. Megan and her mother were at the party too and Kelly welcomed them to their new home.

Megan asked Kelly whether she was a wizard too.

Kelly replied, "There's a talent in every girl that allows her to be a wizard. All it takes is confidence and character."

24. Through the Dimensions By Chua Tara (P5 Cherry)

Have you ever visited another dimension or gone through a portal? Well, I have. I am Amanda, and I can make portals to other dimensions. I only learnt about my powers when I was nine years old. After returning home and doing my homework, I would go to my room (it is the most private place) and port off to another dimension and have a fun day. It is like my special version of computer games.

Let me list to you some of the interesting dimensions. There is the Technological Land, where flying cars are in the air. There's Foodie's Paradise, where it is okay to be fat, and the Freezing Ice-Cream Land, where citizens are friendly snowman (it is freezing but they have good ice-cream). Oh yes, by the way, when you are in another dimension, time stops in your home world and the food you eat in other dimensions does not fill you. You also do not get hungry.

One day after school, I was having a headache after trying to solve a difficult Mathematic problem sum. It sure was a problem (sum)! After thinking about the hard Mathematic problem sum, I decided to go to the Land Of Thinking. It is another dimension, but this one is special. If you go there, you would see the people doing two things: Trying to solve a Mathematics problem sum or trying to come up with English jokes to trick their friends.

Normally, I would not like to go there simply because the people there are too brainy. But today, that was the best place to go and revise. I closed my eyes, concentrated, breathed in and then I was in the Land Of Thinking.

I stopped to ask for directions to the public library as it had been ages since I had visited the Land Of Thinking. After reaching the library, I took a few books and sat on a chair to read, leaving the other books I had taken from the shelves on the floor.

After a while, my eyes ached like I had rubbed them and my back felt like it was broken. I decided it was time to go home. When I reached home, I sleepily slumped on the bed and slept away, dreaming of what it would be like to live in the Land Of Thinking...

25. Runaway Bicycle By Tan Kong Leng (P5 Cherry)

"If I could only just get hold of Sly-one. I would be more than happy to pop him into prison as soon as I can," said Mr Grimace, the policeman.

"That's just it," said Wiggles, the pixie. He always seems to get away with things! He's too clever. If he steals something, he pretends it was given to him or has taken it by mistake. He is so clever that nobody knows he has stolen something although we think he has!"

"We want a bit of magic to deal with him!" said Derry, the goblin. "If you are dealing with clever people, then you should be clever yourself."

"Well," said Wiggles to Derry "We are clever as well. We ought to be able to get the better of sly-one. We would better try!" So, they went off together and thought very hard. Just then, Wiggles had an idea.

"Supposed Sly-one came along and saw me with a very fine bicycle," he said to Derry. "I know how to turn people into bicycle but only if they let me. I suppose you would not let me turn you into one, would you? Just for an hour or two, until we have caught Sly-one. I promise to turn you back into your original self after that."

Derry looked rather doubtful. "Are you sure you can bring me back?" he asked. "I do not want to live in the shed for the rest of my life and be ridden by you all day long."

"Oh, Derry, as if I would do such a thing as that!" said Wiggles. "You know I would not. I am your best friend."

"Yes, you are," said Derry. "Well, I will trust you, then. But, what's your idea?"

"Listen," said Wiggles, getting excited. "I'll turn you into a shiny new bicycle and I'll ride down the road where Sly-one lives. I'll get off and lean you against the fence by his house and pretend to do up my shoelaces or something."

After listening, Derry turned it into a new bicycle. Wiggles rode on the bicycle and rode past Sly-one's house. Wiggles stopped and pretended to tie his shoelaces. Sly-one saw the bicycle, ran towards it, sat on it and rode off as fast as he could in order to lose Wiggles.

When sly-one sat on the bicycle, it rode off by itself. It rode down the road, down the slope where it went at top speed. It then rode off with Sly-one on to the police station.

At the police station, Sly-one asked Wiggles, "Why did you turn Derry into a bicycle?"

"I changed Derry into a bicycle to bring you to the police," said Wiggles.

The policeman said, "Now that we have caught you, Sly-one, we will put you behind bars so that you cannot go round wreaking havoc in the city."

Wiggles had not forgotten his promise to Derry. "Zimbalazam! Come back, Derry!"

