



Share the Gift of Stories 2006

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Family Literacy Day 2006

Stories written by:

Community Members of the Municipal District of

Foothills #31

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“Share the Gift of Stories”

Literacy for Life Foundation

Literacy for Life Foundation is proud to share the stories created by children and adults in the Municipal District of Foothills #31. Some of the stories were written to help celebrate Family Literacy Day on January 27, and others were submitted by families involved in our Building Blocks program.

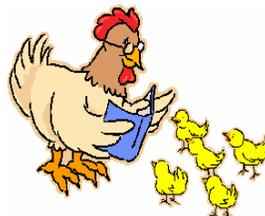
Sharing stories is the best way to help build a literate community. Literacy does not stand alone. It is part of our families and our community. Stories help our children learn about reading and life. Literacy for Life Foundation would like to thank all the authors who submitted stories and Megan Summers for compiling the stories into a book.

For further information on Literacy for Life Foundation and the programs it offers to community members in the Municipal District #31 visit our website at www.litforlife.com.

This book has been distributed to the schools and libraries in the Municipal District, as well as to all the authors and illustrators. It is also available on our website.

Thank you to Highwood Printing for their in-kind contribution towards the copying of this book.

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The Strange Tracks

By Grade 3 Students of AB Daley Community School, Nanton, AB. Teacher: Pat Donnelly, Teacher Aide: Mrs. Leona Ransom.

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks which lead them into the forest.

The forest was dark and damp. The tracks came to an area where many more tracks appeared. They resembled small hoof prints. They seemed to go off in many different directions. Tommy and his friend Kerri wondered which way they should go.

Kerri said, "Let's go to the right and follow the path up the hill." Near the top of the hill the boys spotted an opening to a cave. The tracks seemed to be going inside. Tommy said, "Kerri, do you think we should go in there? It looks awfully dark."

Kerri looked at the cave and said, "I think it will be ok if we go in together." They quietly went into the cave together. When inside Tommy saw a faint light up ahead. They carefully followed the light until they saw a big bright opening. It was full of unicorns.

Tommy and Kerri hid behind a huge rock to watch. The unicorns were in a big beautiful kingdom with lime green grass and tumbling waterfalls into big ponds. As Tommy and Kerri were watching the unicorns, a little pink baby unicorn with a shiny black horn came running up beside the boys. "Who are you?" said the baby. "We are Tommy and Kerri from west of here, just outside the forest." The boys explained. "Do you live here?" asked Kerri. The baby said, "Yes, come in and visit us." When they were looking around, the boys saw a beautiful, sparkling ice castle that was home to all of the unicorns. It never melted! The boys said, "We better go home now. Our parents will be worried. We will come back to visit again." The baby unicorn said, "Why don't you let me give you a ride, crawl on my back."

The boys felt the warm sun on their faces. They heard their Mom say, "Lunch time." The boys looked at each other and said, "Was that real or were we dreaming?"

By Tracie Steiner, Age 2.5

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided to walk to the tracks. In the woods they saw two chickens. They were walking to their mama. Tommy and Kerri followed them into the woods. Tommy and Kerri's Mommy called them. They ran back home and had snack.

By Taylor Middleton, Age 7

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks into the woods. They followed the tracks for 6 miles. Tommy thought they might be black bear footprints. They might be right they thought. They found a black bear and then they fainted. The black bear went away.

By Jamie Middleton, Age 5

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided to see if they could find the puppy who made the tracks. They went to the neighbour's houses. They asked the people to check in their houses they couldn't find any puppies. They never found the puppy. Finally they found the puppy he was so cold. They warmed him up by the fireplace.

Tommy and Kerri's Adventure

By Heather Milligan, Age 8, Grade 3, Spitzee School

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to go and follow the tracks into the woods so Tommy got his camera and set off. They found the end of the tracks and figured it was a woodpecker. They went further into the woods and saw more tracks and followed them. Kerri and Tommy saw all sorts of different birds and imagined they were flying. Kerri and Tommy walked further into the woods and they saw rabbits, birds and other animals. However, they did not find their animal. Finally, they found the woodpecker and Tommy got his camera out and took a picture. They showed Tommy's mother and went back in the forest. Tommy said, "Isn't this a happy thing to do?" They never got bored again!

The Dream

By Kylar Bouliane, Age 8

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks that led them into the forest. The forest was dark and foggy. "Look a cave!" said Tommy. "Let's go in!" said Kerri. They slowly crept into the cave. Kerri started to see rabbit skeletons. He was getting scared. Tommy didn't notice. They saw out of the fog. It was a wolf with wings. It was called a winged wolf and it could talk also. "Hey there", he said in a deep voice. "I'm Josh." The boys froze like statues. Tommy stepped closer. "Follow me." He led them over a hill where he has many friends. They then woke up on the porch. Kerri said, "Were we dreaming?"



The Bear of the Woods

By Andrisa Bouliane, Age 4.5

Tommy's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks. The woods were damp and foggy. There were big rocks. "I'm scared!" said Kerri. "ROOAARR" came from the cave. The tracks led into the cave, they saw a girl the same age as Tommy getting chased by a bear. Kerri ran. The girl's name was Andrisa. The bear hit his head on a rock Tommy and Andrisa ran. They could not keep up with Kerri. Tommy was Andrisa's brother. Tommy, Kerri and Andrisa ran back home.

The End.



By Trey Palmer, Age 5, Kindergarten, Spitzee School

Trey's Mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Connor to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Trey spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Connor and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Trey and Connor decided to follow them. Soon they noticed that they were coyote tracks following hoof prints of horses. After walking for a while they saw a stampede of wild Arabian horses being chased by a pack of coyotes. Trey called in his best horse Lucky and saddled her up. With Trey on Lucky and Connor on Buck, they chased the pack of coyotes away and watched the herd of wild Arabian horses run out of the woods and across the Mojave desert of Nevada. Trey and Connor went back home to tell the story of their adventure.

The End.

By Student, 2/3T Dr. Morris Gibson School

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friends to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to take a closer look...

The tracks were like nothing they had seen before. They seemed so mysterious.

"What in the world could have made these tracks?" said Kerri. Something about them made them want to follow these tracks further...

"Want to check it out?" Tommy asked with more than a little hesitation. Kerri didn't want to seem scared, so she put on her bravest face – "Yes, let's go see, I am sure it's nothing".

In the distance, Kerri thought she heard a sound... almost like a whisper in the woods... 'just the wind', she said to herself.

As they followed the tracks the brush got denser and the forest walls seem to close in... it wasn't getting darker, but it was harder to see... then Kerri noticed that there was a light fog rolling in...

"Wonder where the fog came from?" Kerri said to Tommy. 'Ya, kind of strange isn't it? Don't usually see much fog in the daytime like this'... Tommy said.

While Tommy was speaking the fog seemed to become much denser, the tracks were becoming difficult to follow and it occurred to Kerri that if it got much worse they wouldn't find their way back.

"Tommy, we have to go back... I'm getting scared." 'Me too', said Tommy, 'let's get out of here'...

They looked back to find their tracks, but they couldn't see anything but the dense fog... Kerri was only a few steps behind Tommy... she could hear him breathing fast and shallow... oh, how she wanted to be back home right now...

Then she noticed that Tommy's breathing was quiet. "Tommy? Are you okay?" but no answer. "Stop foolin, Tommy"... still nothing. Then she hears the whispering noises again "whhhhhssshhhh"... "wwwwwhhhhhsshhh"... "Who is that!!" Kerri begins to cry... but the answer only comes as a whisper. It seems so far away, but never had Kerri heard a noise so frightening...

