

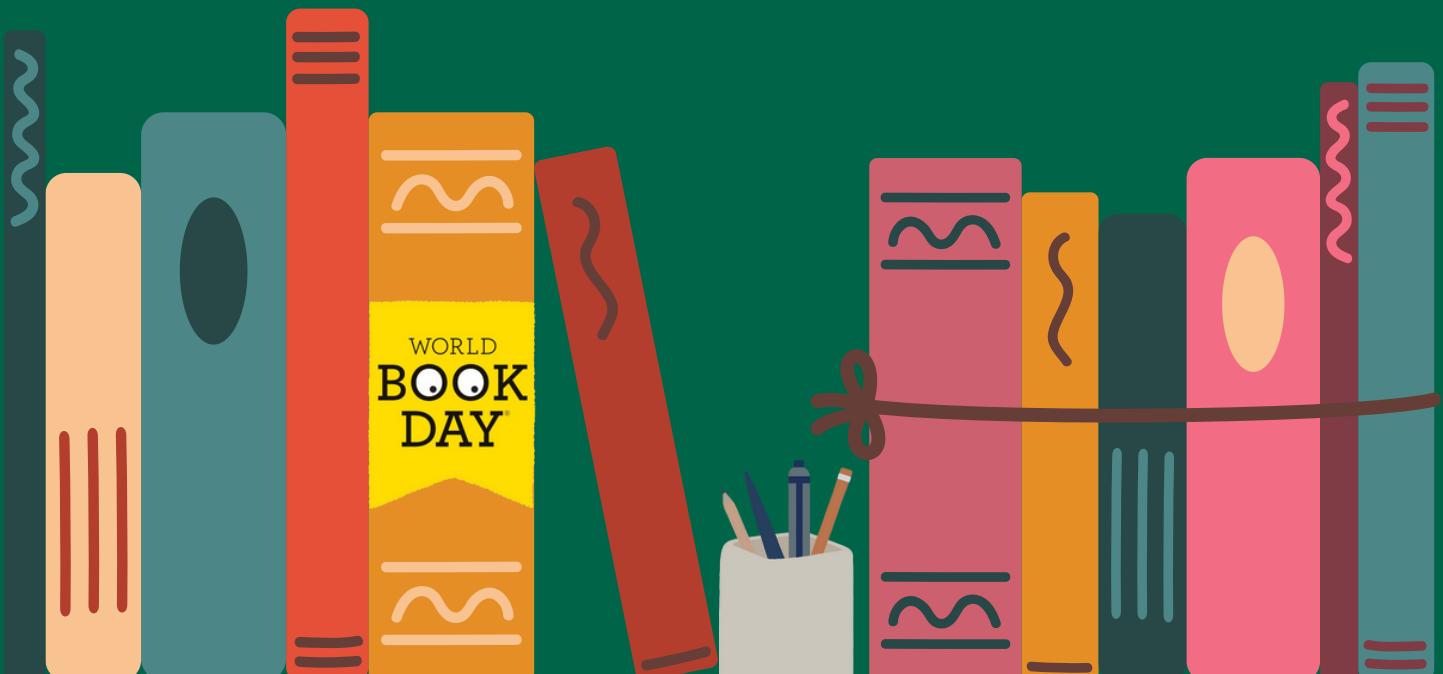


MICHAEL SHANKS

Member of Parliament
for Rutherglen

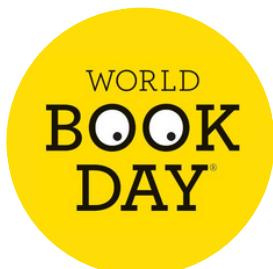
Short Story Competition

Winners of 2025



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Introduction

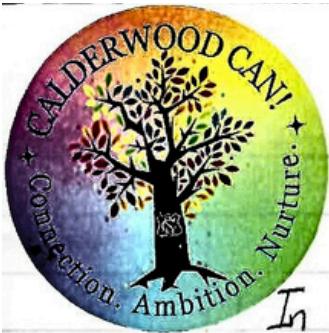
Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to my short story competition this year.

I received hundreds of entries from P5 to P7 pupils from primary schools across the constituency. From ghost stories to whodunnit thrillers to a future alien invasion of Rutherglen - it was amazing to see the range of ideas all the pupils came up with.

This book includes all of this year's winning entries. Congratulations to Katie Queen and her story "Shadows of Rutherglen" which was my top pick this year.

Best wishes,
Michael





Shadows of Rutherglen

Katie Queen, P7
Calderwood Primary

In the heart of Rutherglen, in the year 1647, the air was thick with whispers of betrayal and secrets. The village, nestled between the rolling hills and the River Clyde, was a place where shadows danced in the flickering light of the lanterns, and every corner held a story waiting to be uncovered. Flora, a young woman with fiery red hair and a spirit to match, had always felt a pull towards the mysterious woods that bordered her home.

One stormy night, as the wind howled and rain lashed against the windows, Flora's curiosity overcame her. She slipped out of her cottage, her heart pounding with a mix of fear and excitement. The woods were said to be enchanted, a place where the veil between the living and the spirits of the past was thin. With only a lantern to guide her, she ventured deeper into the dark embrace of the trees.

