Treasures and Dreams_2010-8-12

Nova Southeastern University
Dear Lower School Students, Parents, and Faculty,

In the 15 years that this magazine has been published, we have never done a themed issue until now. The Planet Earth summer reading theme, along with the seasonal theme in the library this school year, inspired me to assemble a celebration of nature for this issue of Treasures and Dreams. Judging from the results, our students certainly appreciate and can beautifully express their joy in the wonders of nature.

Creating this publication is a team effort. Staff members are recommended by their classroom teachers for their artistic talent and responsibility. This session’s staff was highly motivated, very creative, and a delightful group of students. Thank you to each of them for their hard work. Choosing the cover is a difficult decision, and Lower School administrators have input in this process. Thank you to them for their guidance. A special thank you to the classroom teachers for their encouragement and inspiration to our young writers.

We always receive more submissions than we have space to publish. This year, many of the pieces that weren’t used for the magazine will be displayed in the library. Please be sure to look for them when you are in the library. You will find many more wonderful written pieces for you to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Nancy Cantor, editor

A cool fall breeze touches my soft skin. The hot sun is beaming on me. The new leaves change to autumn colors. The dry ground is cold. My hair is swooshing around in the breezy air. Green grass is starting to change to yellow. White puffy clouds provide shade for me. A beautiful breeze swings the trees around. Some animals come out looking for fresh and new food from the wilderness to save up for the winter. Small bugs are flying around. Bzz! The bugs are hungry. As I sit under the shady trees, the wonderful breeze brushes through my hair. I smell the crisp cool air on me. The trees are swooshing their branches around and around. The breeze whispers in my ear. It says that fall is coming.

Melanie Stone
Grade 3

Cover designed by Adam Feinstein.
All Illustrations by Treasures and Dreams staff.
The Secret Forest

Looking up to the underside of thick tree leaves I breathed in the crisp clean air. Everything was peaceful. I walked around the spongy moss floor. I could hear the sound of birds chirping. The gentle breeze blew against my ear as if it was telling me a secret. I sat on a moss covered rock and watched my reflection dance in the water. A tiny turtle poked its head out of the water. I watched as it swam behind a mini waterfall. A mother duck and her ducklings swam by. The sunlight beamed in between the trees as if the sun wanted to make the tiniest seeds grow. I stepped into the pond. The shallow pond’s water was fresh and cold. I bent down to drink. The freezing cold water felt really good on my dry screaming throat. The pink sky made the mossy floor look red. The wildflowers bloomed bigger and beautiful before closing up for the night. I smiled as I saw the ducks settle in their nest. I looked up to the setting sun as my shadow followed. This was a secret forest just for me and the animals.

Bridget Gillon  Grade 4

Autumn Signs

Warm feelings enter my mind
All of the warm autumn winds combined
Colored leaves fall to the ground
Listen to the soft autumn sound
Small lizards roam free

Isn’t it pleasant how autumn can be
Children jump up and down
Pink and red flowers sprout from the ground
Squirrels jumping from tree to tree

Everything in autumn is free
Trees shade all around
As you lay on the ground
Streets beeping up and down
Children roaming all around

Sivan Ben-David  Grade 3

The Wonders of Fall

Cold stone ground, blue breezy sky
See the birds fly fly fly!
Hear the airplanes roar above
Feel the sunshine made with love
The parrots chirp with beautiful sounds and a lady walking with two bloodhounds.
See and hear the palm trees shake
What a wonderful sound they make!
Cold tree bark you can feel
Let the Fall wonders reveal!
Let the sun shine all day long
Let all children play and be strong!
I still can feel the breezy winds
Carefully touching my soft skin.
Fall is the best season of all
I’d like to shout out Fall!

Katy Arutyunyan  Grade 3

The Jungle

As I glare at the shimmering blue water gliding down the rocks, a massive toad hops in the water. As I stroll through the trees, I turn my head and sea a waterfall trickling down. I hear birds humming nearby. I find the end of the waterfall and see a series of emerald green fish gliding through the water. My feet start to get cold and my palms are sweaty. I hover over the water. As the mist fills my face with glee, my reflection and I laugh at each other. As the ruby sun comes down, the diamond moon takes its place in the sky. The moon looks as if it is dipped in vanilla ice cream. As the crickets sing, the night noises begin their lullaby.