Running... the bushes and branches are in her face... striking her arms and her legs... but Kerri feels nothing... she only knows to run...

Suddenly, she is out of the woods and the fog becomes less dense, it seemingly lets go of its grasp on Kerri's body... and she can see and move again freely... but what about Tommy?

"No!" she says out loud. "Tommy! Tommy! WHERE ARE YOU?" Then she glances back at Tommy's house, and she was shocked to see Tommy standing by his front door. Still and calm, he seems like a different boy from the one running ahead of her just a few minutes ago. "Tommy, how did you get here?" Kerri says running up to the house.

"TOMMY? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?" He didn't reply. It was strange, he stared at her, but it was like he wasn't really there...

"Tommy! Its time to come in!" Tommy's mom said as she opened the screen door. Kerri was afraid to tell her what happened, and as she stood there thinking of what to do, Tommy motioned to go inside. As he left he looked at Kerri with those hollow eyes and shut the door.

Kerri looked back at the woods... the fog that was there only a few minutes ago was gone... it was completely clear... no more sounds...

Kerri went home scared. "What's wrong?" said her Mom as she walked inside. Kerri burst out in tears at the site of her Mom and told her the whole story.

Kerri's mom wasn't sure what happened so she thought it best to call over to Tommy's house to make sure everything was alright. But it wasn't. "Tommy hasn't said a word since he came home" his mother cried over the phone. "WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?" she cried.

Kerri can tell that her mom is upset and can only guess that Tommy is not doing any better than when she left him a few minutes ago. In anguish over what happened to her friend, Kerri runs outside in tears. Between sobs, she hears a familiar sound. It is the whispers she heard before, but they are so much clearer this time. She swears she can hear Tommy calling her... "WHERE AM I?"
"WHERE AM I?"

Kerry can't move. She trembles in fear, and she says to herself "RUN" but her body won't obey the commands of her mind.

Then she notices the fog is there again... quickly it seems to move into the house. "Mom, run!" she cries, but only a whisper seems to come out of her mouth. Suddenly she gains control of her muscles, and without a moments

thought she runs in the house. The fog is leaving again and in the corner of the room, her mother seems to appear. "MOM?" she cries, but she just stands there... no answer. 'Oh no' Kerri whispers. "Mom, are you alright?" But no response, she just looks at her with hollow emotionless eyes.

Stunned, Kerri runs out of the house. Almost immediately, the fog has surrounded her... she seems to feel its weight on her body, heavier this time. It feels strange and terrible as the adrenaline rushes through her veins and yet her feet won't move... she is helpless to the power of the fog.

Suddenly she is free. Running out of the fog, she has never moved so fast, but as fast as she started moving, she makes impact with another object and falls backwards. "What did i fall over?" but before she can answer she sees the object and becomes motionless with disbelief.

She sees herself, just standing there... the same shallow eyes, the same blank stare... "but if that is me" Kerri says in terror "WHERE AM I? WHERE AM I?"

Kerri wakes up and her mother was right in front of Kerri. "It was just a dream" her mother said. "Do you want to go outside?" asked her mom. "No thanks, I think I am going to stay inside today."

The Big Adventure

By Kyrsten Ross, 2/3 T

January 30, 2006

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him he friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off in the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to go into the woods and follow the tracks to find out who made them. They got up and raced towards the woods. When they got into the woods after following the tracks the woods were very quiet, but you could hear the wolves howling in the distance of the forest. When they turned around they realized the track that looked like plain old shoes, now looked like paw prints.

They decided to just keep going deeper into the forests. Now they felt tired and cold it is was getting closer to supper time. "Tommy, it's getting close to supper time!" Kerri said. "We should try to head back." Tommy said. But when they turned around again the tracks were gone! Now they were lost.

At home Tommy's mom was making supper. When she was done she called for Tommy & Kerri. "Tommy, Kerri!" she called. "Where would they have gone?" she thought. Then she spotted the tracks. "Oh no did they follow those tracks?" she said.

Then Kerri said "Why don't we go to sleep it is getting late?" Tommy says "No, I think we should keep going." Then they heard a howl. They heard the howl behind them. They turned around they they saw a husky. Kerry said "Hey, maybe that dog can help us get home!" Tommy said, "I am not sure, he might be wild." But Kerri knew these kinds of dogs because she had one. Then she realized that the dog looked just like hers. "Ahh, it's my dog Crystal!" "Here Crystal, here Crystal." Kerri called. Then Crystal answered with a "bark." Crystal started racing toward Kerri and then Kerri asked Crystal "Can you take us back to Tommy's house?" Crystal answered with another "bark." Then Crystal convinced Kerri to grab her collar. Kerri grabbed the collar and Crystal started running with Kerri. Tommy followed quickly behind. Then Crystal heard Tommy's mom calling. Then Kerri began to hear her voice also, and then Tommy heard it too.

Then they came safe and soundly home. Then they had spaghetti for supper and had a great bedtime story and went quickly to bed. Well... that was my very adventurous story, by Kyrsten Ross.

Tommy and Kerri's Forest Adventure

By Haley Fiedler, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the TV off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods. He showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them.

Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the gigantic footprint's into the spooky forest. In the forest, they saw Beavers chopping down trees to make their dams. They were busy watching the beavers when all of the sudden a monster leaped out at them. They ran as fast as they could all the way home.

'Let's hide in the closet' said Tommy running back to the house.

'Good idea' said Kerri.

When they climbed in the closet, they accidentally pushed too hard on the back of it and magically were transformed into a tree back in the forest. Tommy's mom called because she didn't see them anywhere. Everybody helped look for them but nobody could find them.

While looking in the forest, a Beaver cut down a tree in front of Tommy's mom. Tommy and Kerri popped out!

'I am so happy to see you' cried Tommy's Mom.

THE END!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In the Woods

By Greyson Reid & Family, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them Tommy and Kerri decided...

to go into the woods to find out what made the tracks. Tommy thought it was a dinosaur. Kerri thought it was a frog from the future. He had read once that frogs were getting smarter and may some day rule the world.

Tommy jumped at the sight of a big dark shadow that he thought was a gorilla! But the wind blew a branch and the "gorilla" disappeared in a flash of sunlight. Kerri jumped when Tommy jumped and had to move quickly to avoid crashing into him. As he did this, his foot caught in something and he fell.

When Kerri opened his eyes he was looking right at the half eaten remains of a watermelon. Kerri shivered in fear. He remembered reading about a band of rogue frogs that liked eating watermelons and robbing kids of their candy. With a stifled scream he got to his feet and took off running as fast as he could. Tommy's eyes got large as saucers. He looked around and took off too. In the trees nearby, unseen by the kids, a very confused T-Rex, cautiously looked on this scene trying to understand what was going on.

Higher up in those trees a frog in his small time machine took notes and laughed at the wacky way humans and dinosaurs carried on.

The Scary Cave

By Cody Guttridge, 2/3T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks into the woods. The boys were excited, but a little scared!

They followed the tracks into the woods to a cave. The boys went into the cave. Inside there were two bright eyes staring at them. They ran until they were home and went inside to bed.

Then the next day they went to check out the cave again. They walked in the cave. They saw the eyes, and they eyes came closer, and closer until they saw a large creature. They were scared once again and turned and ran back home.

The following day they were still scared. They wanted to go back to the cave, but could only play close to home. After playing for many hours they finally became brave enough to go back to the cave.

They went slowly into the cave like a lion. Inside they heard STOMP... STOMP... they were scared, but they kept going! They saw it was a mouse! Then they laughed, and laughed all the way home.