As she walked, the sound of her footsteps was swallowed by the thick underbrush. Suddenly, a flicker of movement caught her eye. A figure, cloaked in shadows, darted between the trees. Flora's heart raced. Was it a spirit, or perhaps someone from the village? She followed the figure, driven by a mix of dread and intrigue.

The figure led her to a clearing where the moonlight illuminated a circle of ancient stones, each etched with runes that pulsed with a faint, eerie glow. In the center stood a tall man, his face obscured by a hood. Flora felt an overwhelming urge to approach, but a voice whispered

in her mind to turn back. Yet, she couldn't resist the pull of the unknown.

"Who goes there?" the man called out, his voice deep and resonant. Flora stepped into the light, her lantern casting a warm glow on her face. "I am Flora of Rutherford", she replied, her voice steady despite the fear coursing through her veins.

The man lowered his hood, revealing piercing blue eyes that seemed to see right through her. "You should not be here, Flora. This place is cursed". He gestured to the stones. "They bind the spirits of those wronged in life. They seek vengeance".

Flora's curiosity ignited. "What do you mean? Who are you?"

"I am Ewan, a guardian of these woods. I protect the living from the wrath of the spirits." His expression darkened. "But I cannot hold them back forever. They are growing restless, and soon they will break free".

Just then, a low rumble echoed through the clearing, and the ground trembled beneath their feet. Flora stumbled, her lantern flickering wildly. Shadows began to swirl around them, whispering her name, calling her to join them. Panic surged within her.

"What do I do?" she cried, her voice rising above the chaos.

Ewan reached for her, but before he could grasp

her hand, the shadows surged forward, engulfing him. "You must leave, Flora! Do not look back!" he shouted, his voice fading into the darkness.

Flora's heart raced as she turned to flee, the shadows clawing at her heels. She ran through the woods, branches scratching at her skin, the whispers growing louder, more insistent. Just as she reached the edge of the trees, she glanced back one last time.

The clearing was empty, the stones silent. But then, from the depths of the woods, a figure emerged - Ewan, his eyes now glowing with an otherworldly light. "You cannot escape your fate!" he called, his voice echoing through the night.

Flora stumbled back, her breath catching in her throat. The shadows were closing in, and she realised with a chilling certainty that the true horror was only just beginning.

Katie Queen ~ Calderwood PS - P7 R14

Going back in time to the mine

On a crisp autumn afternoon I was walking home after having an amazing time at the local cafe when I saw the Cambuslang Miners Monument. I had always walked past it but never really looked at it. I peered at my watch. I had fifteen minutes to walk home and I thought a little look would be good so I walked over and saw what was engraved on the metal plate that was secured to the monument. It felt like I was staring right at the history of Cambuslang. Looking at the iron bars supporting the wheel of the monument I thought I could climb on the brick base to grab a picture.

When I grabbed the cold iron bar, colours suddenly started swirling around me - black, greys and whites clouded my vision. I felt super dizzy but lucky for me the colours stopped after a couple of seconds. I looked around it seemed as if I was in a mine but not in my time no it was like I was back in time

Quickly I asked someone for help but they merely said that I should get back to work. After wandering around aimlessly for a while someone came up to me begging me to help find her child. "He is a young boy, maybe a year younger than you, brown eyes and black hair," she said. I ran through bunches of workers. I knew that this was a big problem but what I didn't know is that it was about to get a lot worse!

Suddenly an extremely loud siren went off warning everyone. During all the chaos I gathered that there was gas in the mine. At that moment I had to make a choice, take the risk of trying to find the kid or try to escape and hope the boy is ok. As the siren started to die down I could hear a faint cry for help. I ran as fast as I could but the gas made me weaker and just as I was about to turn around I saw that his leg was definitely broken, that was why he couldn't escape. We had to escape now or the gas would just about kill us. I placed the boy's arm around my shoulder then I practically carried him up but he did help by hobbling. I could feel myself going in and out of consciousness because of the deadly gas. I could see the opening of the mine. I finally lept out of the mine but instead of being in the past I was in the present.

I took a deep breath of fresh air. It felt so nice not to inhale a little bit of dirt every time I breathe . I looked at my watch again and it had only been five minutes. I continued on my walk home trying to process what had just happened and how I was going to tell my Mum.

Esme Dempster
Primary 7
St Cadoc's Primary School

Story Competition Entry - Joel Egun

Elemental

Hello there! I'm your narrator, and I'm going to tell you about a boy called Dave. But before we dive into the story, I unfortunately have to tell you the boring details. Let me explain. Dave comes from a parallel universe, where he lives in Cambuslang. He lives in a universe where every living thing survives on a little thing called crystalites. However, crystalites energy can be harnessed and turned into power by combining crystalites with certain items. For instance, to make the nature element you need a flower, some grass, and strawberries. Now, let's jump into our story!

Dave was 12 years old. He was raised in Cambuslang where he was trained in the water element. He went to Elemental School, where he had made a friend called Sam. Sam and Dave were best friends and were excited for later on today. You see, in this universe, once you're a teenager, you can leave into the wilderness where you can master any of the elements outside of the Water-Grass-Rock-Fire combo. You could learn new elements like the cosmic element, an incredibly rare element. Sam and Dave were preparing to leave home as they had just turned 13.