Connor Winston  Grade 4
Splish Splash

I imagine myself at the beach. The beautiful clear water is all I can see. The bright sun shines in my eyes. The scaly jumping fish swim with the dolphins who make a big splash that makes me wet. The dark clouds make pictures in the sky framed by a colorful rainbow. I see a bird soaring by and a big palm tree with glittering green leaves. There is a fuzzy caterpillar crawling up my leg. The water is very, very, very clear and I see a wrinkled turtle floating nearby. A beautiful butterfly twirls past me as I open my eyes and realize it was all a dream.

Sammi Robbins
Grade 2

The waves were crashing against my body. The sand was all over the floor. There were shells everywhere. Birds were flying across the water. It was very fun because my cousins were there, too. We went to the beach every day. We built sand castles. From the beach house, there was a pathway to the beach. One of the guests at the house could build amazing animals out of sand. He built a hippo to its actual size! I also liked to race my cousins, but sometimes we would run into one of the sand animals. Then we went back to the house for a jumping contest in the pool. I loved the summer we spent in South Carolina.

Jake Loeser
Grade 2

A Day on the Beach

Blue waves crashing the sand.
Up to 10 feet they reach.
Smooth sand between my toes.
Jet skis, rumbling waves, screaming.
Not a cloud in the sky.
The smell of salt, a big whoosh of wind.
What a day at the beach!

Craig Zager
Grade 3

Rain

Plip! Plop! What is that? Let's look outside the window. It is rain, can you see. There are lots of puddles when it rains. The sky is full of dark clouds. There are not many animals but there is only one scared and lonely squirrel outside in the front yard looking for nuts. I hope the rain stops and the sun comes out so we can play. What was that? Plip! Plop!
Rain is part of nature.

Maximilian von Kahle
Grade 1

Waterfall Wonders

Climbing up the steep hill, I stop to look up at the gleaming sun which looks like a warm lit fireplace on a cold winter night. I sat down and placed my bare feet into the warm water. A mist of water was forced towards the warm water. I can hear birds chirping as if they are singing a morning song. Nearby I hear water crashing onto the rocks. The taste of salty water is on my tongue. I have an unresisting urge to jump into the crystal clear creek. Jumping in the water I land with a BIG SPLASH! As I swim around, the water is surrounding me like a blanket on a bed. I wandered into the woods and stood in front of an oak tree. I looked up and wondered “What would the jungle look like from up there?” As I squirm my way through branches and leaves, I get to the top. It is amazing. It reminds me of a tropical paradise. Not the kind where you might go on vacation, but a place reserved for the wildest creatures.

Sydney Silverstein
Grade 4
Silent. Everything is silent. A lake in front of the mountains is shimmering as if someone added a special potion to it. All of the mountains’ reflection is clear on the lake, like someone was looking in a mirror. White snow on the mountain is the fluffy clouds in the sky. The lake is flat compared to the mountains that are as tall as skyscrapers. The sharp tops of the mountains are like needles.

Shades of black, white, grey, green, and blue cover everything. The water is as still as glass and the only thing in between mountains and lake is the small valley and a forest with endless trees. The mountains are as rough as sandpaper. And still, everything is silent.

Spencer Dee  
Grade 4

The Glacier

As the helicopter got lower and lower, I became very excited. We landed on a large piece of ice surrounded by huge, jagged mountains in Alaska. The doors slowly opened and I stepped out onto the glacier. The helicopter blades were still spinning and made it windy and cold. I trekked over to the guide so he could take us to explore the glacier. As he was guiding us to our destination, he taught us many things about the glacier. We learned that the big holes in the glacier were formed by large pieces of the mountain crashing into the glacier. As we continued exploring I began to hear the sound of water splashing. I was very nervous as we got closer and closer. Ahh! The destination was a freezing cold waterfall in the glacier. The clear water went crashing into the big white hole. It was the most beautiful sight of the glacier.

Lielle Morr  
Grade 2

Get your jackets on. Get ready for it. It is white. It is cold. It is winter. Let’s go ski down the snowy white mountain. Look at the beautiful trees covered with snow. Bundle up! It will be cold. Brrrr! In winter, there are lots of things to do. You can ski, make a snow fort, ice skate, have a snowball fight or build a snowman. The other seasons are fun too, but my favorite is winter.