"Phew. That was a close shave. I will not want to be a bicycle again! I will either be smashed or I will have a hole in my head. But I'm glad that I managed to help catch Sly-one!"

26. The Weather Witch By Yazhini Manivannan (P5 Jacaranda)

Sheri regretted not taking the bus. What started out as a drizzle ended as a downpour. Drenched to the bone, hunched down and shivering, Sheri attempted to find shelter. Soon, she gave up and trudged back home, her shoes sloshing and uniform nearly black with rain water. She wondered how she was going to break the news to her parents.

When she reached home, her annoying little brother pestered her so much that she became so angry that she started to shout. The heavy rain suddenly became a thunderstorm. She ran to the toilet and locked herself in. She looked at the mirror. The first thought that crossed her mind was how she looked like she had just come out of a dumpster and also had the smell to match. She peel off her uniform and the clumps of mud started to fall off, making her wince at the sight of the disgusting, gooey mud.

"Oh dear, Mum's going kill me!" she exclaimed.

When her parents came home, they saw the mess in the bathroom and screamed at her. They couldn't stop yapping about it. Sheri smiled at them sheepishly and mouthed a quick 'sorry' before running back to her room.

Sheri sat down in her room and did her Mathematics homework. "Practice! Practice! Practice! How in the world do you practice what you don't even understand!" she grumbled attacking her Math book with unnecessary force.

"Sheri Lin Sze Siu! What was that!?" Mother thundered, then sighed. Dinner is getting cold. Finish your work quickly and come have your dinner."

"Okay, Mum," The 16-year old girl let out her breath that she did not know she was holding.

Dinner that day was Szechuan Chicken and Boiled Broccoli with rice. What started out as a quiet dinner soon turned into a shouting contest of who could catch Sheri's attention. Her father was talking about politics, her mum, about her failing grades and her brother was just being a pest, telling her how to do better in Math. Their voices started to grow louder. Their faces started to blend and warp into squiggly portions. If anyone noticed that the lightning and thunder was progressively getting louder and bigger, no one mentioned it. Sheri's head started to pound in pure agony as voices screamed through her head. She stood up suddenly, speared her fork on the table and screamed.

"WILL EVERYONE JUST KEEP QUIET!?" Sheri screamed before blacking out.

Sheri's entire body ached so badly. She tried to move her body but gave up with a groan. When she woke up, she was in a grand bedroom. Domed cream-coloured ceilings greeted her eyes. Monet paintings hung on the wall and flower-themed décor was a sight for sore eyes. She felt fine when she woke up so she decided to check out the place. There was a lady who came into the house. Sheri got very scared and hid near the table. The lady found her there while she was going to kitchen.

"What are you doing under the table?" the lady asked waving her hands around her.

"Hiding from you. Where am I? What are you? How did I get here?" Sheri bombarded the elegantly coiffed woman who snorted.

"My name is Madame Ciara Gothelle. For every witch-blood, when they are sixteen, they get transported to my house. You may address me as Ciara. You are in Iona Isle. I am, as you can see, a witch," she said.

"Wh-what do you mean witch-blood? Am I a witch?"

"If you are here, that means you are," Madame Gothelle said.

Sheri began to understand. "My moods seem to affect the weather. Can you help me control my power?" Sheri asked.

"Ah! A weather witch. It's been a long time since I had trained one, let alone seen one. I will train you," the witch said, a distant expression on her face.

"A long time? How long have you been around?"

"I am a Druid sorceress! Do you think we have not found the secret to immortality? I have mastered many things in my time."

For the next few months Sheri did some training to help her control her powers and Madame Gothelle told her, after much observation, that she had some unawakened powers. Sheri was stupefied.

Madame Gothelle was very scared about the magnitude of Sheri's powers. So, she plotted to steal her powers. One night, Madame Gothelle put a Draught of Living Nightmare on her and she started getting nightmares about ghosts, vampires, cockroaches, lizards, pirates, goblins and the things that go boink in the dark.

"Zakala kamora goloaepas make Sheri powerless and transfer her power to me," the Druid sorceress said.

When Sheri woke up, she found that she was powerless. She confronted Madame Gothelle. "What has happened to me? I have no power. Did you do this to me?" Sheri asked in disbelief.