When they left, they started by setting up a cosy camp near a ravine, in case they needed to go mining for crystalites, as crystalite energy can run out. But, before they knew it, they were attacked by a vicious creature! Sam tried to fight it off, but he was too weak. As he braced for impact with the creature, he heard a voice.

"Moon! Vuelve aqui!" shouted a man, "Sorry about that! Moon the lunar dog will often greet humans through the act of licking!"

"Who... are you?" asked Sam.

"I am The Supreme I'm looking to destroy the local village nearby, I think it was called... Cambuslandy!"

Dave had read about The Supreme in history class. He was a merciless ruler who cared about no one but himself.

"We need to get out of here!" whispered Dave.

"Agreed," said Sam as he tiptoed away from The Supreme.

"Where are you going? You're my new servant!" said The Supreme. Sam attempted to explain.

"Sorry, but byeee!" said Sam, sprinting off into the distance. Did I say "explain"? I meant to say run. This was soon to be regretted though.

You see to be regretted. You see, any body who shows fear to The Supreme are more easily captured, soon shown when Sam was covered in chains, prevented from moving. This infuriated Dave. This man who he had only just met, had just taken his best and only friend. His heart started thumping rapidly, His blood started boiling. He was. FURIOUS.

Then something started to happen to him. He felt a current running through his body. He started glowing and levitating. He

Felt empowered. These were signs of being The Chosen One. Not much is known about The Chosen One, except that whoever is it supposedly has unlimited power. He was amazing, and then... He woke up. Lying up in bed he saw a piece of chain, wrapped around Sam's foot. He smirked. He was The Chosen One.

THE END!



Irn-Bru disaster

By Nikolai Healy
St Joseph's primary
Age: 12

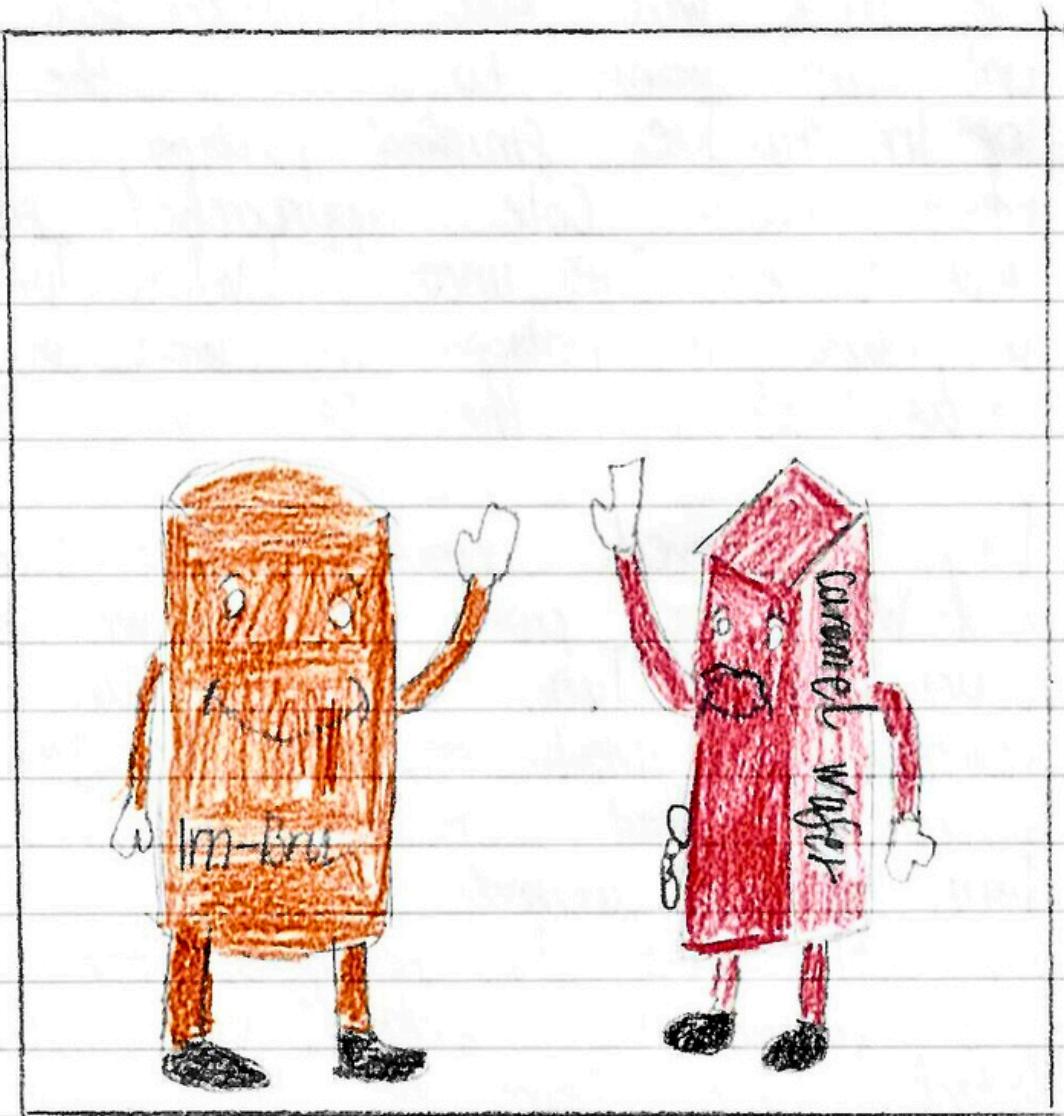
It was a sunny day in Blantyre and Joe the Irn-Bru can was doing his shopping in the local Tesco's. Joe is the owner of Irn-Bru and therefore knows the secret recipe of Irn-Bru. Joe's Irn-Bru factory is located in the middle of Blantyre.