Charlie Berman  
Grade 1

Winter

Winter is marvelous! You better get your jackets on! It’s cold out there! There are a lot of snowflakes falling from the sky. You hear a big crunch, crunch when you step on the hard snow. I could throw snowballs at my brother or build a snowman. A lot of bears hibernate in the cold, cold snow. All the animals find a cozy place to sleep. People build a big campfire so they will not get cold. I have never seen snow, but I can’t wait to see it soon!
Blossoms and Blooms

In the garden with all of the wonders of nature,
Tiny seeds stuck in the soggy soil and wet mud.
All the various blooming beautiful colors diving
assorted shapes and sizes like children
from all around the world.
One flower brings attention to my eyes,
it starts to bloom right in front of me
in the breezy midnight sky.
The day is over as the sun’s rays drift up
from its nap in the sky
the flower is as bloomed and big
as a giraffe’s neck in the clean breezy air.
The flower puts its petals down and drifts the
sparkly red flower petals away.

Sydney Bonchick
My Wonderful Garden

My garden makes my day. The fresh air
fills my body with happiness! My sister and I
raise beautiful creatures. They are butterflies.
They flutter all around my head, filling me with
such promise. I wonder what it would be like if I
were a butterfly? I might fly to the top of the
sky like a soaring bird, so happy that I could fly
all day!

Paige Gillon

I love flowers. They are so pretty! I saw
one yesterday and I think it was the prettiest
one I had ever seen. It was a yellow and brown
sunflower.

Avery Boos

Tip! Tap! Tip! Tap! The crystal blue
water is like a symphony making music to my
ears. Glaring over to the pond, I see a frog
jumping like it is playing hopscotch. Water is
dripping down my face. My hands are swinging
in the air while my feet are swaying back and
forth in the water. The vibrant colors on the
breathtaking flower are popping up at me like
fireworks. As I hover over the water, my
reflection and I laugh at each other. I walk
away and so does my reflection. I suddenly
hear myself whispering goodbye to the frog
that quickly jumped on the lily pad. As the day
comes to an end, this beautiful moment will
become a memory.

Natalie Linares

Whoosh, whoosh! The wind strained
itself through the brilliant field of beautiful
flowers that gracefully waved from side to side.
Sunflower stems were as skinny as sticks and
had rounded brown centers. The position of
the field gave the flowers a glow that made
them resemble mini, yellow, fiery suns gleaming
in the sky. Leafy green and droopy leaves
shaded all dirt from view.
The lazy town behind the field looked
peaceful and joyful. The bulky, thick, emerald
colored trees were covered with little, sharp
bristles. Little thistles lay scattered like a
puzzle ready to be made on the fine dirt path.
My mom called me. It was time to leave. I took
one last fleeting look at the beautiful town
behind me. I was somber from having to leave,
but I gave in and we drove off.

Sophie Amador

Grade 1
In the garden with all of the wonders of nature, Tiny seeds stuck in the soggy soil and wet mud. All the various blooming beautiful colors diving assorted shapes and sizes like children from all around the world. One flower brings attention to my eyes, it starts to bloom right in front of me in the breezy midnight sky. The day is over as the sun’s rays drift up from its nap in the sky the flower is as bloomed and big as a giraffe’s neck in the clean breezy air. The flower puts its petals down and drifts the sparkly red flower petals away.

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My Wonderful Garden

My garden makes my day. The fresh air fills my body with happiness! My sister and I raise beautiful creatures. They are butterflies. They flutter all around my head, filling me with such promise. I wonder what it would be like if I were a butterfly? I might fly to the top of the sky like a soaring bird, so happy that I could fly all day!

Paige Gillon

Flowers

I love flowers. They are so pretty! I saw one yesterday and I think it was the prettiest one I had ever seen. It was a yellow and brown sunflower.

Avery Boos

Flower

Tip! Tap! Tip! Tap! The crystal blue water is like a symphony making music to my ears. Glaring over to the pond, I see a frog jumping like it is playing hopscotch. Water is dripping down my face. My hands are swinging in the air while my feet are swaying back and forth in the water. The vibrant colors on the breathtaking flower are popping up at me like fireworks. As I hover over the water, my reflection and I laugh at each other. I walk away and so does my reflection. I suddenly hear myself whispering goodbye to the frog that quickly jumped on the lily pad. As the day comes to an end, this beautiful moment will become a memory.