"Yes, I did steal your power and now you are homeless too. LEAVE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY. YOU ARE NO LONGER WELCOME. IF MY GUARDS SEE YOU IN THIS HOUSE YOU SHALL BE THROWN OUT!" The witch exclaimed in contempt.

Sheri, with no place to stay, decided to sit in the bench in front of the mansion. and soon, she fell asleep. While she slept, she dreamed of a man named Merlin Black a magician, who told her about a potion that would allow her to take back her powers.

When she woke, she embarked on a journey to Staple Union of the Arcane Arts to steal a forbidden potion - Crasoliam. She then made a beeline back to the mansion.

"I challenge you to a duel!" Sheri said.

Madame Gothelle snorted and started to laugh. "You... me... in a DUEL? I am extremely sorry, my child, but that will never happen!"

Sheri whipped out the Crasoliam and poured it on Madame Gothelle. She poured a little too much and ended up getting not only her powers back, but Madame Gothelle's powers too.

The authorities soon came and, Madame Gothelle was manhandled into a matt black limousine. It was believed that she was banished from Iona Isle and was never to be heard or seen ever again.

Sheri found a spell that could bring her home. When she went home, everybody was frozen...

"Kopom baboom whala" she chanted some magic words. She snapped her fingers and the whole world returned to normal.

The next day, she went to her computer and searched for "Iona Isle" on the Internet. It was a mythical place that some called the "Lost Land". It was known as the land where you never come back from.

"Lucky I did!" said Sheri.

27. The Secret Clearing By Samantha Ang Hwei Lyn (P6 Jade)

"I am so excited! I can't wait!" exclaimed Hayley. She was a tall girl with short and straight brown hair. Her brown, almond-shaped eyes sparkled in the light and her complexion was quite tan.

She was talking to Laura, her best friend. Laura had long curly blonde hair and round blue eyes that twinkled every time she blinked. Her skin was as white as snow.

Sixteen-year-olds Hayley White and Laura Cash were getting ready for an overseas trip. They had been planning for weeks and they had gotten their parents' consent. The flight was going to leave in two hours and they had already said their final goodbyes to their families.

Nervous but excited, they made their way towards the plane. They had been on a plane several times before but this was the first time they had been on it all by themselves without any adults around to look after them.

They found their seats and settled down. After a few minutes, the plane took off. After about an hour or two after the take-off, the pilot made an announcement, "Dear passengers, we are having a little trouble with the engines. Please put on your oxygen masks and remain calm. We will try our best to resolve this situation."

Oxygen masks dropped from the overhead compartment and everyone scrambled to try to put on their oxygen masks on. Not more than ten minutes later, the plane jolted and there was a pungent smell of burning machinery, followed by a loud BOOM!

There were people running and screaming everywhere, trying to salvage whatever belongings they could get their hands on. Everyone knew that the plane was going to crash although no one had told them. Everyone closed their eyes and hoped for the best.

Then, the pilot's voice boomed throughout the entire plane again. "Dear passengers, please brace yourselves for impact."

The plane began plummeting head-first towards the ground. Everyone in the plane started panicking. As for best friends, Hayley and Laura, they had just been woken up from a long nap by the loud screams and tried their best to find out what had happened.

Soon, the left wing of the plane hit the ground and broke off. Then, the plane proceeded to break into many sections. A fire broke out and luggage from the overhead compartments came tumbling down, hitting Hayley on the head, making her lose consciousness.

When Hayley regained consciousness, she found herself lying on a beach with Laura towering over her. Once Laura realised that Hayley had regained consciousness, she immediately filled her in on what had happened. The plane had crashed on the shore of a deserted island and was on fire. Luckily, Laura had managed to get Hayley and their luggage out of the plane.

They decided that they should explore the island although they could not really see anything of interest except for trees. They took their luggage with them and went exploring.

Strangely, an old man appeared and told them to follow him. Full of curiosity, they followed him and he led them through many winding paths to a clearing. In the clearing, they saw many mystical creatures such as unicorns and phoenixes. They forgot all about the plane crash and stared open-mouthed and wide-eyed at the amazing animals before them.

They dropped their luggage and ran off to play with the magical creatures.