Joe had just finished his shopping and was heading to his car but lurking in the shadows of the car park was Cole the Coca Cola can, he is evil and wants to find out the secret recipe of Irn-Bru. Joe finished putting his shopping away when suddenly Cole approached from behind and knocked Joe unconscious. When Joe finally regained consciousness he noticed he was in the Coca Cola factory! at the other side of Blantyre.

Days passed and Irn-Bru started to run out. With Joe gone nobody was making Irn-Bru. Soon Detective Tunn the Tunocks caramel wager started to investigate. First he started investigating where Joe had last been seen, Tesco! Detective Tunn soon arrived at Tesco and asked to see the security footage. After carefully reviewing the footage he spotted Cole kidnapping Joe. Detective Tunn drove to the police station and asked to borrow two officers.

Joe was tied to a chair and Cole was asking questions about the secret recipe. Joe kept quiet. Cole offered Joe freedom if he gave him the secret recipe. Joe was about to agree but suddenly Detective Tunn along with two officers burst into the factory. The two officers arrested Cole while Detective Tunn freed Joe. Cole was arrested and brought to jail.

Coca Cola was shut down and removed from Blantyre. Joe ended up becoming world famous for his Im-Bru. The End.



Abdullah amin
primary 7
spittal primary

The magical books

One magical day at rutherglen library

BOOKS STARTED MOVING

magically everybody were surprised and
freezed in shock people started rushing out
of the library like chickens and screaming.

After the governments discovered that it
wasn't only a few ALL THE BOOKS

they were living LIFE. After a while they
decided to shut the library down they tried
to kill the books but the books were to
powerful cause of their magic and leaved it
thats why they shut it down...because of

any other accidents killing people warning.
After days weeks months years one day
two boys decided to go in the years
abandoned library ruled by MAGIC two
boys went in at night as soon as they
stepped wind howling dust everywhere
astonished by magical books in front of
them the books instantly freeze as normal
books ready to attack for entering the
castle little did they know they had a
magical book KING AND QUEEN they
literally made it a whole castle whole army
knights people the two boys decided to go

FURTHER without realising their mistake what's about to happen. The books were ready to attack but the king and queen stopped. King said PEOPLE SPARED US SO WE WILL DO THE SAME THING BY NOT KILLING THEM IF THEY DO SILLY THINGS WE WILL KILL THEM the two boys explored for half and hour decided to leave but they wanted to take a book which was a knight the king said ATTACK!!!! they attacked with their magical power the boys ran leaving the book safely escaped. The

two boys realised that's why they weren't lying it wasn't the end they wanted to end those magical book before causing any more deaths already 50 people died. After a week they came back but prepared this time they were ARMORED PROTECTION last time they went they were shooting fire blasts and water blasts it burned but not so hot they had fire protection gear and a shield to kill but little did they know that's not the only power they had they had the king had the power of VENOMOUS power meaning if they get hit by it they will

be poisoned and die under an hour but they
didn't know that they had venomous power
they went inside to burn all the books but it
wasn't only two boys it was 10 boys
flamethrower the books were ready for the
finale of WAR the war went on fire blasts
on left water blasts o right the whole
rutherglen getting burned when the police
saw this they decided to end this and help
the boys the whole police army came to
finish this magical books they fightied for
weeks but the books were lessing and people
died in this was injured but at the ens the

king and queen were alive the king and queen begged for mercy but knew had to end this once and for all they burned them to crisp and ended this magical evolution and fixed the library and back on business

Ananya Wagar

Burgh Primary School
Primary 7
11 years old

Friday 31st January

500 Word Story competition

Trust your gut...

"Do I have to go?" groaned Jane. "Yes, you have to, I have heard great reviews from Burgh Primary, so you won't get bullied like last time. Plus, I've seen the kids line up in a nice straight line, no carry on!" said her mum.

"Ugh fine..." moaned Jane, stepping out of the car before slamming the door shut. "Out of all the people in the world, I have to have the worst luck," she thought. Jane was an eleven-year-old girl who lost her father two years ago. She was bullied at her last school, but she didn't want to move.

