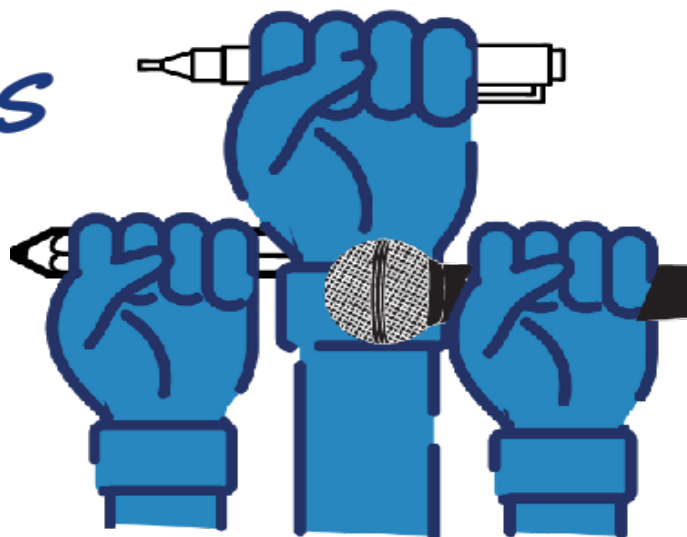


StoryChasers



CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Edition 12 2024

**Interview with Danny
Katz and Mitch Vane**
(The funniest author/
illustrator combination)
Peter H, Year 4

enough to meet them at the Sydney Writer's Festival.

Danny, your stories and characters in LITTLE LUNCH are not only hilarious, but realistic, so where do you get your ideas from?

Some ideas I make up. Some are from memories of my own school days. Most are stolen from my kids. They were seven years old and couldn't afford a lawyer. Now they're in their late 20's. They still can't afford a lawyer.

Danny lives in Melbourne with his wife Mitch Vane, a speckled dog named Specky, and a badly-washed car. Mitch Vane is a multi-disciplinary artist. She divides her time between illustrating children's books and developing art projects of her own and I was lucky

Mitch, your illustrations of the characters show so much personality, do you draw characters based on people you know?

Pretty much all of my drawings are

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of people I know, or combinations of people I know. Or people I don't know that I have spotted on the train, in the street, on Instagram, TV, wherever. I always have a notebook and pen with me. Always. Because I never know when I'm going to see something that sparks an idea, or someone who is wearing something funny that I want to remember. I sometimes do a sneaky photo with my phone, but it's actually more fun doing a quick sketch and less intrusive. I have a lot of sketch books, big and small, that I constantly flip through for ideas when I'm starting a project.

All of the Little Lunch characters, including Mrs Gonsha, are a mish mash of all the kids (and teachers) that were in primary school with our kids. I saw them every day so they were all seared into my brain. That's why our readers relate to the books so much; the Little Lunchers seem familiar. I think we all know a Rory or a Tamara Noodle or an Atticus. In fact SO many people love Rory, Walker books have asked us to create extra books that are just about him...so stay tuned!

Danny, sometimes I find it hard to start writing, any tips for motivation?

Just sit down and don't move and write for half an hour without stopping. Write anything. It'll be garbage but you wrote something. And in all that garbage there might be a little kernel of something delicious that's worth developing. Of course there's the possibility there won't be anything but you won't know if you don't write.

Mitch, you must have a lot of pencils, pens and textas. What is your favourite illustrating tool?

My studio is chockas! An art supply store is my equivalent of a lolly shop except waaaaay more expensive. I try to use as many kinds of mediums as I can, and LOVE trying new paints and pens, but I always seem to come back to my faves which are

#1 - Dip pen and Indian Ink (very messy, but very satisfying)

#2 - Brush pen (pour the ink into the base and squeeze the ink into a brush - FUN!)

#3 Sharpie (Quick, black, and not as messy)

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Mitch and Danny, as husband and wife, you must have some stories about annoying each other, what are they?