Hayley and Laura were stroking the magical unicorns and admiring the beautiful phoenixes when a unicorn with a long rainbow mane came up to them and said, "Finally, you two girls have arrived! We have been waiting for you."

When Hayley and Laura heard this, they were surprised. How did the unicorn know their names? Why were they waiting for us? were the questions that came to their minds.

The unicorn, ignoring their reactions of surprise, continued, "Oh yes. Where are my manners? My name is Rainbow. I am the leader of the unicorns. This is my clan."

Suddenly, a big group of unicorns walked from behind her. There were many unicorns of different shapes, sizes and colours. The girls stared at them in awe. Rainbow gave them some time to understand what was going on before she continued once again, "We need your help to save us from the evil Doctor Mayhem. He has destroyed most of our natural habitat. We will give you magical powers to help us defeat him if you agree to help us foil his evil schemes."

"You can count on us to help you!" Hayley and Laura exclaimed in unison.

"Very well," Rainbow said. "What magical powers would you like to have?" she asked Hayley and Laura.

Brimming with excitement, Hayley and Laura gave themselves some time to think about what magical powers they wanted. After a while, Hayley decided that she wanted the power to fly and Laura decided that she wanted the power to read minds. Rainbow asked them to touch her horn. The two girls touched Rainbow's horn and there was a strong blast of light. They have never felt more powerful than this in their entire lives.

"Now you have powers to help you defeat the evil Doctor Mayhem. I will take you to his lair in a cave and you will be on your own from there. And take this bag of fairy dust. Just sprinkle some of it over yourselves and it will help you to teleport back here once you have finished your mission," she said, thrusting a small bag of fairy dust into each of their hands.

Rainbow began to lead the way as Hayley and Laura followed, testing their powers as they walked. Soon, both of them learnt how to control their powers and Hayley was flying instead of walking along.

After a few minutes, they reached the entrance of Doctor Mayhem's lair and Rainbow said, "I cannot follow you in. There is an invisible anti-unicorn barrier. I wish you good luck," with that, Rainbow walked away, leaving them standing at the entrance of the evil Doctor Mayhem's lair.

They plucked up their courage and strode into Doctor Mayhem's lair. He spotted them at once and beckoned them to come closer. They were confused but did what he said, for fear that if they did not obey; he would do something to them.

Doctor Mayhem said, "Well, well. Who do we have here? Rainbow sent you here to come and defeat me, didn't she? Well, I suppose she also gave you some magical powers. The previous duo died. Well, I am giving you a choice, you can leave now and forget that any of this ever happened or you can face my wrath."

Hayley and Laura exclaimed bravely in unison, "We will stay. We were sent here to fight you and fight you we will!"

At this, Doctor Mayhem laughed a cunning laugh and said, "Okay. If you really want to. Follow me."

They followed him and he led them to an enclosed room but not before taking a few items to help him which included a plasma ray gun and a suit of armour.

As the trio walked Laura read Doctor Mayhem's mind. She told Laura that he planned to evacuate the building as he had planted a bomb in the cave and had planned for it to go off while the girls were still inside.

Then, spotting an opening in the ceiling, Hayley told Laura about the plan that she had just come up with. Laura held onto Hayley and Hayley took flight. Hayley flew through the opening and quickly flew to the entrance of the cave which was not very difficult to find as there was a big escape vehicle there.

The two girls realised that Doctor Mayhem had not come out of the building yet and pressed a button which had the words Force Shut Down on it. The moment they pressed the button, heavy iron doors came down from the ceiling to the ground. Doctor Mayhem was still inside the building. They had completed their mission.

Very soon shouts of 'Let me out! Let me out!' could be heard as Hayley and Laura sprinkled some of the magic fairy dust over themselves. Just as they were being teleported back to the clearing, they heard a loud BANG. The evil Doctor Mayhem's lair had caved in and Doctor Mayhem was never to be seen again.

Once the two girls had been teleported back to the clearing, they told Rainbow about all that had happened at Doctor Mayhem's lair. Rainbow thanked them for helping the magical creatures and gave them a pendant with her picture and name on it. They put it in their pockets and thanked Rainbow for the beautiful pendant and stroked her mane.

The old man sprinkled some fairy dust on them without them realising and said, "Are you girls done playing with them yet? The sun is setting. I think that it is time that you two should get going."