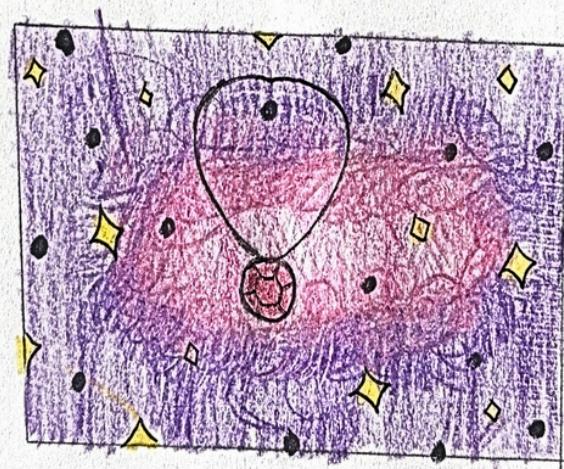
Jane soon stopped in front of an enormous building that was meant to be her new school. She pushed the heavy steel door before she was met with a grumpy old lady who looked like she didn't want to be there. Her eyes looked as red as flames. "Hello, and who are you?" she muttered. "I'm Jane, this is my first day coming to this school." The old lady paused before giving her a piece of paper. "That is your class, it's on the second floor."

Jane pushed door after door, climbed staircase after staircase to get to her class. It was awfully tiring. After walking through the endless corridors, she finally found her class. 'Room C2A'. Jane walked in. As soon as she did, all eyes darted towards her. A queasy feeling shot through her body. "Well, hello," said the teacher. "You must be the new student?" "Yes," said Jane mutely. "Perfect timing because it is break-time, girls and boys, you are dismissed," said the teacher. At once, simultaneously, all the girls and boys stood up and walked. "Weird," thought Jane.

When walking down the stairs everyone stayed to the left, in a poker straight line. When they went into the playground, everyone stood in

groups, mumbling. Jane stood to the side munching on her crisps until a girl came over to her. The girl handed her a note. Confused, Jane looked at the paper and started to read it. On the note it said: "The head teacher wears a necklace that hypnotises any children that goes near her. You must pull the necklace off. Beware." Jane was about to go confront the girl before the bell rang and everyone started walking to their line.

As Jane slumped herself down in her chair, the teacher summoned Jane to go to the head teacher's office. Jane knocked on the door. "Come in," said a deep voice. Jane opened the door. She saw a lady in all black sitting at her desk. "Come closer to me dear," the head teacher said. Jane did as she was told, but when she did, she felt a weird, unexplainable feeling. Remembering what the note said, she immediately screamed before snatching the necklace off the head teacher's neck, but after, she didn't see the head teacher, all she saw was ashes drifting around her...



Time Travel Fun

By George Chambers

On December the twenty second we were in the Maldives for my TENTH BIRTHDAY! It was magnificent and the water was beautiful because it was so clear. Later on in the day this mysterious crab waddled up to me and said "take these portal machines and think about your favourite city or games Chose wisely".

When it was the next day I really wanted to try one of the portal machines so thought about Bothwell And it sent me right to Bothwell in one MILLISECOND! It was so bright and the skies were lovely. I looked around and saw my school so I thought I might try another place and I thought about Paris. In one blink I was THERE! The only building I wanted to see was the Eiffel tower and when we were there it was gigantic but the bad thing is that I only had a couple more portal machines left. I decided to use them wisely because I remembered what the crab said, "use them wisely" and then this thought came into my mind what if I go back in time to the TITANIC! So I thought about the Titanic and I was there in a split second. As soon as I was on the boat a man

gave me a ticket and told me "you are first class"! I asked him what his name was and he said "Bob Martin" I said thank you and then left. When we were on the boat it was so beautiful and even dinner was good. When it was night time i was sad because i did not want to leave the magnificent ship so I decided to stay till the morning. I was asleep until the ship started to rumble and when it did I opened my eyes and water was slowly rising and rising. I was frozen because the water was so cold and I mean it was very cold. I only had one more portal machine left so I thought about MALDIVES!

In one click i was there and the first thing i went to see was my Mum and Dad and they were so happy to see my safe. I was really happy to see them too and we decided to go and play some table tennis before we went to the airport because table tennis is so much fun. when we were in the airport and on the plane I told them all about my journey. When we were back home I was so happy and I was so tired so I went to bed. It was the next day and i told my Mum and Dad my Journey and they said "it was all a dream" but was it?

George Chambers

Bothwell P.S

Age : 10

The Very Grumpy Man

By Leo Boyle

Big fat Bill was known all around Cambuslang. But he was not known for a good reason. He would throw things, litter, and make people's day a living hell. Every day he would wake up and shout at his wife, she had enough but she didn't want to say anything because big fat Bill would get very, very mad!

Across the street from Big fat Bill lived Timmy and a girl called Hope, even though they did not like Big fat Bill they wanted to change him, change his life around make him happy, his wife always said to the kids that Bill was always happy but something changed him. Everyone in Cambuslang Said things behind his back, years ago. Evie, his wife's name, said she had tried and there is no point trying to help him. But Timmy and Hope-still wanted to give it a chance.