Mitch: Hah! Have you got a few hours? Actually we do okay considering we live and work in the same place...we keep out of each other's way during the working hours.

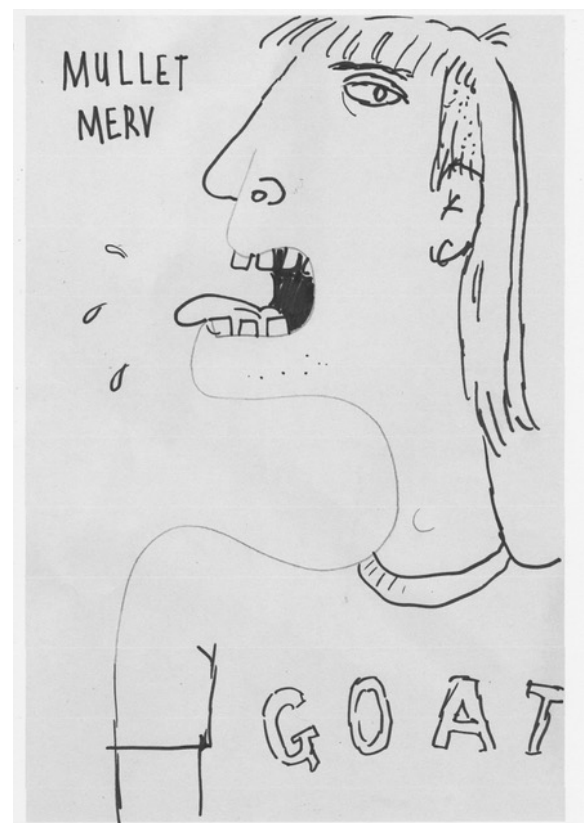
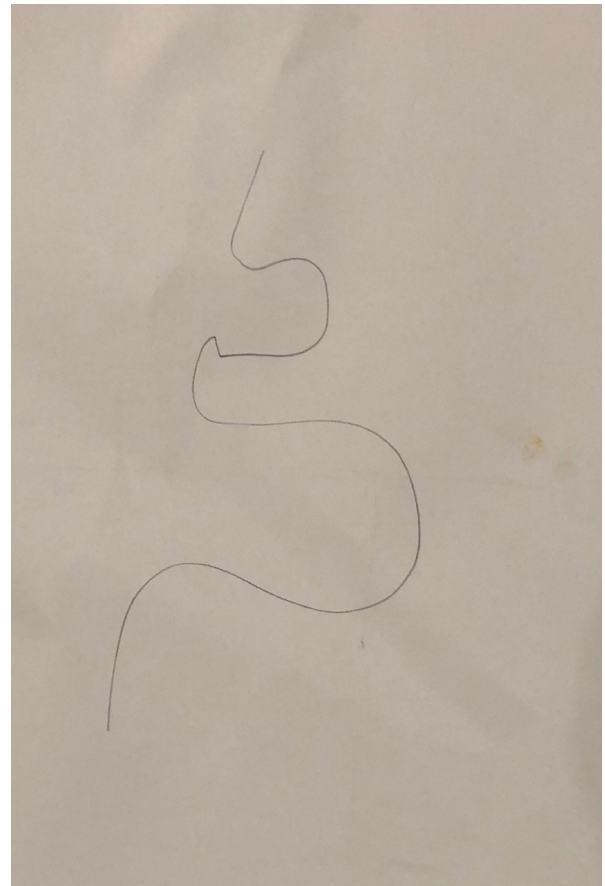
Danny: I'm the annoying one. I get very defensive and whiny when she gives me constructive feedback on my work but her feedback is amazing and she always makes it better.

Mitch: Everything he said is 100% true

Mitch, my friends and I love playing the shape game, one person draws a random shape and the other turns it into a picture. Any chance of a game?