Although they were reluctant to leave the majestic creatures, knowing that they would never see them again, they knew that they had to go back.

The old man beckoned for them to follow him once more and they followed him. After walking through many winding paths, they were near the shore. Well hidden behind some trees, the old man stopped walking and the two girls sprinted onwards to the shore. When they suddenly realised that the old man was not with them, they turned their heads back to look but he had disappeared.

They stayed with the small crowd of survivors for a while when suddenly...

"There's a helicopter!" someone shouted and everyone turned their heads to look at the sky once. As they watched, more helicopters emerged. There were at least six of them and people started jumping up and down and waving their hands frantically in hope that the pilots of the helicopters would notice them and land.

Sure enough, the pilots noticed them and landed. The pilots asked the survivors to get in the helicopters. The survivors were very relieved to be saved and to be going back home after that horrifying experience.

They went into a helicopter and felt dazed. They looked into their pockets and saw their pendants. Suddenly, they remembered what had happened but it all felt like a dream. They tested out their powers but, to their dismay, didn't work. They looked for the bags of fairy dust that Rainbow had given them but they could not be found. Nevertheless, the duo believed that everything that had happened was real.

The duo were happy to be returning home after such an exhausting and exciting day and could not wait to tell everyone what had happened on the island.

That was the most unforgettable day in their entire lives and, as a matter of fact, once they reached home they rushed to tell everyone about their

amazing adventure. The news spread like wildfire but mysteriously, after that day, when people went to explore the island, no one could find the clearing or even the man.

The clearing that the girls saw or even the old man whom the girls had met remains a mystery to all those who went after the two girls...

28. Della Candy: Spy in Space By Joey Chua (P6 Opal)

Although Della Candy, was a rich girl, she was not spoiled. She was only ten years old, and was already a part of the POW (Protect our world) spy agency. She was discovered not long ago due to her incredible martial arts skills. She could take down a bunch of gangsters. She was once kidnapped but escaped on her own as she was smart and skilful.

Della also had a super brain that could crack codes and solve difficult problem sums. She had won the championship in the Junior Math Olympians and the Spelling Bee when she was only seven and a half years old. Although, Della was sometimes stubborn, demanding and lazy, the head of POW, Thomas Sweedo, knew that Della was very talented. He knew he had to employ her because she would be a great spy. Thomas would only employ spies who are one hundred percent smart or talented and Della was one of the lucky ones.

POW was a very secretive government agency. Once you passed through the entrance, you could never be sure of where it is again.

Although Della was the youngest spy in the whole agency, she had already retrieved the precious Pearl from Brazil and saved the Prime Minister of Malaysia from Professor Pamliia (Della's arch-enemy). However, even though Della had successfully accomplished each mission, Professor Pamliia always escaped somehow.

The only person who knew Della's secret identity was Rosalina Motta who pretended to be one of Della's maids. Della's friends and parents, however, did not know about Della's secret identity. Mostly because, Della was good at keeping secrets from her friends, and also because her parents were usually overseas for business. She was used to having her parents away most of the time as she had lots of butlers or maids to talk to. But only Rosalina (a.k.a. Madam Tica) knew her secret.

Della was always looking forward to the missions. She loved excitement in her life. Little did she know how exciting her next adventure was going to get...

As the bell rang after school, a sound came from Della's watch. It wasn't an ordinary watch, though. It was one of POW's awesome gadgets that looked like an ordinary watch but had special features: it could tell the time from all over the world; had a hologram function for receiving messages from POW; a transporter to transport; a mini laser and an alert system that told her when she was needed back in POW. Every agent had one and so, Della was alerted.

Della raced to the back of the school. The coast was clear, so Della pressed a button. In a flash, she was in a round-shaped room that was very plain yet awesome – POW headquarters. Standing in the room was Thomas Sweedo who was wearing a fancy suit as if he was going to a wedding.

"Glad you're here, Agent Della Candy," he spoke in a stern tone. "It seems that the earth is not right".

"What do you mean?" Della asked.

"Well, there have been records of unexpected volcanic eruptions from volcanoes that should not be erupting, and earthquakes, landslides at places where they should not be occurring," said Thomas.

"That's strange," said Della.