Natalie Linares

Town of Beauty

Wooosh, whoosh! The wind strained itself through the brilliant field of beautiful flowers that gracefully waved from side to side. Sunflower stems were as skinny as sticks and had rounded brown centers. The position of the field gave the flowers a glow that made them resemble mini, yellow, fiery suns gleaming in the sky. Leafy green and droopy leaves shaded all dirt from view.

The lazy town behind the field looked peaceful and joyful. The bulky, thick, emerald colored trees were covered with little, sharp bristles. Little thistles lay scattered like a puzzle ready to be made on the fine dirt path. My mom called me. It was time to leave. I took one last fleeting look at the beautiful town behind me. I was somber from having to leave, but I gave in and we drove off.

Sophie Amador
I Love Fall

As summer passes by
Frogs fill their bellies with lots and lots of flies
As flower buds begin to die
Birds fly south in the beautiful sky
Pumpkins shine very, very bright
And kids go out on Halloween night
People dress up in costumes
going house to house
As wind brushes through my hair
Halloween will pass with a scare

Sarah Bell
Grade 3

Fall in Florida

As I walk outside, I feel the cool breeze flying through my hair. Lots of kids are running around as the leaves swiftly brush by. I look up and I see airplanes and birds soaring in the sky with not a single cloud blocking my view. I could see lots of colorful rainbows in the sky. Red, orange, yellow... beautiful! I think that fall in Florida is one of the best seasons of all.

Jack Levine
Grade 3

The Leaves that Fall

The leaves that fall are no ordinary leaves. They’re brave, courageous and strong. They’re the colors of fire, wild and free. They don’t hold back when it’s time to let go. They are explorers when carried by the wind. They like to twist, turn, and dive, soaring up so high, not afraid of the sky. They are seeing all the sights and they are not worried about the heights. Leaves glide up and down, soaring left and right, looking for a place to fall before the wind stops blowing. When the wind stops blowing, the leaves will fall, completing the fiery quilt covering the ground.

David Skaff
Grade 5

Fall Forever

Bubble, bubble, splash, bubble, bubble splash, goes the river as the bubbly shiny water crashes against the steel hard rock in a splash. How still the dark green spongy moss sits on the rocks, like a bird perched on a tree. How gracefully the red, yellow, orange and brown leaves fall on the ground and also in the crystal blue water until the strong wind sails. It smells like maple leaves. As the day comes to its end it gets quieter and the river calms down. The spongy moss still sits. The leaves stop falling, waiting, waiting for a peaceful new day to come.

Megan Eaton
Grade 3

In the bright sky deep in the forest a colorful pile of rusty orange, lemon yellow leaves are hidden under the ground. A flock of birds soars in the sky like a floating cloud in the air. Leaves sway in the sun set. Crashing waterfalls are flowing in the river. One massive pile of leaves sways in the peaceful wind. Not a single cloud in the sky. Leaves are ready to fall and then to be raked. Quiet lonely crystal clear water flows gently in the wind. A flock of birds chirps very loudly way up in the sunny blue sky. Branches sway side to side. Smell the golden maple leaves swaying in the lovely peaceful wind.

Stella Fisher
Grade 3

Autumn

Cool breeze blows all around me,
There are blue birds in the sky,
when it gets too cold I go inside,
I can feel it getting colder every night,
it is very dark through my sight,
I can see pumpkins at every house

Alexa Bond
Grade 3
Forest Features

Fall Forest

The colorful beautiful leaves are changing into cherry red, coffee brown, minty green, and pumpkin orange. It feels like the colorful trees are chasing me across the long wide forest. The trees’ branches are massive as they stand still as a statue. The leaves are splattering down onto the hard forest floor. The nice cool wind feels like it is going to knock me down in the high leaf pile. I look up at the wide tree and wonder if there is a fussy baby squirrel playing with its friends. The pinecones smell delicious. You should go sometime too.

John Cannon

The Trees

Trees are shining and sparkling in the sun. Their tree trunks have brown bark on them that holds the deep green leaves. Birds are chirping from the gleaming branches of these trees, while the leaves are swaying in the wind. The branches are hanging from the force of the wind. The sun is making everything gleam. It is as yellow as a lemon and as orange as an orange. The trees are getting warmed by the sun’s heat.