By Ally Bymak, 2/3T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to imagine what or who had made them. Tommy decided to follow those tracks. The tracks lead, deep, deep into the woods. They didn't know what to do. So they kept on going and, then suddenly Tommy disappeared. Kerri nervously kept on going. Then a dog was walking across the woods. She wondered if the dog made the tracks leading into the woods. Then Kerri heard a crackling noise. Kerri hollered. "WHO IS THAT?" Kerri screamed. Kerri, I'm so happy you are okay. Hugs, kisses. Let's get on our way home. Tommy's mom was waiting on the front step when Tommy and Kerri got home. Tommy's mom said, "Who's that?" "I don't know," said Tommy and Kerri. Well, we had better name her so she doesn't run away again. They thought and thought. Midge! "Great", said Tommy's mom. Lets keep her.

The Mysterious Footprints

By Hagstrom Family, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to go and follow the tracks.

They walked and walked and before they knew it, the sun was going down, it was getting darker and darker and they had to admit that they were lost and very scared. Meanwhile back at home, Tommy and Kerri's parents were getting worried because they were not supposed to be out after dark and they usually listened very well to that important rule.

Tommy's dog, a loyal Golden Retriever named Candy, knew that something was wrong. His best friend in the world was missing and he was not going to stay at home and wait. He ran out the door the first chance he got and followed his friend's scent deep into the woods.

Even though Tommy and Kerri were scared, they continued following the tracks as best they could in the dark. Suddenly they almost bumped into an old wizard, who was blocking their path. He looked very old and somewhat scared, but also mysterious and wise with his long grey beard.

"Why are you kids following me?" spoke the wizard in a thundering voice. "We didn't know the tracks belonged to you" whispered the children and even though they were scared and shaking like leaves, Kerri managed to add that the tracks looked like animal prints and not at all like prints people make. When the wizard didn't respond, Tommy found all the courage he could summon up and asked the wizard if he would help them find their way home.

An evil grin spread across the wizard's face, but his voice was sweet and kind when he answered and assured them that that was of course what he intended to do. What the friends didn't realize was that the wizard indeed very evil and was planning on turning them into donkeys that would have to work on his magic farm. They saw the wizard raise his wand and just when he was about to cast his spell on them, Candy the dog jumped out from the bushes and knocked the wizard down.

The magic wand flew up into the air, twirled around several times and landed right on top of the wizard. The two friends did not believe their eyes when all of a sudden they were standing in front of a donkey with a long grey beard. What they didn't realize was that Candy had saved them. They were hugging and

kissing the dog when the donkey started to speak to them. It was a creepy sight, but the donkey begged and pleaded with them to please use the wand and turn him back into a wizard.

The kids were good-hearted and after a brief discussion, made a deal with the talking donkey that he should carry them back to their home and there they would turn him back to his old self. Candy led the way and when they finally arrived back home, both our friends grabbed the wand and turned the donkey back into a wizard.

Now the wizard did not really expect Tommy and Kerri to give him another chance. He had hoped that they would, but was still surprised to find the kids trusting him enough to turn him back into a wizard and hand him back his wand. He felt terrible about what he had planned on doing to them and then, somehow, he started smiling and this time it was not an evil grin, this time, he actually smiled a warm and loving smile.

He realized what a terrible wizard he had been and promised that from now on he would only use his magic for good. The kids promised to never ever wander into the woods alone again. The wizard waved goodbye and smiled at the children as he walked back into the dark woods. Our friends were just about to go inside when they saw the wizard raise his wand one more time and a flash of light forced them to close their eye. When they opened their eyes, there it was, the biggest dog bone that anyone had ever seen.

The friends had to laugh and Candy wagged his tail as he barked goodbye to the wizard and everybody lived happily ever after.

THE END.

By Andrew Irvine, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks into the forest. They walked and walked until at last the house was just a shadow in the trees. They were unsure if they should continue because it was starting to get dark by now. The sun was below the trees by now but both boys decided to continue on the path. Suddenly they heard a noise and both boys jumped into each others arms. All of a sudden a huge owl came sweeping out of the trees.

Finally deep in the woods the tracks stopped in front of a cave. Both Tommy and Kerri looked at each other and without saying a word decided to enter the cave. They saw a dim glow at the end of the tunnel. Closer and Closer they walked until they could make out that the glow was a fire. Suddenly they heard a voice call out "who's there"? And they saw the white fangs and dark eyes of a dog. Closer they walked until they were face to face with the man. Tommy! The man exclaimed, what are you doing way out here? Tommy and Kerri were so happy to see that it was Tommy's grandfather and his trusted dog Ebony. They told him all about there great adventure and with a laugh they all decided to head for home before Tommy's mom became worried about them.

The Lost Forest

By Dominik Kadlec, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who could have made them. Tommy and Kerri broke into an argument about the tracks as they walked toward them. They stopped at where the tracks first appeared and knelt down to get a closer look, Tommy was an avid reader, and his favorite books were about the animals of the world. These tracks appeared to be from a large cat, not as big as a lion, but a little bigger than a cougar.

Tommy looked at Kerri, "these tracks were made from a large animal, and are very recent". This statement excited Kerri; she was always up for adventure, even if it was not the safest thing to do. Let's follow the tracks for a while and see where they go, said Kerri.

As their eyes follow the tracks into the forest they noticed something looked different, neither knew quite what it was, oh well. The two friends stood up and began following the tracks deep into the forest. They walked for a long time, talking and laughing, telling stories about school, and remembering all the fun things they had done together.

All of a sudden the tracks stopped, they knelt down to take a closer look. The tracks had not stopped, there were now two tracks, one over the other, and the new tracks were definitely made by a giant bird. But what bird of that size could possibly live in the forest behind Tommy's house?

More puzzled and confused, they continued following the tracks. The temperatures began to drop, Kerri stopped and looked around, "I just had this weird feeling that something is following us", she said. They both realized they needed to find shelter, somewhere warm and safe. Looking around them they noticed the entrance to a cave, the opening was wide, but only half a meter in height. They crawled in through the opening, and felt their way around the small cave, there were only the cold, hard, rock walls and then something soft, almost like feathers. Burrowing under the soft cover they immediately began to get warm.

Talking quietly to each other, they began to feel safe and comfortable, when all of a sudden they heard an eerie echo from inside the cave. Suddenly the warm cover rose up, the screeching noise filled the cave. Tommy and Kerri sat up quickly, and ran out of the cave. They continued running, not looking behind them, afraid of what they might see. The noise became louder and louder, what

ever it was, was gaining on them quickly. Soon the creature overtook them, and was not standing in front of them, snapping his large powerful beak.

Tommy instantly recognized the creature from the books he read, this was a Teratorn, an eight-foot high descendant of the large raptors that lived during the Jurassic period. Just as the two friends thought that they were going to be eaten, the noise had disturbed a small herd of Eohippus. The small prehistoric horse was the favorite meal of the Teratorn, and it quickly became his latest meal, much to the relief of the two terrified friends. As the Teratorn left the clearing in search of his meal, Tommy and Kerri stood catching their breath, and looking at their surroundings. The plants looked different, there were a lot of gigantic ferns and trees that were not familiar to them. They were all covered with a light dusting of snow.

Adventures are great, but this was far too dangerous, Kerri looked at Tommy and they both knew what they wanted to do, the safety of home called to them.

Looking back, they began tracing their footsteps; first they had to make their way back to the cave. The two friends walked quickly, aware now of the possible dangers that they could face. Relieved at the sight of the cave they quickly turned toward home. Following the footsteps, they began to run.

Tommy and Kerri's heart skipped a beat, as they heard a growling noise coming from behind them. Turning around quickly they saw a small Saber Tooth Tiger. It seemed lost, could this have been the animal that was following them? The familiar screech of the Teratorn could be heard echoing through the forest. They picked up the small cat, not wanting to leave it behind to be eaten, and continued running home as fast as they could.