"Yes and we believe that Professor Pamliia may be the one causing the mysterious eruptions and other things as we have not heard from her since you saved the Prime Minister of Malaysia. While our technical department of POW is trying to figure out where she is, you can go home and get some rest," said Thomas.

"Cool, see ya boss!" Della happily replied and she transported herself to the entrance of her home. Della went into the house. She took off her shoes and ate her lunch. Then Della ran up the stairs, took a shower immediately and took a little nap. While sleeping, her watch beeped again. She yawned and pressed the button. Della quickly sat down on one of the chairs and Thomas went straight to the point of Della's mission.

"Agent Della, it seems that Professor Pamliia is not on earth but in space!" Thomas said.

"Woah. Professor Pamliia really is out of this world!" Della joked.

"Ha, very funny agent Della. Anyway, it seems that she has built her own ship and went into space. She has also built an invention to cause the strange happenings on earth! Agent Della, you and Agent Rosalina need to stop Pamliia from wreaking havoc on earth! I trust you and you must defeat Pamliia. You will go through some tests so that you'll be ready to go to outer space," Thomas said.

"I'll do my best, Boss! By the way, can I borrow the freeze-ray gun I see on your desk?" Della asked. Thomas just gave her the mini freeze-ray with no questions asked.

Della transported herself back home and packed some gadgets for the mission that night...

Finally, at 12am, Della and Rosalina transported themselves to POW for their training. The training was very tough but it only took two hours as the agency was very quick and the two agents were blasted off into space.

After a few minutes, the agents found Pamliia's rocket. They quickly placed their own rocket into autopilot mode and they transported themselves into Pamliia's rocket. Unfortunately, somehow, Pamliia knew that Agent Rosalina and Della were coming and they were standing on quicksand when they transported! Slowly, Agent Rosalina and Della were sinking.

"Well, hello again Agent Della and you must be Agent Rosalina!" Professor Pamliia snickered, "I guess you found my quick-sand!"

"Let us go you haggard, old, witch!" demanded Rosalina as she tried to wiggle her way out of the quicksand.

"Well, since you put it that way... No! Hahahaha" she laughed. "This time, I'm going to rule the world and you can't stop me! Wahahahahaha!!"

Della grinned and at the right moment... She took out the mini freeze-ray gun which she had borrowed from Thomas and froze the quicksand! Then, she used her watch and the mini-laser to break apart the frozen pieces of quicksand!

Finally, the agents were free but Professor Pamliia tried to click a button to try to stop the agents. It was a close call but Rosalina was quicker than Professor Pamliia. She used the laser pointed in her watch and aimed it into Professor Pamliia's right eye. Professor Pamliia was blinded momentarily and without delay, Della pinned her down. Rosalina found some rope in the rocket to tie up the professor so that she could not escape.

Rosalina and Della took Professor Pamliia back into their rocket and headed back to POW. When they were back, it was 6.30 am. and Thomas was delighted to see Agent Rosalina and Della with Professor Pamliia. The villain had finally been captured and the earth returned to its normal state. The world was saved once again by Agent Rosalina and Della.

29. The Korea Trip By Chua Kai Ling (P6 Sapphire)

"Hooray! we are going to Universal studios today!" my sister Jenny shouted loudly in the early morning.

"OMG ! Its already Sunday," I groaned. Tomorrow, I would leave for my study trip to Korea. I ran to the new luggage which was bought for the five-day, four-night trip, to pack everything that I needed. I had always dreamt of getting an autograph from my favourite K-pop group. I was also looking forward to meeting them during my first trip to Korea. I had been learning Korean just so that I would be able to speak to them if I do meet them.

The next day, Jenny and I went to school in our dad's car. Jenny was smiling so I asked her why was she so happy. She told me her teacher, Mrs Eng would not be teaching her the next few days because she would be accompanying my class to Korea.

My heart sank. No one liked Mrs Eng. When I was in Primary 5, almost everyone in my class was scolded by Mrs Eng, even the kindest Tasha, the prettiest Ferlyn and the the smartest Hana. Only one girl, Tammy, never got scolded, because she was rich. Tammy always liked to show off her things and pretended to be kind in front of Mrs Eng. As such, Tammy nominated as the class monitor for a year as Mrs Eng thought that Tammy was a model student.