Timmy and Hope saw Big fat Bill walking along the road shouting at other kids, they quickly ran over to him quickly, Timmy and Hope said "Bill please listen to us we can help you to be happy again" Big fat Bill replied with "HOW DARE YOU ASK ABOUT ME BEING HAPPY, NEVER IN A MONTHS OF SUNDAYS I WILL BE HAPPY AGAIN" Timmy and Hope sighed. "We will never make him happy, it's impossible!" Said Timmy. "But we can still try. Even if you stop helping me I will keep doing it, I hate how Cambuslang is all dirty so I MUST help him"

It is almost Christmas now and Timmy and Hope have to act fast. They want Big Fat Bill to be happy for Christmas, they only have a couple more days. So, they started buying chocolates for him. They noticed he seemed more joyful, but he didn't look at it. As his wife keeps watching, glancing from a distance they keep trying to help. Slowly but surely, he starts to get happier he then stops littering then he also stops having a mad face. His wife was feeling better. She never thought it would work but there he was stating once in 10 years happy, he felt proud of himself. So was Timmy and Hope, they were also proud! That day was Christmas Eve. The next morning it was Christmas, and the town came to Bill's door to celebrate, and it left a happier ever ending.

Napoleon At My Door?

Munch, I had just taken a big bite into a panini with Mayonaise, ham, lettuce and tomato. "It is marvelous!" I whisper to myself when suddenly, "Knock, knock, knock!" Luca Hainsomewas was at the door. I hear my Gran St. go to open the door. I hear the handle open Columbelle as my Gran gasps. I was scared, I carefully Primary crouched to peek behind a wall. I see a mysterious figure talking to my gran. It is 11 years old like *deja vu* they are familiar yet I can't put my finger on it. Then my gran says excitedly "Napoleon Bonapart! It is you! But why are you out here in the glam instead of the island you died on?" I was stunned as soon as my gran said it was Napoleon Bonapart!?! Napoleon said with a husky yet sharp voice, "Yes it is I, Napoleon Bonapart! I need help from Luca, is he ^{is} available or here?" I was shell shocked?!? Three reasons, first he needs my help, second that he is alive and finally he can speak English!?! My gran says yes as I walk around the corner. Once we depart on the journey I start to look around. The sky is a brilliant shade of blue and there are no clouds in sight. I start to ask Napoleon a question "So... why do you

need my help. Thud I had just tripped over a pothole. I am in agony but decide to get up and power through the pain. After 20ish minutes of walking we get to Overton park, the place where he will reveal his plan and tell me what we will do. Napoleon whispers to me "we will need a more private place to not hear the plan." After saying this we climbed up a old oak tree so high now we could hear us then he began to speak "I came back to get the government to lower taxes." I decided there that I will help Napoleon. After a long while we went down the street to Burnside Tesco. We went inside and bought art supplies. I felt ~~self~~ conscious about the fact we kept on getting bizarre looks. Then and there I realised it was because Napoleon was ~~supp~~ supposed to be dead. He created a sign saying "Join our revolution to reduce lower taxes" Many, many people joined us and after 20 minutes we had recruited enough in Rutherford, practically an army. We Marched down to the place where the people that decided taxes headquartered and started the revolution. After an hour they finally agreed! Napoleon said he had to go and I went back to my house to eat my lunch. The End

THE WHISPERER

Michael and Matthew are having a sleepover at a hotel for 2 days. They head over to reception and check in. A kind woman gives them the keys to room 104 and warns them about her suspicious manager and to "NEVER LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR ROOM AFTER MIDNIGHT!" They headed to their room not giving it much thought. A couple hours later, they were bored so they went to the manager's office and listened through the door. They heard a man's voice talking to someone. "Yes, in this hotel there is someone we call *the whisperer* who goes around the rooms every night between 03:02 and 03:05 speaking in a language not even the *best* translator could understand. Legend says whoever locks eyes with him will die within the next day." They left before the last bit. "Anyone who was brave enough to look at him noticed he left from room 103, the always occupied room." That night they stayed up a little later to catch a glimpse of him. At 03:02 they saw a long shadowy figure emerge from the darkness. He looked in their direction.

“QUICK! DUCK!” They dived to the floor. Then peeked under the doorframe. They were able to sense something coming closer. Nearer and nearer. They looked again.

The next morning, they woke up in cold sweat. But they were fine. That's all that mattered. They were in one piece Thank God. There's a knock on the door. They open it to find a short and grumpy man with a badge that said “manager” on it. “Sorry boys,” he said gruffly “There's a termite infestation in your room. So, I will move you to room 103. The manager sounded like he was lying. But it was just an inkling. What could they do about it? They packed their stuff and headed to their new room. They felt a sudden chill when they entered. Tonight, they were going to actually *leave* the room when the whisperer came, instead of just looking.

-12 hours later-

“OW MICHAEL! THAT WAS MY ANKLE!” “I never touched you!” “Liar!” “Matthew the time!” They left the room with a torch, their room key

and a small knife (for self-defence) and left. They went downstairs and walked through a random corridor. What was then a hotel was now a labyrinth of doors, staircases and hallways. Through the maze they walked, turning every 10 seconds. Then... They came to a halt. Not because they hit a dead end, but because they couldn't move. Behind them they heard footsteps. Then the inaudible language. The darkness coming closer. WAIT! The hotel didn't have stairs... Where were they?