The brush began to thicken, slowing them down, this only served to make the pair more determined as they ran, they knew home was a few short steps away.

Suddenly they were again standing in Tommy's back yard safe, and very much out of breath. They turned to look at the woods they had just left, it was familiar, and they could feel again the warmth of the sun.

Kerri, still held the young saber tooth tiger in her arms, what are we going to do with him, she said. Tommy had an idea, knowing how much his mother liked kittens, he walked to the back door. Opening the screen, he called inside, "mom, I found a stray kitten in the forest, can I keep him"?

Tommy and Kerri's Adventure

By Stephanie Pitoulis, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks into the woods to see where they led and what made the tracks. Tommy ran into the house and hollered out for his mom to tell her what Kerri and him were going to do. His mom came to the door and when Tommy was trying to explain what he and Kerri were going to go his mother, not listening, said "go out and play i have a lot of housework to do today". "Get, get", she said.

Kerri told Tommy that she was a little bit afraid to go into the woods. She didn't know what made those tracks. "It could be anything", she said. "What if it was a wild animal and what if it decided to attack them". Also, what if they got lost. "Who would find us"? Tommy said that if it would make her feel better, he would bring his dog Tie with them. Kerri said it would help a lot. So off they went into the woods with Tie in tow. They had walked for 2 hours and the tracks still kept going. Tommy was determined to find out where the tracks led and who made them, but Kerri was getting cold and tired and was worried that they would get lost. Tommy said, "lets walk a little further to see if the tracks will end up ahead. If they don't, then they would make their way back home. After resting for a few minutes, they continued to walk. Suddenly a black looking dog jumped out at Tommy. Tommy screamed "wolf, lets get out of here", but when he tried to run the wolf grab his jeans and ripped the bottom of them. Tommy got away and then the wolf caught him and ripped off his running shoes. Tommy got away again. As Tommy began to run, Tie, his dog, jumped in behind him. The wolf and Tommy's dog started to fight. Seeing this, Tommy yelled at Kerri to keep on running. They ran and ran for what seemed like an eternity. When they stopped because they had completely ran out of breathe, they realized the wolf had stopped chasing them. When they turned around they could no longer see the wolf, but they could not see Tie. Tommy started to call out Tie's name but could not see or hear anything. Kerri started to cry and said, "we should have started for home a long time ago, if we had we wouldn't have run into the wolf, you'd have your shoes, and Tie would be here. "Tie is probably lying somewhere very badly hurt". Just as Kerri was saying this, Tommy spotted Tie running towards them. Tie, happy as can be, wagging his tale, seemingly no worse for wear and tear, leaped into Tommy's arms. Tommy and Kerri hugged and petted Tie.

Upon being reunited with his dog Tommy and Kerri began walking home. As they started off for home they noticed that the tracks they had made in walking down the path had disappeared. A wind had picked up and had blown the path clean. Now, they were unsure of their direction, and what was worse, it was beginning to get dark and cold. As they began walking for home, both Tommy and Kerri realized that they were completely lost. They had no idea which way to go. Just as they were beginning to panic Tie began sniffing the ground. Right away Tie picked up the scent off their old tracks and led them home. Through the trees they could see lights and hear all kinds of people yelling out their names. Tommy and Kerri ran as fast as they could right into their mothers' arms. Tommy's mom asked him where they had been and why he hadn't told her where they were going. Tommy said he had tried to, but that his mom just wouldn't listen. Tommy's mom hugged him and said, "I am so sorry, and i am so glad you two are home safe and sound". Everyone who had been out helping Tommy's mom search for Tommy and Kerri, pretty well the entire community, went to Tommy's house to hear about Tommy's, Kerri's and Tie's adventure. Once hearing the story, they were all very happy and relieved that the children had made it home safe. They were especially grateful that Tie had gone along with them, as they realized that without Tie, things might not have turned out quite so well.

TV is not a Bad Thing

By The Ardiel Family, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided that they would follow the tracks to wherever they led them. So, they started walking, and it got darker, and darker until they got scared. "I think we should turn back now," Kerri said in a shaky voice. "I know we should," said Tommy. "Lets go this way," yelled Kerri, "no were going this way, we'll follow our tracks home!" Tommy yelled back. So now you thing they are going to go in opposite directions and then get lost, but you are wrong. They just stood there and fought, and yelled, and screamed their fool heads off. Finally they just went Kerri's way. But it just got even darker it, it was practically pitch black "okay, okay maybe we should have gone your way," said Kerri, "too late now snow princess" said Tommy in a huff, he turned on his heel ready to march any direction other than the way they had come when he noticed a light way off in the woods. He told Kerri to keep her head down and follow his footprints in the snow and he would try and find them help. With her head down and her heart hurt for getting them lost in the first place, imagine chasing footprints in the snow late at night, in the dark, and not knowing where you are. Kerri starts to cry and the cold wind stings her cheeks and Tommy turns around and tells her to look up----- straight ahead about 10 meters is the house. And the tracks they were following were actually from a deer that was eating off an old hay bale in their yard. Tommy and Kerri came into the house, cold, thankful, and upset that they got lost. After talking with Tommy's mom they decided that next time they would re-think any foolish nighttime tracking. Tommy also let his mom know that if she hadn't turned off the TV in the first place they would have been inside watching American Idol!!!!

By Sierra Butler, Dr. Morris Gibson School, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided... that they would follow the tracks into the woods. While they were following the tracks they were wondering what would have made them... Tommy thought it could be: a wolf, a coyote, or a big lost dog. Kerri thought it could be: a bear or a coyote. They noticed that 1 hour had passed and started to wonder if they would ever find the animal that made the tracks. Tommy decided to go back to his house and told Kerri that he would be happy to have her for dinner, but Kerri told him that she better be getting home because the sun was setting. Tommy and Kerri went the opposite direction that they were heading and heard Tommy's mom calling them: Tom my! Kerri! Coming! Tommy shouted. When they got home Kerri went home because she just heard her mom was making her favorite dinner, so Tommy went to bed thinking if he and Kerri would find the animal who made the tracks tomorrow.

Mysterious Footprints

By Juliane Deurbrouck. 2/3T

Tommy and Kerri stared at the gate and decided to wait until tomorrow to investigate. Tommy and Kerri went to bed that night dreaming of what had made those footprints leading to the woods. When they woke up the next day Tommy and Kerri ate breakfast quickly so they would have more time to investigate before the school bus came to take them to school.

At school Tommy and Kerri learned new math equations, how to pronounce new words, science and social studies and gym class. DING DING DING "Class dismissed" said Kerri and Tommy's teacher Miss J.

Kerri and Tommy's friends and classmates filed out of the school and waited for the school bus. Tommy and Kerr hopped on the bus and thought about the thing that had made those footprints.

"Maybe a dinosaur made them" suggested Tommy

"Naa" said Kerri "Too small. Perhaps a cat or a dog?" asked Kerri

"No, wrong shape" replied Tommy

"What are you two talking about?"

Kerri and Tommy looked behind them to see their friend Johnny standing in the bus seat behind.

"They mysterious footprints leading to the woods" said Tommy

"Oh" said Johnny sadly with a frown.

"I know what made those" said Johnny with a grin "A Foo-foo!"

Kerri and Tommy's jaws both dropped almost to their knees.

"What the heck is that?!" asked Kerri loud and confused.

"I don't know." said Johnny with a sly look.

Just then the bus stopped at Kerri and Tommy's house.

Tommy and Kerri ran off the bus like wildebeests were chasing them!

When they got into their yard, they threw off their backpacks and studied the tracks again.