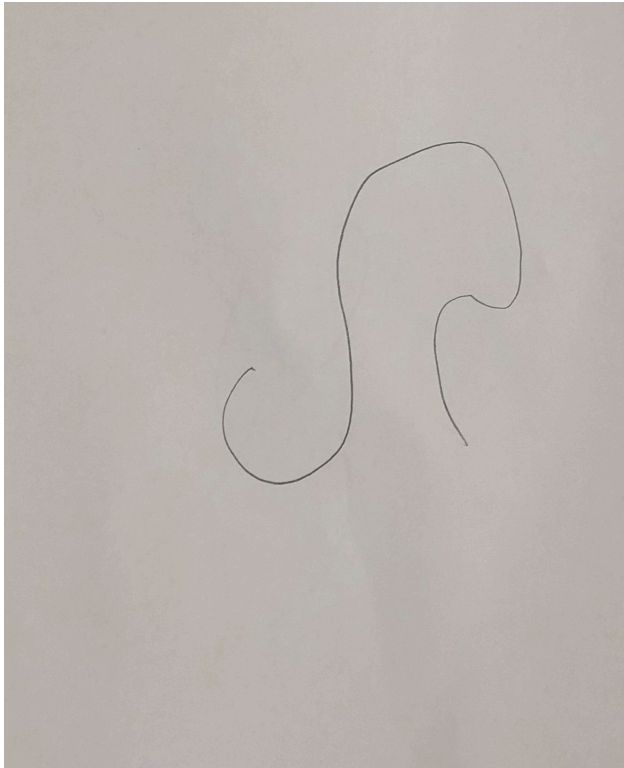
I love this game too. It is played in the opening titles of Little Lunch on TV and that is actually my hand (with fave dip pen and ink) filling in the lines.

I did my best:



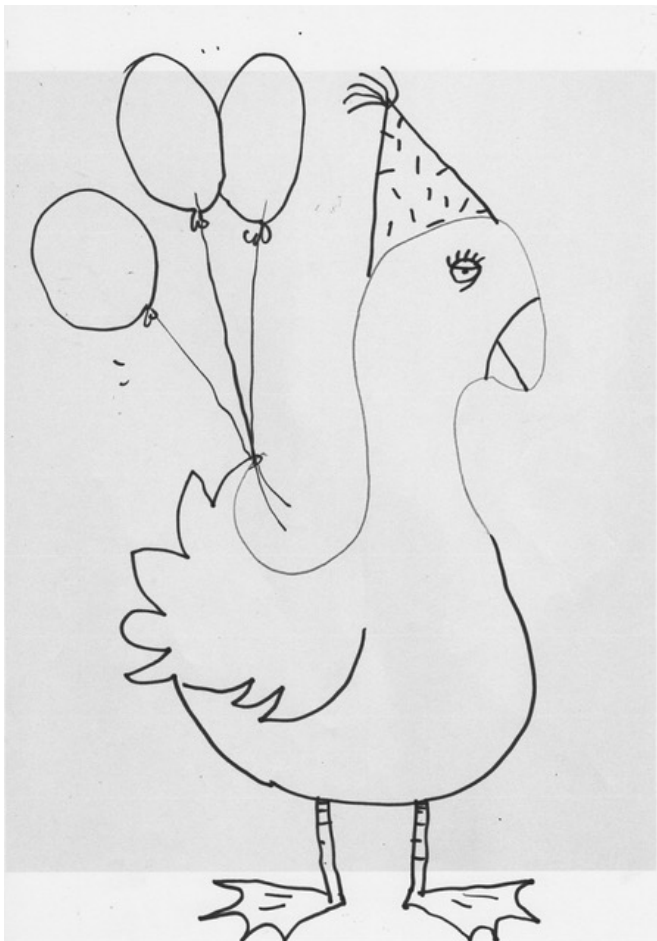
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Mitch and Danny, it must have been amazing to see your characters and stories come to life in an ABC Kids TV Show but I know that a lot was changed for TV, for example Amba is not in the show, so were you happy with the result?