Luckily, two of my best friends were also going for this study trip. After the teachers has taken our attendance, we queued in two straight lines to get onto the bus. Mrs Eng and Miss Low were already on the bus. Everyone was very excited about the trip. My best friends and I talked throughout the bus journey to the airport.

After an hour, we reached the airport. Mrs Eng and Miss Low handed us our passports and told us to gather for breakfast. After a heary breakfast, we brought our luggage to the check-in counter and proceeded to check in our luggage.

After a while, we boarded the plane. Our class enjoyed our time on the plane as spent on time watching movies, playing games and listening to music on the in-flight entertainment system. Five hours later, we landed in Korea.

Once we stepped out of plane, we saw two K-Pop bands. Some of the passengers who were fans of the two bands were screaming and cheering. Ferlyn and I asked Mrs Eng if we could go get the band members' autographs. Mrs Eng shook her head and told us to get in line to head to the customs. She added that we had to rsh to the hotel. However, she allowed Tammy to ask for the band members' autographs. In the end, the class had to wait for Tammy as there was a large crowd surrounding the pop stars.

When we reached the hotel, the teachers found out our rooms were located on different levels of the hotel. There was a room that was located near the teachers' room. I wanted that room as I did not bring my mobile phone and if I'm sleeping in a room near the teachers, I could easily borrow a mobile phone from them to contact my parents. Howeverm even before I ask Mrs Eng or Mrs Low anything, Mrs Eng had given that room to Tammy. Luckily, I got to share another room with Ferlyn and Tasha who agred to lend me their mobile phones to call my parents. If not, I would not be able to speak to my parents for five days.

Later in the day, we visited a primary school. We attended Math lessons and I found out that primary school Math in Korea was very easy. We played netball with Korean pupils during tea break and I found them to be very friendly.

In the evening, we went for dinner before heading back to our hotel. After washing up, we watched Running Man – a famous Korean game show. Ferlyn and I tried to sneak to the ground floor so that we could use the computers in the business centre but when we saw Mrs Eng coming out of Tammy's room, we ran back into our room immediately.

The next day, we visited another primary school and checked into another hotel. That night, I had to share a room with Tammy. I was reluctant to do so as I was afraid she would tell everyone that I was afraid of the dark.

Unable to sleep, I looked for Tasha and Ferlyn in their room. I brought along my picture album of my favourite K-Pop stars so that I could show it to the girls. We chatted for an hour about all the K-Pop stars whom we like and adore. At about 11p.m., I returned to my room to sleep.

The next morning, when I was packing my luggage, I realised that my picture album was missing. I told Tasha and Ferlyn about it and the three of us searched both our rooms but we could not find it. We reported the matter to Miss Low who then suggested that we check Tammy's luggage as I may have placed it in her luggage by mistake. True enough, my picture album was inside her luggage! I explained to Miss Low that I did not put the album in Tammy's luggage by mistake. I told her that I had placed it under my pillow before I went to bed. Upon hearing my explanation, Miss Low asked Tammy to explain herself. However, Tammy did not say a word. Then, Miss Low told us to leave the room as she had wanted to speak to Tammy in private.

Soon, we checked out of the hotel as we were going camping with a group of pupils whom we had met the previous day at the primary school. While waiting for the tour coach to pick us up, I saw Mrs Eng looking very angry. She walked towards Tammy, pulled her to a side and scolded her. Everyone was shocked as that was the first time that we had seen Mrs Eng scolding Tammy.

On board the tour coach, Miss Low told us some good news – we would be visiting a theme park on the last day our our trip! We were on cloud nine! The trip to the theme park was not part of our programme.

The next day, Miss Low allowed us to explore the themes park on our own but we had to go in groups of three. Naturally, Ferlyn, Tasha and I formed a group. We took many different rides, took a lot of photos and the best part of this trip was that we met our favourite K-Pop band! As I was the first to notice them, I managed to ask for all of their autographs. Afterwhich, a crowd of crazy fans had gathered round them. That was the best study trip ever.

30. Studying for PSLE By Chervon Tay (P6 Sapphire)

"Keep quiet! I want to read my book!" Dorine shouted to the whole class as the teacher went to the washroom. The bell suddenly rang and school was over. She walked out of school with a bar of chocolate in one hand and a burger in the other. While walking home, Dorine realised her PSLE was only a week away, but she did not have much time to revise.