"Yup! Definitely a Foo-foo." stated Kerri.

"Yeah" said Tommy, "How 'bout we follow them to the woods"

Kerri and Tommy followed the tracks to the woods. In the middle of the woods, Tommy and Kerri were amazed to see a little orangy-red bird type dragon thing. It had scales on its tummy and feathers on its side and back. It had a long tail, quite like a dragon's. All of sudden the thing poofed up and its feathers turned into scales, and it started to grow bigger and bigger until it was the size of three men stacked on each-other. Then Kerri and Tommy realized that this was a bird like thing that could transform into a dragon. Kerri and Tommy ran screaming like little girls waving their arms in the air so hard they could have flown over the treetops. Finally Kerri and Tommy arrived home panting with looks of horror on their faces.

"What's the matter?" cried Kerri and Tommy's mother.

"Dr..dr...drag.....dragon like thing!" chattered Kerri and Tommy

Tommy and Kerri went to bed that night shivering and thinking about that Foo-foo dragon thing.

The next morning Kerri and Tommy told all of their friends even Johnny, about the Foo-foo. But everyone didn't believe them and just laughed at their story. Even Johnny thought that their theory was dumb. At the end of the day Tommy and Kerri went back to the woods and met the Foo-foo again.

"Do you know the trouble you have caused us?! yelled Tommy and Kerri angrily at the Foo-foo.

"No I do not" said the Foo-foo in a high pitched squeaky voice. "What did I cause you?" asked the Foo-foo.

"We told all our friends about you and they didn't believe us and just laughed at us!" said Tommy

"That's no very nice" said the Foo-foo. "sorry"

Tommy and Kerri had another sleep with bad thoughts of what the Foo-foo had done to them.

At school the next day, the Foo-foo was in the schoolyard but not transformed as a dragon. When Tommy and Kerri saw the Foo-foo, they ran up to him and asked "What do you want now!?"

"I want to aplygize" said the Foo-foo in his high pitched squeaky voice.

"Oh" said Tommy and Kerri "what makes you think we should believe you?"

"I'm gonna transform into a dragon so that everyone can see you are right" said the Foo-foo.

"All Right!" Said Kerri, "cool" said Tommy

And with a smile, the Foo-foo transformed into a dragon.

Everyone was terrified by the dragon. Then Tommy and Kerri just stood real calm staring at the dragon, then turned around and looked down with their eyes squinted.

"They're right" cried a girl named Kim

And with that Kerri and Tommy were the most popular kids in school with their pet Foo-foo. No one ever made fun of their stories again.

The End!

The Magical Land

By Jordin Pottie, 2/3T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to take the path where they saw the tracks going.

" I bet they'll lead us to a magical land" said Tommy.

" Yeah, full of dragons and princesses and stuff" said Kerri.

So off they went. The sun was hot that day, but as they entered the woods it got a lot colder. The shadows were shaped like planets in a vast universe, creeping around the trees, to cast darkness on their path. As they moved further into the woods, they felt that they were embarking on a wonderful journey, and as the trudged on, they felt like they were getting closer to the magical land. The tracks were oddly shaped, unlike any animal or human. They were large, with three justting claws on the front, and three spike-like claws protruding from each side of the foot, with a rounded heel. In fact they were kind of scary. As they rounded the corner, their eyes bulged, and ahead of them they saw the magical land. It was beautiful, with lots and lots of brightly colored castles. The castles were nestled in a huge forest, but they could see the tops of them in three brilliant colors of blue, red and yellow.

"Wow! It's so wonderful." Exclaimed Kerri. "Let's go explore."

They picked up their pace and headed on towards the red castle. As they got closer to it they saw the tracks again.

" Should we continue?" asked Kerri in a faltering voice.

"Yes" said Tommy, as he walked on.

There were little fairies flying around their heads, with magical wands that had stars dripping from them. Tommy and Kerri had never seen such a place. They were enchanted by all that they saw. Suddenly they saw the gate to the red castle. It was humongous, with many windows. The kids could see a princess in the top window. It looked as though she was singing to a bird. Tommy and Kerri opened the gate and went to the huge door. They knocked loudly and suddenly there was a big CRASH! As the door fell, and behind it stood the tallest, fiercest beast ever. It was definitely the owner of the tracks. Screaming loudly, they turned and ran back the way they came, when Bang! They ran into something. It was Tommy's mother.

"Tommy, wake up I said, or you'll be late for school." Chided his mother,

As Tommy looked around his room he realized that the magical land was all a dream, and he thought to himself,

" Boy, I'll sure have an interesting story to tell Kerri today..."

THE END

The Man Eating Penguin

By Micheal Sealey, 2/3T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some track's going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the track's. They led to a Man eating Penguin then the penguin fainted then they went to him. There the penguin eat them the penguin had a good lunch hey folks then the penguin went to the zoo to eat something then when he eat an elephant and when an penguin eat is an elephant it turn's into an elepeng and when an elepeng eats an another elephant it is the worst thing ever you wood not want to see that Good bye.

The Dangers of the Woods

By Brody O'Reilly, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them.

Tommy and Kerri decided... to follow the tracks into the dark woods. They realized they were lost when they came upon a swamp where a big crocodile lived. The crocodile said "dinner time", and chased the two kids deeper into the woods. Tommy said "O no, run for your life." Kerri ran right into a tree and so did Tommy. The crocodile got so excited he ran into a hunters trap and was swept into the air by a big net. Tommy and Kerri were very happy. As they celebrated by singing "Ha ha you can't catch me" they were attacked by flying monkeys. They grabbed Kerri by her long blonde hair and were swinging her back and forth. Another monkey was pulling Tommy's ears and smelling his pockets. The monkey let go of Tommy and reached into his pocket pulling out some Hubba Bubba chewing gum. The monkey soon ate the whole pack and blew a bubble so big it took him high into the sky. The other monkeys stopped what they were doing and watched in amazement. As this was happening the kids ran to safety.

Tommy and Kerri found tracks again and started following them when the tracks suddenly stopped. They looked up to find a family of black bears watching them. They slowly turned around and ran as fast as they could not looking back. They ran so hard and fast they were soon out of the woods and back into Tommy's back yard. They sat down on the back step to catch their breath. Soon Tommy's mom came out with lemonade and cookies. She asked the kids what they've been up too. Tommy said "Nothing" and Kerri said "Nothing".

The End

Tracks

By Mitchell Wolfe, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to walk into the woods and see who made the tracks. They followed and followed the tracks until they saw an old small house. They decided to go into the house. They saw a very old person sitting on a chair with a black hat. Tommy and Kerri said "hello" but the person did not answer. So, they went back into the woods and followed the tracks. Finally, they came out of the woods and they were on the other side.

They were now a long way from Tommy's house. The tracks kept on going so the boys decided to go farther. Then they saw a big bush up ahead. The tracks went right into the bush. There was a small opening into the bush and they decided to crawl through the bush and see who made the tracks. Tommy went first, and Kerri followed. Tommy felt an itch on his back and they realized it was a prickly bush. They kept crawling and got scratched by the bush until the bush ended. When they were following the tracks the scratches got very itchy. They realized they were allergic to the bush.

About fifteen minutes later, the scratches and the itchiness started to wear off. At this time, the tracks stopped. It was starting to get dark so they decided they would turn back and go home. When they made it to the woods, it was very dark. Tommy led the way and Kerri followed. All of a sudden Tommy stopped and realized Kerri was not behind him. Tommy was scared and started calling out Kerri's name. He did not answer him so Tommy ran home as fast as he could to get his mom. His mom grabbed the flashlight and they went into the woods together to look for Kerri. They came to the old house and found Kerri talking to the old person, grabbed a cookie and ran back home. Just as they got home, Kerri's dad was there to pick him up. He asked them what they did today, and they said "nothing much".