We were so thrilled that Little Lunch was made into a series, and loved the end result. I think the mockumentary style really suited the world we had created in the books and the casting was pretty spot on.



It was also a very big learning curve for us; TV production is a very different process and we had to let go of our control over the finished product. The hardest thing for us was to lose a lot of the original Little Lunchers. Due to budget constraints and various other reasons, the group had to be whittled down to six in the cast. Amba was a big loss as she was such a strong and feisty character. No Manny either. Boo Hoo. The twins made guest appearances, and Melanie and Debra-Jo Woo were tweaked a bit. They also upped their ages so they could tackle slightly older storylines like graduation.

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So we see the original books and the TV show as two very different products, but are very proud to have been the original creators of the Little Lunch world.

Mitch and Danny, all of the students at Canterbury Public School can't wait for your next book to be published. What are you working on now?

Nor can we! Danny and I have been working on quite a few new projects with Walker Books, including the two new Little Lunch Books and fun Bonus pages for the whole 8 books in the series. They are out now!

Danny has written a very funny story called 'Dog People, Ugh' which stars our own dog Specky. I love drawing dogs so it was a really fun project. Hopefully that will be on the shelves quite soon.

And we are VERY excited about our latest book which is still in the works. HairBrain Saves the Ocean will be out next year and it stars, you guessed it, a kid called HairBrain who has all sorts of convoluted ideas on how to save the planet. In this case it is finding ways to clean up all the DIZZgusting rubbish

in the ocean during a family holiday. HairBrain is FULL of big ideas, but completely incompetent and creating more chaos than when they started. Thankfully little sister sidekick Zammy is in the wings cleaning up the mess!

Want to check out more of Mitch Vane and Danny Katz's books/shows?

Our library has loads of Little Lunch books so ask Ms Parkes or one of your friendly library monitors to help you find them. You can also watch the Little Lunch series on ABC iView and on Netflix.

Ratty

Daisy L, Kindergarten

There once was a big rat called Ratty. Her house was through a small hole inside a pyramid in Egypt. Ratty lived with her mum and her dad who were always busy cleaning the house. Ratty also had a little baby sister who was always busy crying. Ratty helped her parents by looking after the baby.

One day, Ratty felt hungry and she decided to catch and eat a cat with her mum and dad. She used a big gigantic gun to shoot the cat dead.

The family ate the cat together. Ratty's baby sister ate most of the cat and then had a stomach ache.

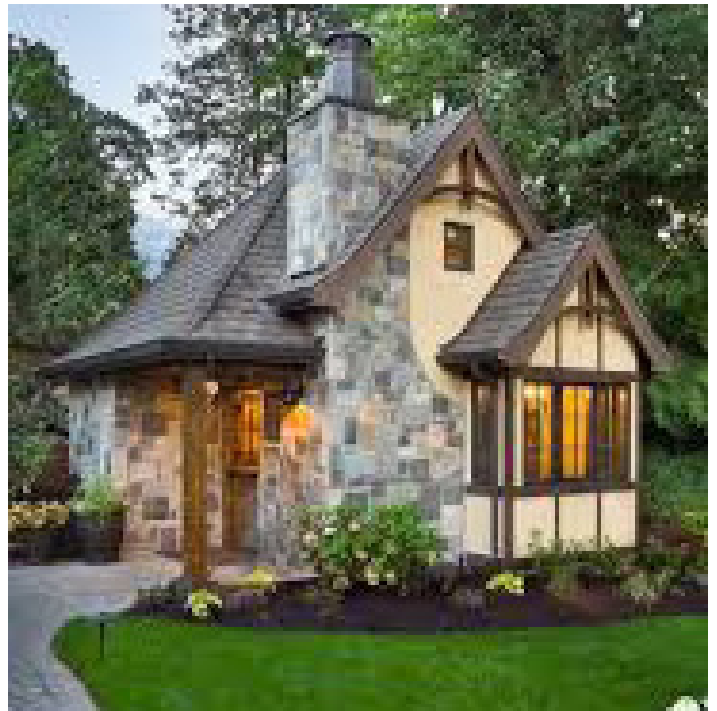
Most of the family was full and sleepy so they cleaned the house and went to bed. When everyone was finally asleep, the baby woke up and got busy crying again. Poor Ratty.