John Cannon

The Coconut Tree

When I was outside I saw a tree. I climbed the tree and I got a coconut. I picked it and washed it. Then my mom cut it in half and I ate some!

Shelby Welt

Nature

Have you ever heard the dry, colorful leaves crunch when you step in them? When it is fall, all the leaves fall to the ground. It is fun to jump in the heap of leaves. It is also fun to collect the leaves and put them in a basket. In the fall, all the leaves change their colors. They turn red like roses, yellow like the sun and orange like pumpkins. The leaves look so beautiful. It is almost winter, so all the animals have to hibernate. The bears go in their caves, and they fall fast asleep. I love nature.

Madison Draizin
Riding over the waves in the ocean, I see a beautiful sunset painting a colorful rainbow on the canvas of sky. The sun starts to sink into the vast, crisp, clear ocean. I can taste the soothing, salty sea water as it flies into my mouth. I can feel the sonic-speed of the wind whistling in my ears. I listen for sounds of the night as the air talks to me in its strange language saying “Night is near.” I smell the salt that hovers in the air. It becomes a sweet temptation to my senses. Suddenly, the shadows of night creep into sight. The sun vanishes into a cloak of darkness. Then the moon lights up the night sky. It looks after me as I safely glide through the water to shore.

Hoot! Hoot! It called, gleaming in the starry night sky. Its eyes were as yellow and as perfect as shiny little pearls that were just polished. Its caramel dipped smooth feathers were so beautiful. It was sitting on top of an evergreen tree. It looked like a statue so quiet and still. Hoot! Hoot! I called. Not a peep came from the owl. One more time I called. The owl spread its wings and flew down to the snow. Its silver claws sunk in the shimmering white fluffy snow...Suddenly it took off soaring through the glorious night sky. It called to me. It was getting smaller and smaller and smaller until... Poof it was gone, flying with a group of coffee colored owls flying up to the big white moon.

The purple sky is topped with marshmallow clouds. The fiery sun is slowly lowering to the silent beach. The only sound you hear is the wind blowing among the shore and you smell the salty breeze and you taste the salt in the air. You look into the starry sky, purple is turning to dark blue, dark blue is turning to black. The second you know it’s nighttime you slowly fall asleep.

The great white ball in the night looks like a new puppy’s white fur. It is so huge it feels like I can touch it. It stands proud with the stars all over the black sky. It makes my white curtains in my room glow vibrantly. There is a picture of it reflecting in my eyes. It looks like a disco ball dancing slowly. When I drive in my car it seems like the moon is always following me. I love that shining blue beautiful bright ball in the night.
Outside Adventures

Nature is Pretty

Nature is part of our environment. Blue birds, orange trees, pink flowers, busy bees, beautiful sunlight and the bright sun are all part of nature. Busy bees make delicious honey. Orange, tall trees give us paper and shade. You can hear the blue birds whistling in the blue sky. Pink flowers give us pollen and smell good. The bright sun gives us beautiful sunlight that we enjoy. All these are nice and amazing things that are important to nature.

One fall day I went outside to explore the outdoors. When I took my first step out the door I felt so alive. When I walked in the autumn world, I discovered that there were many trees in the woods. Breathing the fresh fall air made me feel like a leaf. It was great to be alive that day but there was still more exploring to do the next day. I ran as fast as ants to a picnic all the way home. That night I had dreams about what I would find the next day.

The Crack of Dawn

The crack of dawn dazzles in the air like a newborn beautiful baby bird. Morning has arrived. It lights up my day in a way that shimmers, like glitter raining down from above. The chirp of the birds communicating with each other is like a secret language.

When I Go Outside

When I go outside I hear singing birds and kids. The kids play. The birds chirp. The kids love the smell of nature. The kids feel the breeze on their arms and faces.

When I go outside I see little black bugs creeping and crawling around the playground. I hear the wind blowing and the trees are shaking. It feels cold on my arms. I like the whistling wind. The birds like it too so they chirp.

Nature

Nature is when you are in a forest. I love nature. It is fun. Some leaves feel soft but pine tree needles are pointy. The pine cones prick your fingers. The pine trees are cool because they are brown and the roots are strong. The pine tree looks like a big tower in the forest. It is big and tall.