Problem!

By Lyndon and Robertson Family, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided

They decided to follow them. They kept on seeing scratches on the trees. When they got to the end of the track there were scratching going up a tree, then Tommy decided to go up the tree and Kerri went too. When they got up a branch snapped and they were unable to get down. Then Tommy tried to jump onto one branch but it was too far then he tried to slide down the tree but it was too high. Then he found a vine that had fallen down from a branch up ahead of him. He grabbed onto the vine and slid down to the ground. He tossed it to Kerri and she swung down. Then they saw a rabbit going down the path and a wolf chasing it. They they used the vine to pull the wolf away from the rabbit. Then Kerri threw a bone in the opposite direction and started walking home. When they got home it was time for dinner. And they had a good day and went to bed.

Buddy

By Dylan Wheeler, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy saw some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided they would wander off into the forest all by themselves. As it got darker and darker, they started to worry. "What are we doing", cried Kerri? "We probably should turn back. What do you think Tommy?" Tommy answered, "That is a good idea, lets see if we can find our way out of here". As they turned their heads to see which way to go, they noticed the trail had disappeared. In a trembling voice, Kerri asked "What do we do now, Tommy?" "Tommy, where are you?" "Tommy, didn't you hear me?" Kerri began to panic as Tommy was nowhere to be seen. What had happened to her friend?

Back at the house, Tommy's Mom was making supper. When dinner was ready, she called for the kids in a loud voice, "Tommy, Kerri, supper is ready" There was an eerie silence. "Tommy, where are you, supper is on the table?" yelled his mother. Suddenly, she began to quiver and got very frightened. She rushed out of the house and searched the porch, the yard and anywhere else she could think of but there was no sign of either Tommy or Kerri.

Back in the woods, Kerri tried her best to calm herself and collect her thoughts. "What should I do now?" she thought to herself. She sat down on a nearby log and began to weep. Suddenly the log began to move and Kerri fell over backwards, rolling and rolling down a steep hill. Finally when she came to a stop, Kerri found herself cold and wet. She began to shiver and then yell "Tommy, Tommy where are you?"

Meanwhile, back at the house, Mom had called 911. The police and the search and rescue teams were on their way. Tommy's Dad was on the road and couldn't be reached by cell phone. By this time the neighbors had come over to see if they could offer their assistance.

Dazed and confused, Tommy awoke after an object hit him on the nose. "What was that?" thought Tommy. "Where am I?" "It's so dark and cold" quivered Tommy. "Where's Kerri?" Tommy wondered. When Tommy looked up he discovered he had fallen into a deep hole and gone unconscious. His head was sore but there did not appear to be any major injuries. He picked himself up and walked around the dark hole, only to notice a small glimmer of light coming from one end. He moved toward the light and observed a tunnel leading into the light. He continued to walk and surprisingly was outside and could see the face of Kerri shining in the moonlight. They hugged and hugged until they were exhausted.

Back at the house, the authorities had arrived and were preparing to start their search. Tommy's Mom noticed that "Buddy" their dog was missing as well. "What next?" thought Mom.

As Tommy and Kerri got to their feet to see if they were both not hurt, they heard a faint whimper. "What was that?" remarked Kerri. "It sounds like an animal crying, doesn't it? Answered Tommy. Suddenly out of the shadows, Buddy pounced on them both and began to lick and lick them with excitement. They were so relieved and thankful to all be together and safe.

The worries of being lost were no more as Buddy easily guided them out of the woods and into the waiting arms of Tommy's Mom. All were so grateful and Buddy was rewarded with the best, tastiest bone he had ever had. "Woof! Woof!" replied Buddy.

I guess we won't leave home without "Man's best friend" again.

By Max Aleksandra Golanski, 2/3 T

Max my dog is crazy about kids. He will jump on you and lick your face like crazy. But don't worry his only 7 months old. My dog even goes on the trampoline with me and my sister. Its amazing what Max can do Sometimes. Max will sit on the chair by the computer. And sometimes max can be very funny. Max snores when he sleeps, and drools when he eats. Max has a big tongue to clean himself with. He loves to be brushed with his special brush. My dad clips his nails with special seizers and even brushes his teeth. So as you can see max can be lots of fun to be with, but he is also lots of hard work. Max is just a puppy and he is very cute. Max is spoiled with all his toys. He has a box full of toys. Max is a very smart dog for a 7 month old puppy. I love my new dog Max.

The Mystical Portals

Dayton Sutherland (2)
Kiera Sutherland (5)
Mark and Dina Sutherland (P)

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow them. After all, nothing interesting ever happened in Fort Nelson.

They walked into the woods behind Tommy's house. They went down some old rock stairs that were covered with thorns and bushes. Insects climbed everywhere to the sounds of the noisy crow's cawing. Tommy is worried that they are in danger but Kerri is excited about their adventure and wants to keep going.

They continue on the path when they suddenly encounter a huge rich brown moose with enormous antlers. Tommy is startled by the sight of the moose. Kerri's mouth dropped open in surprise. The moose charges at them and scoops them up with his gigantic antlers and carries them down the path. Tommy is hanging by his blue Fox t-shirt on one side of the moose's antlers while Kerri is dangling by her pink and black track suit on the other side. As the moose gallops further down the trail Tommy and Kerri are screaming for their dear lives. They are being slammed against the rough trees and thorn bushes. All of a sudden the moose screeches to a sudden halt and Tommy and Kerri going flying through the air. They land in a dark big hole that is full of sticky, slimy mud. "How disgusting," says Kerri. They stand up and shake themselves off. "How are we going to get out of here?" they wonder.

Tommy gets down on his hands and knees to form a table for Kerri to step on. Kerri climbs onto Tommy's back but she can't quite reach the top. Tommy decides to stand up and Kerri gets on his shoulders. Kerri climbs out of the hole and runs and gets a long, skinny stick to help Tommy. She puts the stick down the hole and Tommy climbs out.

All of a sudden a flashy purple and hot pink portal appears with a rich, shiny metal frame that has big silver bolts. Tommy and Kerri fall back into a bush at the sight of this strange event. They watch as a teensy little elf, a humongous ogre and a puny dragon appear. Tommy and Kerri could not believe what they were seeing.

The frightening looking Ogre lets out a loud tremendous chuckle that shakes the ground around him. "This is the perfect spot for our scheme," bellows the Ogre as his voice echoes across the land. The elf flies up to the Ogre on his purple dragon and whacks him across the back of the head. "SSSSHhhh, you fool! Someone might have heard us," whispers the elf. "Sooooorry master," the Ogre replies. "Open the satchel," demands the elf. The Ogre rips open the satchel and takes out the flaming red ruby.

Meanwhile, Tommy and Kerri are watching from their hideout in the bushes and wondering what the evil trio is planning to do with that shiny, red ruby. All they know is that they don't want to stick around and find out. "Let's get out of here," Kerri whispers through her chattering teeth. "All right, I'm with you," replies Tommy in a small quiet voice. They begin to crawl on their hands and knees through the prickly bushes. "Ouch," Tommy says in a hushed voice as he gets a prickle in his hand.

"What was that?" wondered the elf out loud. "I didn't hear anything, boss," says the Ogre in his dumb, booming voice. Tommy and Kerri had leaped to the hole, just hiding from the evil trio's sight. "Never mind," said the elf "just get back to work."

The Ogre started rubbing the ruby so hard that Tommy thought it was going to break. All of a sudden a red cloud started coming from the ruby in the Ogre's hands.