**Macie McManus -
St John the Baptist
Primary**

The Red Ribbon

There was once a girl named Jenny in 1979, she was a normal girl who loved school. She was 8 years old, and she went to school in Rutherglen, Fernhill. She was really loved by everyone, she was kind. One thing everyone found strange about her was that she always wore a red ribbon around her neck. But people didn't think much of it. One day, when it was playtime at her school, she went and sat on the swings. A boy called Henry came and sat on the swings and asked Jenny, "do you want to be friends with me?" Jenny replied, "Of course, why not?" Jenny was loved but she wasn't the kind of person to have a lot of friends. She disliked crowds and too many people around her. Henry told Jenny "One question, why do you always wear that ribbon around your neck?" Jenny told him "I don't want to tell you right now. I will tell you when then right time has come." Jenny left Henry super curious. Years passed, they were 16, And Henry asked Jenny, "It's been 7 years of our friendship, can you please tell me about the ribbon now?" Jenny refused to tell him about the ribbon. Henry was always super curious about the ribbon, he would ask her every day but he got tired of asking her and stopped asking her, until they got married. A day after their wedding, Henry asked her "Please, will you tell me? Before it's too late?" Jenny told him "It's never too late, Henry. I will tell you when the right time has come." They grew old and Jenny was severely sick, she coughed and coughed, she was on her death bed and Henry came walking slowly to her and sat by the side of the bed and fed Jenny some medicine. Jenny told him "I'm sorry for making you wait this long for me to tell you this." Jenny slowly untied the ribbon and... her head dropped on her lap. Henry sat there with his eyes tearing up and wide in shock.

THE END

By: Mehreen Malikzai

Class: P6

School: St. Marks Primary, Rutherglen

Age:10

Wednesday 29th January 2025

Name - Mya McIntyre

Age - 11

School - Park View Primary

Honor at Halsway Park

"Oh hurry up and jump already!" Scolded Noelle. Helana was preparing to launch herself off the swing. She was flailing her arms around mid-air. Her heart thumping. She landed in her Spiderman like position. A Sharp Pain shot up Helana's leg. A sharp edge dug into her knee. "AHHH YA BAM!" She yelled. After the pain went away she slowly moved her knee away to see what caused the excruciating pain. She knew it wasn't a piece of bark... Her knee revealed a beautiful leather case... She called Noelle over to see her discovery. Noelle knelt down on the rough bark fighting and ignoring the pain. Helana pulled open the rectangular leather box which revealed a smooth Scarlett silk cloth. She peeled it back to reveal a solid diamond goblet with golden nuggets crusted around the rim. They were slack-jawed...

Out of the blue, they heard a metal door slam from the pigeon huts. John the pigeon keeper. AKA birdman. Everyone in Noelle's and Helana's School called him that. They looked across the field to see birdman staring into their soul with his dull beady eyes. He was carrying a pitchfork with a tight enough grip to make his face turn red and his hand turn white. He started charging at the girls... Without even thinking they ran towards their electric scooter. Helana tripped over a bottle of Duckfast but got straight back up and drove.

Driving Past zooming cars on Hamilton Road. Passing Glassy Central and Nisq. Driving through, Gaza Strip. They ran to Noelle's flat door and grabbed the key from under the welcome mat, unlocked the door and dashed upstairs. Noelle and Helana start researching about this mysterious goblet. The goblet turned out to be owned by Donald Trump. But last week there was a robbery in the white house and it just so happens birdman was on holiday to Washington and is the prime suspect.... Suddenly a black jeep pulled up outside Noelle's house. Just then Birdman steps out of the car and walks to the boot and pulls out a shotgun. Noelle remembered something she forgot to lock the door... Rushing downstairs to lock the door. She was to late. He's inside. She heard him breathing behind her. She gulped then held her breath. The world went fuzzy. She snapped back to reality. She turned. A shot gun held to her head. His bulging veiny eyes staring into hers. Her quick reflexes swooped the gun out his and pushed upstairs. She shouted to Helana "Get at chair ready. Noelle ran to the bottom of the stairs and shouted, "O, come get me then big man!" He tried to run up the stairs (he couldn't) so he just walked up. Once he got upstairs she ran to the bathroom. As he got closer and closer and closer. She two footed bird man and pushed him into the bathroom. She locked the bathroom from the outside and Helana placed a chair at the bathroom door. They both sprinted out the door and locked him in the house. Helana had a plan and never told Noelle the plan. She ran across the road to Mrs. Heather's house. Helana told Mrs. Heather the entire plan and what had happened. She understood... She waddled over to her car. They all got in and started driving round corners to get to the Police station. Mrs. Heather was a retired racecar driver.

While Mrs. Heathers was driving around corners she was making sure the kids got there on time. She pulled up to the station and braked that hard. She almost slipped the car! Noelle and Helana ran out the car and straight into the police station and told the officer the entire story. Her heart was thumping. She was breathing shakily. The officer sent the riot crew and armed forces. The riot crew had to break down the front door to get into the house. They managed to get her in handcuffs and carried her out the house.

A week after, Noelle got a very formal letter. It read "Dear, Noelle Smith and family, in this letter there is a cheque for £2M for the family of Noelle Smith and £2M for the family of Helana Binal. I am also sending Helanas family and your own to Dubai. Thank you very much so much for my goblet. Yours faithfully, Donald J. Trump."