Today is a Beautiful Day

Today is an amazing day. The sun is warming me. The sky is clear blue. The sky is following me like a bird flying through the sky chasing his friend. I can hear the birds chirping. It's like a bird singing a lullaby to me. The sun is in the right place over me. I see a beautiful bird soaring through the marvelous blue sky and diving to his home.

Mother Nature

When I was outside I looked at Mother Nature. My mommy was also looking outside. There were lots of squirrels climbing up the trees.

Love Nature

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The Time I Found a Sand Dollar

One summer day I went to Marco Island. We went to the beautiful and breezy beach. The gold shiny sand was very soft like a blanket and also tickled my dainty little feet as they started to burn from the hot sand. I started to run fast in the sparkling sand as my beautiful brown hair flowed in the glittering wind. I walked into the salty warm ocean water and saw something sticking out of the pretty sand. I bent down to take a closer look. I picked it up and in my hand I was holding a gorgeous and beautiful sand dollar. I looked up at the glittering blue sky and smiled brightly like a shiny star. I felt so happy and proud of myself. I felt the heat burning down on me. Finally, I saw my rod bending and the line going out. I picked up the rod and started reeling. I battled back and forth. I could see a wiggling blue shadow under the water. I pulled it out of the water. It was a grey fish with white stripes and a yellow tail. My dad helped me put the fish in the ice chamber. When we got back to the dock I took a picture with the fish.

Hannah Kuker

I couldn’t believe it! I thought my brother caught a shark or a dolphin, but it was a big fish. It almost made my brother, my dad, and our guide fall off the boat. We lost the fish, but it ate our live bait. My brother and I were bored so we played with our live bait. My brother ripped the live bait open. Then he threw the live bait into the ocean.

Fishy Trip

Daniela Porges

Trudging up a steep hill, the snow was a soft slippery blanket covering the ground. Peering at a shiny lake of juicy glimmering prizes, my mouth was watering. Daddy seal was guiding me, ready to teach me how to catch trout. Plummetering down the hill, I’m ready to try. Slap! Slap! Slap! I climb up. I dart down! Ready for my first catch! I plunge into the water. It’s freezing my furry face! The icy water brushes against me. I catch a trout! It slips away. I come up for a breath, and then try again. I catch a slippery fish! I clench it hard and tight and go up to the surface. Leaving the lake, the sunset is a colorful hue.

Sydni Dichter

Splish! Splash! Splish! I am a humpback whale with a snail on my tail of shimmering ice and coral caves. I stand there being happy and brave. Enormous waves cover me while I glide in the deep blue sea. Turquoise are the seas and misty are the skies. I’m a humpback whale floating by. Blue, white and black are the colors surrounding me. This is an amazing, glazing color of mountain and ice. The sea shimmers like sparkling glass. The ice is a million layers of white blankets.

Sarah Tiktin

In the water I was rocking side to side. I felt the heat burning down on me. Finally, I saw my rod bending and the line going out. I picked up the rod and started reeling. I battled back and forth. I could see a wiggling blue shadow under the water. I pulled it out of the water. It was a grey fish with white stripes and a yellow tail. My dad helped me put the fish in the ice chamber. When we got back to the dock I took a picture with the fish.
**Animal Jam**

**Cheetah**

Mama cheetah runs toward me, panting in a weird way. She takes me back to our pack. The sky looks like a combination of pink lemonade and orange juice. I feel the moonlight crawling up my spine. I am starving. Suddenly, a big and juicy zebra runs past me. When the time is right, I pounce on my mouthwatering treat. I bring it back to my pack. Everybody stares at me in astonishment. We share the meat in dead silence. My fur tingles as the rays of the sun get my attention. Yay! Daddy Cheetah returns to the wide open space of our pack. As I lick his silky fur, I feel a nudge of fur swipe across my face like windshield wipers on a car. It is a new baby cheetah!

Julia Musso  
Grade 4

**Snail**

There is a small snail in the park. The snail is slithering and looking for food. It finds a small leaf to eat. Then it moves very slowly towards a tree. It rested in the tree.