"Hus em noy il fa yo" chanted the Elf "turn this land back to Pre-historic times once again."

"L-L-Look at that red hot cloud," trembled Kerri "what do you think they are doing?"

"It sounds like they're casting a spell!" whispered Tommy.

All of a sudden trees and leaves started popping up everywhere. It was as though they were now in a jungle, instead of being in Ft. Nelson. The ground was shaking and there was loud, tremendous noises coming from everywhere. Kerri and Tommy have never ever heard such sounds before.

What was going on? There standing right before them was a real live brachiosaurus. They both rubbed their eyes and nothing changed when they opened them again except now they had a view of the whole valley. A brachiosaurus had elevated them on his long, skinny neck. They were now sixty feet in the air holding on to the brachiosaurus' nose. "Wow! What a beautiful view of the valley," Tommy said. Kerri could not reply because she was so frightened of everything that was going on.

There were dinosaurs and swimmers everywhere. They were eating the leaves from the trees and roaming around, making strange groaning sounds. Their gigantic feet were making the land shake as they walked.

Tommy and Kerri slid down the brachiosaurus' neck. It was better than any slide in West Edmonton Mall's water park. "That was awesome," shrieked Tommy. Before they knew it they were soaring through the bright blue sky on a pterydactyl's wings. Kerri loved this. They both could not believe that this was happening to them.

After awhile the pterydactyl approached what looked like a crater on a moon. When it landed, Tommy and Kerri realized that it was a dinosaur nest. However, these were not ordinary dinosaurs. They could talk. Tommy and Kerri soon figured out that these dinosaurs were their families and the nest was their home.

"Mom, is that you?" asked Kerri. Standing before Kerri in the nest was a bunch of pterydactyls and anklyosaurus'. Kerri's family had been turned into pterydactyls while Tommy's family were now anklyosaurus'. Kerri ran up and gave her family a great big hug. "I missed you guys. I was so scared!" cried Kerri. Tommy ran up to everyone and gave them a big hug as well. "This is such a strange event," shrieked their families!

"We know what happened. This Ogre, purple dragon and a little short elf with a red hat popped out of a portal. They opened up a satchel, chanted weird words and a red ruby started to cast a smoky cloud across the land. We think that is why you guys are dinosaurs," explained Tommy. "Why didn't you two get transformed into dinosaurs?" asked Tommy's mom. "We think it is because we were down below the land and the red smoke couldn't penetrate us," answered Kerri. All of the families wondered what they were going to do to get out of this mess.

"We need a plan," exclaimed Tommy! "In order to save you guys and turn you back to humans we need to get that red ruby and say the chant that the little elf in the red hat said," explained Kerri. They all huddled together to hatch their plan. It was decided that Kerri's brother, Chase, would fly them to the cave where the evil trio is hiding out to try and steal the ruby. Once they had the ruby they would fly back to the nest and repeat the chant again.

The time had come to execute the plan. They needed a backpack of some sort to transport the ruby. Kerri's family flew out amongst the trees and collected leaves so that they could make one. When they returned to the nest Tommy's family assembled the leaves together to form a backpack. They put some food and water in the bag along with broken eggshells. They plan to drop the shells along the path so if her brother shrieks the family will know where to find them.

"It is time to go," declared Tommy! The families wished them good luck on their adventure and gave them one last hug. Tommy and Kerri climbed aboard Chase's back and off they went. Flying above the wonderful landscape was like nothing else they had ever experienced. They saw tall, rough trees, huge nests filled with dinosaurs and colorful birds everywhere. Finally, they spotted the dark, deep black cave that the evil trio was hiding out in.

Chase swooped down and landed on a large, thick tree branch. They needed time to figure out how they were going to get past the evil trio and grab the ruby. Suddenly, Tommy spotted a hole on the side of the cave. Tommy said, "Look over there!" He pointed to the side of the cave and they all saw the answer to their problem. They planned to fly down thru the hole and creep into the cave. Chase would create a diversion while Tommy and Kerri grabbed the ruby.

They counted to three and off they went. Chase started screeching and flapping his wings frantically. This got the attention of the Ogre, Elf and dragon. They couldn't figure out what that racket was. Meanwhile, Kerri and Tommy crept down into the cave and ran through the dusty hallway. They came to an opening that took off into three different directions. "Should we split up or stick together," questioned Kerri? They decided that they would stay together. "The number two is my favorite. I think it will be lucky. Lets take that one," Tommy said.

As they cautiously walked down the second pathway they came to a dead end and there was no flaming red ruby. "So much for number two being lucky," Tommy joked. "Well, my favorite number is one. Lets try that path," Kerri stated. Off they went down the first path. When they reached the end they saw a rich, golden key hanging on the cave wall. "Should we take it?" questioned Tommy. Kerri replied, "We might need it. It could come in handy." They put the key into their backpack and set off to the third tunnel. When they reached the end of that tunnel, there before their eyes was the ruby sitting in a glass case with a lock on the door. "There it is!" shrieked Tommy. They ran up to the case to get a better look. "The key we found; I bet you that is what unlocks it," shouted Kerri. They got the key out of the backpack and Tommy put it into the lock but it was too hard to turn. "Help me!" exclaimed Tommy. They both turned the key and the lock opened. They quickly put the ruby in their backpack and headed back up the tunnel.

When they reached the spot where all three paths met the evil trio awaited them. "Get them!" hollered the little elf. The Ogre stomped off as his booming steps echoed throughout the cave. "Run!" Tommy and Kerri exclaimed. Tommy ran and slid through the Ogre's legs. As the Ogre reached down to try and grab him he fell with a loud thud. Kerri leaped over the Ogre. Luckily, Chase was waiting for them in the opening of the cave. He swooped Tommy and Kerri up and headed back for the nest.

When they arrived back home, their families were relieved to see them safe and sound. There was hugs and kisses for everyone. "Mom, Dad, the Ogre and his friends almost caught us but Chase saved us," explained Kerri. Tommy told them how they had to go and get the key to open the glass case where the ruby was being stored. "Well, let's see it?" asked Tommy's mother. Tommy reached into the leaf backpack and brought out the flaming red ruby. The families collectively gasped.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The Ogre's footsteps were heard throughout the land. "They are coming! Say the spell," exclaimed Kerri. "I don't remember it," stammers Tommy. "Give it here," shouted Kerri. Tommy handed the ruby to Kerri and she instructed the families to repeat after her. As she rubbed the ruby vigorously she chanted, "Hus em il fa yo! Change this land back to normal."

Poof! Everything started to change back to the way it was. The trees began to disappear and shrink, the nests turned back into homes and the people transformed from dinosaurs to humans. When the dust settled Kerri and Tommy found themselves back with their families in their homes.

Kerri looked down into her hands and was surprised to find she was still holding the flaming red ruby. We have to destroy this they both agreed. Tommy and Kerri crushed the red ruby into several small pieces and scattered it across the forest floor.

SIX MONTHS LATER...

Tommy and Kerri were watching television when Kerri's mom turned it off and told them to go outside and play. They both headed outside and decided to take a hike in the forest. As they were walking along they spotted several flaming red portals. Could it be???

By Matthew Bailey, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy saw some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided not to go into the woods because they might get lost. Kerri told Tommy that this was too boring. They went back into the house and asked if they could play Play Station. Suddenly, the lights went out. Something huge and green was outside the window! Tommy and Kerri zoomed out of the house to see what was the matter. The big green thing was pounding into the forest. Kerri looked beside her and Tommy was not there! He was running into the forest after the big green thing. Kerri followed into the forest. She caught up with Tommy. Kerri told him that this wasn't a very good idea. Tommy agreed. They looked the way they came. There was no path so they argued which way to go. Eventually they got so tired that Tommy fell asleep! Kerri had found the way back. She told Tommy to come with her. She ran out of the woods, looked behind her and Tommy was not there.