The Strange House Part 2

Chloe Z, Year 2

Chapter 4: A Sticky Situation

Harper and Cha were really stressed out! This stink spirit was not washed or cleaned in over 1000 years! This is going to be so hard, said Harper. "HEY" said someone in a loud voice. It was Maligana she was the owner of the bathhouse. Maligana said to wash the stink spirit at once! She was mostly angry because no one would work when she wanted them to. Harper brought the stink spirit to the biggest bath in the bath house. Then when Harper started to clean the stink spirit she saw something strange in the spirit. It looked like a knife so Harper tried to pull the knife out of the stink



spirit but she couldn't!

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?" screamed Maligana.

"I am trying to pull out a knife," said Harper. So everyone in the bath house helped Harper pull out the knife and, when they pulled it out, lots of gold came out of the stink spirit! Everyone was shocked so they started picking up the gold.

Chapter 5: My Neighbour Totoro

While everyone was picking up gold Harper and Cha went to bed. They were so tired after the hardest job they have ever done.

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Chapter 6: Totoro Is A Good Friend

"Cha, can I tell you something?"

"Of course," said Cha.

"I really miss my parents," said Harper.

"It is okay," said Cha.

The next day Harper went outside for a quick walk and she saw her parents but then they changed into horses and galloped away. Harper burst into tears; she just wished to be back home with her mummy and daddy.

When Harper got back to the bath house Cha asked her why she was crying. Harper told Cha what she saw. "It's fine, you will see them soon."

Harper wiped down her tears and got to work. First she cleaned the floor then she made some dumplings. And lastly Harper had to go out and find some acorns. Harper climbed up a tree to get some but suddenly fell inside of the tree!

She saw a giant animal laying on some leaves. "Hello," said Harper. The animal said hello back. The animal was Totoro, one of the spirits that lived in the forest.

Totoro took out a big spinny thing and he took one big step on it and spun it round. He handed over his hand to Harper and she stood on the spinny thing too. Then a second later Harper and Totoro spun into the sky. Harper saw her parents galloping and she pointed her finger to the ground. Totoro's spinny thing got closer to the ground. They landed on the ground and stood next to her parents. But when Harper patted her mum and dad they turned into pandas!

WHAT!? The next thing Harper did was collapse on the floor. "Why is this happening Totoro?"

He said that it was because she got more stressed out by the minute. "You might have to stay here forever. He pulled out a little leaf bag from his pocket and gave it to Harper. She unwrapped the leaf bag and inside it there were big dumplings! Harper had never seen dumplings so big! When she took a bite of the dumpling she felt so happy. "Take another bite," said Totoro. So Harper took another... and another till she had eaten half the dumpling. Harper felt something hard in the dumpling

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when she looked into it there was a gem! She looked at the time. "Oh no! I should have been back at the bath house one hour ago!" "HARPER!" screamed Cha. "Tell Maligana that I will be at the bath house soon but DON'T tell her that I was with Totoro," said Harper.

"You should get the cat bus," said Totoro. "The cat bus is a bus but it is also a cat." He took Harper to the bus station and waited for the bus to come. "Got it," said Cha.

Totoro took Harper to the bath house as quickly as possible. When Harper and Totoro got there...

Chapter 7: A Cat Adventure

Harper and Totoro waited and waited... and waited. Finally Harper saw a light and she heard meowing. Then the cat bus stopped at the bus stop and one of the windows turned into a door!

"WHOA," said Harper. Totoro and Harper stepped into the cat bus and the door turned back into a window and the bus started running but a few minutes later it stopped at a small house so Harper and Totoro stepped out of it and came to the small house. Totoro took Harper to a phone and she dialled the numbers that the bath house told her to dial if she needed them. She waited for someone to answer the phone. "Hello, this is Cha from the bath house. How can I help you today?"