Kenneth the giraffe with underpants

Orla farrell

R10b muiredge primary 10 years old

Hello! My name is Bea and I'm gonna tell you a story. One day in my local town of Uddingston I was walking through Lidl, not expecting anything to happen. Just Then. Somebody screamed... "ARG there's a void in the sky!" Sure enough, there was an enormous, deep, black void in the once clear blue sky. I dropped the bag of crisps I was going to put in the trolley. My best friend Parker came over and picked it up. "what is i..." "OH MY GOSH" she shrieked. "I wonder if anything will come out of it?" Just then, right on cue, an enormous, spotty giraffe flew out of the void wearing WAIT.HANG ON.UNDERPANTS? The giraffe landed softly on the ground and started saying KENNETH WANT ALL DA UNDERPANTS! And started reading all the underpants stores! "What a strange occurrence," she began. "I mean this village NEVER gets anything unusual happen to it" she said sarcastically. Quickly, they rushed to the old abandoned subway (that was really magic).

To seek the help of the old wise wizard. They rushed down the steps and splashed in the puddles until they reached the ticket stall. There was an old bean (not an actual old bean) taking the tickets TICKETS PLEASE! He boomed down the vast empty hall

We got our tickets and headed towards the train. We boarded the train and traveled at the speed of light witnessing the moments in history and the vast corners of space DING! We had reached our destination. They met the old wizard and got his advice. THE ONLY WAY! He boomed. TO GET THAT GIRAFFE AWAY IS TO TAKE OFF HIS UNDERPANTS. Oh no, we groaned. Someone would have to take the underpants off him. WAIT. The old wizard called. "take these," he held out a pair of nose pegs. That just widened the thought of taking off the underpants. "thanks" we said in unison. Once we were back home, parker suddenly said this: "the crime is kinda stupid, don't you think? ZIP! ZIP! ZIP! Kenneth had started to take the underpants off people! "Now do you think the crime is stupid?" I asked. "OKAY, OKAY KEEP YOUR KNICKERS ON" parker said. We ran out "we need to get the pants off that giraffe," Parker said. "yeah," I agreed. quickly, we ran up the tail of the massive giraffe and put our nose pegs on. "let's do this" parker said confidently. We ripped the pants off of kenneth and he started swaying. MROOO! KENNETH WANT ALL DA UNDERPANTS! But then, he started to fade back into the void. "goodbye kenneth," we said softly. Everyone got their pants back and called us heroes. We all sang everybody wants all da underpants and all said goodbye to kenneth the giraffe with underpants. The story of parker and bea ripping the pants of a massive giraffe will be passed on forevermore.

Monday 3rd February 2025

Short Story competition

little Miss perfect by Rowan

Dear Diary

this is Rowan Murray and yes, I back again... "Rowan come down for dinner ye Fiona (my mum)." Ok coming mum" I yelled back, I diary I'll be back after my dinner." So, said my mum "how was school today" "good" I said in "we did fitness in PE" then suddenly I felt something wet on my knee and a sudden rush excitement raced through my blood. I almost fell over the table because I knew that wet little anywhere "Nola" I shouted as I reached under the table to cuddle the best and most fluffies in the world!!! "Hiya Nola how are you do after being at the vets for two whole weeks" you are so cute aren't you yes you are said as I ran my hands through her little head.

Later that night I had just curled with Nola in my bed soon I started to drift off. Next thing I know Vets are grabbing and taking her away from me "Moo" I say "Nola, nooo... Suddenly I'm sitting up right in my pants uncontrollably and drenched in sweat. I'm the little black sheep of Nola pacing around room so I get up to let her outside. As I was waiting for Nola to come back inside I'm shouting coming from my parents room I could hear

dad shouting "We got to tell the girls about Nola" and then my mum shouted too "We can't it will break their hearts" and then my sister Edith came down the stairs rubbing her eyes saying "What going on, Robbin what's all the shouting about?" "Shh" I say quickly. Fiona we have got to tell Nola... Nolas dying "What", streaks Edith "Nolas dying?" suddenly Nola came strutting towards me I scooped her up and said sobbing "Nooe", then I ran up the stairs slams my bedroom door behind me. Then my sister come wandering into my room say "Robbin are you ok", "What do you think" I said "No," Edith replied "Diana have a sleepover tonight" I said sure why not? replied Edith "Ok, my room" I said more happily but still sad. The rest of the night was amazing. My sister, me and Nola had so much fun! The next couple day however were some of the worst in my life, then surely the day I had been dreading came. I went down the stairs and my parents had a very somber expression on there face's then my mum said "Robbin Nola has to ill to live the vet said that it would be better if we put Nola down just to save her the pain, so after lunch we will take her to the vets! After lunch was dredged and the car ride to get to the vets was so long but surely we got there. We got into the last room Nola would ever see in her life, my mum started to cry then me, my sister and my dad started to cry as well. Then we all hugged Nola and cried as Nola started to howl so I hugged her titer to let her know I'm here. Then suddenly they put in the needle and Nola stopped howling she's gone, I cried even harder and said "I love you Nola and I always will!"

by Robbin Murray



Thanks to the following schools for taking part in this year's competition



Bothwell Primary

Burgh Primary

Calderwood Primary

Hallside Primary

Muiredge Primary

Park View Primary

Spittal Primary

St Anthony's Primary

St Cadoc's Primary

St Columbkille's Primary

St Joseph's Primary

St Mark's Primary

St John the Baptist Primary

West Coats Primary