Ten minutes later Tommy was lying on the back of the green thing. It had pointy ears, a long nose and big eyes. It was eating some oak tree bark. Tommy was very confused.

Meanwhile, back at the house, Kerri told Tommy's mom that Tommy was missing. Tommy's mom told Kerri to take Tommy's dog with her because he knows what Tommy smells like. The dog's name was Sniffy. Kerri and Sniffy wandered back into the forest. Kerri looked at her watch. It was 4:38. She told herself she had to be back in half an hour. Then Kerri remembered wolves came out at 4:30. Sniffy started sniffing and sniffing and barking.

Back in the middle of the forest, Tommy heard barking. It sounded familiar. "Sniffy!" he cried. Kerri heard Tommy cry "Sniffy". Sniffy took off running and Kerri followed. The big green thing turned around and went to the shaking vines up ahead. Tommy slid off the back of the big green thing and ran towards the sound of the barking. Tommy and Kerri caught up to each other. They turned around and started heading home.

Suddenly, there was a big howl. Out of a nearby bush came three ugly wolves! Tommy and Kerri both yelled "Help!! Help!!" as loud as they could. Then, out of nowhere came the big green thing! It swept it humungous tail at the wolves, flipping them over and the wolves ran away as quick as they could.

Tommy and Kerri were super surprised at the green thing. They turned around to say thank you but the big green thing was gone! Sniffy began dashing out of the woods. Kerri went after him. Tommy started running but before he began, he looked back. Everything was silent and still. He turned around and kept on running on the fall leaves.

Back in the house, Tommy and Kerri told Tommy's mom what they did. It was an amazing adventure. After they were done and they were in bed, Tommy's mom smiled mysteriously.

The Mysterious Tracks

By The Webster Family, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy saw some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to investigate. They had never noticed these tracks before and wondered where they led. At that very moment, Tommy's dog- a cute poodle name Puddles – ran out of the house. Puddles ears flapped in the wind as she ran into the woods following the tracks. These were no ordinary tracks, these were train tracks. Tommy and Kerri jumped up and ran, as quick as they could, after Puddles. They could see Puddles up ahead, she had stopped and was sniffing at a bush. They were almost there when Puddles started running even faster. For a few minutes, Tommy and Kerri couldn't see Puddles and couldn't catch up. Just as they were starting to worry, she appeared running back towards them with something in her mouth. What is it?

Tommy and Kerri ran even faster. They finally caught up. Puddles dropped the object on the ground and started running again. She wanted the kids to follow her. They looked at what she had left behind, it was a hat. Not just any old hat, it looked like a train conductor hat. They chased after Puddles. As the tracks turned the corner, they couldn't believe their eyes. There in front of them was an old abandoned train yard full of antique looking trains.

The strange thing was, they could hear voices. Who would be here? Tommy and Kerri were very curious. Puddles kept barking at one particular train carriage. Suddenly, someone appeared. It was a kindly looking old man. He petted Puddles, then looked at Tommy and Kerri and asked them – "Are you here for the checkers tournament?" "No", Tommy and Kerri replied, "but can we play, we love checkers".

Turns out that all the conductors of the old trains had been meeting there every week to play checkers and keep in touch. Tommy and Kerri gave the conductor's hat back to the man and joined in. They had a great time playing checkers and listening to stories about the good old days.

The Baby Iguanodon

By Spencer Beck, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow the tracks hoping they would discover what made them.

As they walked Tommy and Kerri realized the tracks were leading in the same direction their time machine was hidden. Tommy and his dad had built the time machine as a school science project, never expecting that they could actually make it work. Tommy and Kerri had hidden it in the woods and so far had only taken one adventure back into the Cretaceous period. They both loved dinosaurs and the trip back in time had been very exciting, but also a little scary and they were happy to get back home.

The tracks were very small and it looked like a four legged animal. "Maybe it's a puppy," said Kerri. "I think it's an alien," hoped Tommy. They followed the tracks deeper and deeper into the woods. Suddenly they both heard a funny little noise. Kerri grabbed Tommy's arm and pointed to the time machine. The door was pushed open just a little and there was definitely a squeaking noise coming from inside. The time little tracks led right up to the door.

Tommy and Kerri slowly walked up to the time machine.

They opened the door and peeked inside. Looking up at them was a baby dinosaur. "What is it?" asked Kerri. Tommy replied, "I think it's a baby iguanodon. He must have snuck in before we came back from our trip to the cretaceous period yesterday."

The baby iguanodon wobbled over to them making little squeaking noises. Kerri picked him up and gave him a cuddle. "He must be so scared, we need to go back Tommy, and find his mother," said Kerri. "We better go right now so we can be home in time for lunch," said Tommy.

Tommy and Kerri and the baby iguanodon crawled into the time machine and Tommy set the dial for 145 million years ago. "Get ready!" said Tommy. The time machine spun around incredibly fast and when it stopped they were once again in the Cretaceous period. Tommy looked out the time machines window and saw the Mommy iguanodon searching for her baby. She was making loud, high pitched noises and calling her baby. Tommy and Kerri both gave the baby iguanodon big hug and then gently dropped him onto the ground. "Bye, bye baby iguanodon, there is your mommy."

They watched as the baby and his mother nuzzled each other and then Tommy set the dial ahead 145 million years forward to get them back home. The time machine spun around incredibly fast once more and they were home. As they stepped out of the time machine they heard Tommy's mom calling, "Time for lunch!"

Tommy, Kerri and the Big Black Dog

By Tyler Forter, 2/3 T

Tommy's mom had turned the television off and told him and his friend Kerri to go out and play. They sat on the back step wondering what to do. Tommy spotted some tracks going off into the woods, he showed them to Kerri and they started to talk and imagine what or who had made them. Tommy and Kerri decided to follow them into the deep, damp forest. They walked for an extremely long time. They talked as they walked with Kerri in front and she looked back and he had disappeared into thin air!

"Oh my gosh, he's gone!" she said terrified! "Tommy! Tommy! TOMMY! Where are YOU?"

"Ruff! Ruff! Howwwwwwwwwl!!" was all that she heard. She listened again and heard a tiny whimper, then a huge howl!

Kerri was so terrified that she was sick to her stomach. She was so scared it was hard to think. She knew to calm down she had to count to ten, slowly. Then she decided to wander around to explore where the whimpering was coming from. She walked towards the biggest tree she saw; there was nothing there except for some rhino beetles. Kerri tiptoed to an enormous brown rock and all she saw were some june-bugs. Suddenly she heard the whimpering again, it was coming from a huge mossy den.

"Holy cow! Maybe he is in there! Tommy are you in there? Hello, anybody home?" She crossed her fingers hoping he was.

"Kerri I am in the den and i am petting some puppies! Their mom is here too!" he laughed.

"Tommy I was scared to death! Where is their home? What do we do?" she carried on.

"I guess we get to take them home, maybe they can live with our families!" he said carefully.

"Okay!" she laughed. "How did you find them?"

"Well, you were blabbing away and i tripped on a stump! I heard the whimpering so I

went into the den and I found them." He answered her.

"Come on puppies, come with us! Follow me Kerri and let's go home!"

They scattered all the way home with the puppies trotting behind them. Soon they were at Tommy's.

"We are home and look what we found!" said Tommy.

"Oh puppies! How cute, I guess we had better get out some dog food! It's a good thing we live on a farm so they can run around!" smirked Tommy's Mom. "I guess you should start thinking of names, how about Chipper..."

THE END!