"Cha, this is Harper."

Meet the characters in Chapter 8

- Catty-Mat, a funny cat who likes playing pouncing, jumping and flying foxes.
- Ying-Lie - a karate fan who practises almost 12 hours a day.
- Ti-Ti-Ti - Totoro's five year old friend who looks kind of like Totoro.
- Sandy - a girl who is fourteen years old, helps Maligana and makes salt.

Chapter 8: Meet The Gang

"HA, HA, HA!" said someone in a loud voice. When Harper took a few steps closer, she saw a cat wearing aeroplane glasses.

"Hello there," said Catty-Mat.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"
screamed Harper.

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"My name is Catty-Mat and these are my friends, Ying-Lie and Sandy." Harper introduced herself to Catty-Mat and his friends.

"We are going on an adventure. Do you want to join us?" asked Catty-Mat.

"Yes!" said Harper so they all went on an adventure to a train that was running on water! The four friends bought some tickets and they waited for the train to come. After two whole hours of waiting, the train finally arrived. They all hopped on and the train started running. "I am so excited!" said Sandy.

"Where should we go?" Ying-Lie asked.

"How about the giant eucalyptus tree?" suggested someone in a little voice.

"Who are you?" Harper asked.

"My name is TI-TI-TI but just call me TI for short."

"Let's be friends!" said Catty-Mat so they all became friends and decided to go to the GIANT eucalyptus tree.

The train stopped and it was time to walk for a very, very,

very long time. "OHHHHH when will we get there?" Harper asked.

"In about twenty five minutes," said TI. They were all pretty tired when they saw... "AAAHH! An ice cream workshop!" All of the friends rushed to the workshop.

Chapter 9: The Ice Cream Extravaganza

A few minutes later there was a flood of ice cream coming their way!

"A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!" squealed the friends all together.

Then the door of the ice cream workshop opened. "What on earth is going on out here? I am trying to work!" said someone in a cranky voice. "Ohhhhhh? Visitors! Hello, my name is Lemon. Come in."

All of the friends entered and chose ice cream flavours. Harper chose-apple orange. Catty-Mat chose-lemon pie. Ying chose-butter and mint. TI-TI-TI chose-peanut butter. And finally, Sandy chose lime-banana.

They all thanked Lemon and left. "This has been a fun adventure," said Catty-Mat. The train was waiting for

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them when they arrived back at the station. They travelled to the bath house and Harper thanked Catty-Mat for the adventure.

To Be Continued...

A note from the creator

You will have to wait till the next edition of StoryChasers to find out what happens next!

C.S.N.

Billy P, Year 5

If you're new to this program (all of you are) then this is the C.S.N. (Canterbury School News). On this program you will find out recent news from this term that only you can learn here. Hi I'm Billy and you're reading C.S.N.



On to our first story:
Opening new classrooms!

It was the 6th of August 2024 when the newly refurbished classrooms were officially opened. The students who were in the old classrooms were Kindergarten students and Stage 1. For a whole term, they were relocated to classrooms in C block and next door for a few weeks at Canterbury Girls High School.

Not only were they moved to build the new classrooms, they were also moved because of the harmful risk of asbestos. For three months students were isolated from their classrooms but now they can learn, play and enjoy brand new classrooms and resources.

Now a very sad story here: 16 years ago, our school introduced a band and strings program. Rhea Sullivan led the string ensembles since the program was established. We had a little celebration/acknowledgment of her service to show respect for what she has done for us for the past decade and a half.

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I haven't been taught by Rhea but other students that have been taught by her adored her. So we say with all our hearts, thank you Rhea!



Now to a special celebration, NAIDOC Week! NAIDOC week is a special week to celebrate the significant contributions of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders peoples to Australia.