Julio Arana  
Grade 1

**Panda-monium**

Fluffy bodies are gently fighting over a piece of bamboo. As I passed them and looked out of the truck they stopped and stared at me with a sparkle in their eyes as if they were in a trance. They tried to follow us but we were going to fast until they were two big blotches of marshmallow white and midnight sky pitch black. Although when we stopped for a break so we could relax, I saw two little animals running until they got bigger and bigger until they became two tired, fuzzy pandas. I felt like they would pounce on me but when they got close they skidded to a stop.

As I got a closer look I could see the sunlight bouncing off their fur. They had a look of hunger in their eyes; we found two large pieces of bamboo and watched them chomp it down. As they ate I petted them and it felt like I was touching a cloud. When they finished they stared at me like they wanted more. I loved seeing the little pandas and hated seeing them go. So sadly we put them back.

Fern Pholawan  
Grade 4

**The Hibernating Bear**

The bear was hibernating. His friends came to his cave but he was asleep. Then it was summer and he was still hibernating!

Ryan Sands  
Grade 1

**My Friend Frog**

Ribbit, ribbit! I hear some frogs. I am amazed at how big they are. “Can I pet the frogs?” I ask their owners. “Sure,” they tell me. At first I am scared, but then I get used to them. Then we become best friends. My new friend taught me some tricks. He showed me what he eats. He eats flies. He also showed me where he lives. He lives near his pond so then he can catch lots of flies. All of a sudden he started hopping around. I thought he was dancing. He is bouncing. His dancing makes me laugh.

Jacob Militzok  
Grade 2
Have you seen a fat dog? Well I sure have! In fact, it is my pet. My brown dog is very sensitive, and that is it. Oh no! How could I have forgotten this! He is super fat! He eats everything! He looks like a mad genius. His face goes down then splits up into two, like a banana peel. His brown fur makes him look like Chewbacca the Wookie. If you put five plates of chicken in front of him he would probably eat it all up. He only barks for food. He also fights with my other dog over food. My dog makes my life interesting.

Jake Morris

The First Time I Held a Puppy

While driving with my Dad and the windows wide open in the car, I felt the warm, sunny afternoon and the breeze starting to kick in. When we arrived, I saw there were black tiny 6 week old puppies. They were graceful, lovely, sweet, and soft. My dad asked me if I wanted to hold one and I answered yes. It was as soft as a baby panda, but it started to make whining noises and it started to bark very lightly at first. It sneezed more and more, but the puppy was fine. Finally it started to whisper while it cuddled with me. It wrapped around my hands and gave me a small wet tiny kiss. It felt great, excellent and astonishing holding a black puppy and it was a lifetime experience.

Daniela Palacios

I opened the door. I heard dogs barking. It smelled like dog food. We went to the back of the store. We saw three Rottweilers in a cage cuddling together. They were cute. They were small, brown and black. We asked if we could hold them. They were soft. They were 20 dollars each. We took them all home. Ruff!

Damian Duquesne

Thinking about her dazzling beady eyes and her soft hazel hair, I realized how much I missed her. She was no longer there. She barked in my dreams as I thought about her generous and gentle personality. Her fuzzy hair was a white cloud from the sky. She was cuter than a button to me and all my friends. She was my apple dipped in honey on holidays. She was my multicolored special birthday cake on my birthday. Why was I so worked up about my dog? I knew she was gone.

Her tail was curled and stubby. Her ears were droopy like a monkey swinging on a vine. I got up out of my sparkling spectacular bed and searched my enormous house for clues. I looked for anything from scaly to fluffy, from smooth to spotted, but I found absolutely nothing. Even when I tried to give her delicious scrumptious food she would not come. I was so petrified what had happened to my bold gentle dog. She was as tall as a skyscraper. She had a small curly tail. I was only dreaming. I woke up and I found my bright shimmering dog.

Jason Rosenberg
Tori Alfero  
Joah Barrero  
Nicholas Barron  
Daniella Batievsyky  
Marti Bennett  
Sophia Bugnone  
Adam Feinstein  
Apostoli Floyd  
Josh Gates  
Bridget Gillon  
Brian Goldberg  
Jaden Katz  
Selin Kilinc  
Daniella Kubilium  
Hannah Kuker  
Paul Levine  
Ella Marshall  
Navya Mehta  
Jake Moss  
Ross Poehlman  
Joymarie Puskadi  
Luca Zislin  

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