When Dorine reached home, she had to go for her piano lessons until nine o'clock. After that, she had to do her homework and sleep.

The next day, Dorine's teacher, Miss Ling, reminded them that the following Wednesday was the start of the PSLE. The whole class sighed but Miss Ling encouraged them, told them to hang in there and the PSLE would be over in a few days. Dorine made use of her time and took out her Mathematics textbook to revise.

Not long after, another teacher came in and told them to revise for their PSLE. After school, Dorine went home to get ready for her ballet lessons. Her mother rushed Dorine and told her to hurry up.

She walked to the door and asked her mother, "Mummy, can I stay home to revise for my exams?"

Her mother was shocked and told her, "But I have just paid for your ballet fees. Can you not waste my money? You can come home later to revise."

Dorine was speechless and walked out of the house gloomily. When Dorine left, her mother thought about whether she should let her daughter stop ballet lessons for a week, until she has completed her PSLE.

One hour later, Dorine returned from her ballet lessons and her mother told her, "I can let you stop going for the ballet lessons but you have to use the time to revise for your exams."

She thanked her mother and hugged her tightly. Whenever Dorine had free time, she would spend it by revising.

At the end of the year, all Primary 6 pupils had to go to school to collect their results. Dorine received her results from Miss Ling and when she looked at her results, she found out she had passed with flying colours!

"Hurray!" she shouted. She ran to her mother and hugged her.

Her mother said, "Skipping the ballet lessons was worth it! Dorine, I am so proud of you!"

31. Lauren Moon By Chia Nong Yi Celestina (P6 Sapphire)

This was Lauren Moon's third year in school. Her curly black hair was always well-groomed and she had a dimple on her left cheek that made her prettier. She loved singing and playing badminton most. She had earned some awards by singing in a few competitions. One day, Lauren had to decide which CCA to sign up for but she was sitting on the fence and could not decide if she should join the Badminton Club or the Singing Club. After getting some scolding from her form teacher, Miss Tan, for not handing in her CCA selection form, she had finally decided to join the Singing Club. She had always wanted to be a singer.

Members from the Singing Club had to train thrice a week individually as they had to compete against singers from other schools. It was very tiring for Lauren as she had to stay in school to practise singing and still complete Miss Tan's homework. But somehow, she managed to complete all her work

and still found time to watch her favourite television show and help one of her younger siblings, Laura, with her upcoming piano test in school.

The one thing Lauren could not do was overcome her fear of being on stage. But she refused to give up. She tried to overcome her stage fright by practicing in front of the mirror and in front of her siblings. With more practice, she began to sing in front of her siblings and it was time to sing in front of her neighbours at the playground. Soon, she was getting better and better.

During recess, she would invite her friends to come hear her sing and give her comments. They all said they liked her singing but, still, Lauren would often stop mid-way through her song because she was nervous.

Her parents had told her before that she has to overcome her fear and believe in herself. Gradually, her confidence increased, she started inviting more and more friends to listen to her. She even sang to the teacher-in-charge of the Singing Club.

Just when she was about to overcome her fear, she got into a car accident. This happened during her trip to Malaysia during the June holidays. The doctor told her that she had injured her vocal cord during the car accident. Lauren's heart sank and tears started to well up in her eyes. She lost her appetite until one day...

Ding Dong...

Lauren's mother hurriedly ran and opened the door and welcomed a young-looking lady into their house. Being very curious, Lauren went to the door to take a look.

"This is Miss Lim your music teacher who will be coming to our house every day to help you in your singing so you can improve," Lauren's mother told Lauren.

Hearing what her mother had said, Lauren immediately hugged her mother and thanked her. Lauren was over the moon as she hoped that she would be able to sing again and fulfill her dream.

It took about four months for Lauren to start singing again with the help and encouragement from Miss Lim. Although it was grueling, Lauren did not complain; instead she put in a lot of effort, knowing that one day she would become a famous singer. By the end of the year, Lauren got her voice back. She would spend her free time singing happily.

Miss Lim was glad that Lauren fulfilled her dream of becoming a singer. Lauren held her very first concert in Japan when she was thirteen and many copies of her album were sold.