The week was filled with magical and joyful activities. We had a NAIDOC night at our school on Thursday the 25th of July. There were sausages to eat, games to play, and songs to sing. There was also a fire we ignited on our fire pit. NAIDOC Week is held on the first Sunday of July to the second Sunday.

The theme of this year's NAIDOC week was (you might know) Keep the Fire Burning: Blak, Loud and Proud.

Well that's all we have for Term 3. Thanks for reading and please try to follow this program. This has been Billy and you're reading C.S.N.

Endangered Animals

Nora G, Year 2

There are so many endangered animals including koalas, tigers, pandas, bilbys, African forest elephants and mountain gorillas. Sadly, some endangered animals turn into extinct animals! Extinct animals mean that they are gone forever.

Animals become endangered for a range of reasons but normally it is caused by humans. Sometimes humans do things on purpose, for example, hunting them, polluting their habitats and destroying their habitat for farming or development. Sometimes animals become endangered through climate change.

Climate change is caused by greenhouse gases polluting the air like carbon dioxide. It makes a blanket of

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gases around the earth, which traps all the sun's heat inside. When we drive and when we do not recycle, we create more greenhouse gases and make climate change worse.

You can help alone by picking up rubbish, using less material and less energy (you can still use human energy though).

Together with a group of people, you can help by donating money to companies that HELP animals and argue back when people say NO to helping because they don't think animals need help at all.

So now you know, you should go help and do some good.



Japan

Christopher G, Year 4

Japan is a thrilling place where there are a lot of exciting tourist attractions. For example, I went to Osaka, which is far south. The biggest tourist attraction there is Universal Studios Japan (USJ). It has thrilling rides including the Flying Dinosaur, Hollywood Dream Ride, and Yoshi's Adventure.



The Hollywood Dream Ride is awesome, though I don't recommend this ride for people with motion sickness or people with a fear of heights. But you get music! On the ride, you have a list of what songs you can play. Don't worry, they are not written in

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Japanese so tourists can read them. After you choose your music, the staff lock you into the rollercoaster.

There are two types of ride on this rollercoaster. There is the original ride, in which you are looking forward, and there is also the backdrop, which makes you face backwards. Personally, I think the backdrop is way less scarier than the original since you can't see where you are going. For me, this is one of the best rides in USJ.

The Flying Dinosaur is, in my opinion, the best ride in USJ.

To learn more about it, and Japan, you will have to get the next edition of the StoryChasers newspaper when it comes out next term!



Was it or was it not?

Elissa G, Year 5

THIS STORY IS RECOMMENDED FOR
YEAR THREE AND OVER

A full month had passed since the arrival of an unknown criminal who had appeared in the shadow of a vault and had clearly tried to end Dumbledoors and McGonagall's lives. Dumbledoor had a feeling, this person whoever it is, wasn't just trying to end his and McGonagall's lives for fun. It was for a reason that Dumbledoor thought he knew and didn't like one bit.

Over the last few days leading up to Christmas disappearances had started increasing. The only Hogwarts students left before Dumbledore had closed the school were the Weasleys, Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Ernie Macmillan, Susan Bones, Pansy Parkinson and Colin Creevey. Dumbledoors brother had recently passed away while his sister was in St Mungo's hospital for magical maladies and injuries.

Feast on Italy

Indi H, Year 6

Italy is a phenomenal country located in Southern Europe. The country is known for its delicious pizza and pasta. Altogether, Italy has about 8000 cities, towns and villages with local administration and a mayor. Last recorded in 2022, Italy has a population of 58.94 million compared to Australia which only has 26.01 million people (2022).

You may have already known this, but Italy was the first to make pasta and pizza! In 400 BC, an Etruscan tomb showed a group of people making what we think is pasta. That's crazy!

During the 16th to mid-18th century in Naples, Italy, pizza evolved. It didn't just start as the pizza we know today, it started as flat-bread dishes.



Some people think that the word 'pizza' comes from the Greek word, 'pita' meaning pastry, although others would disagree. For example, some historians believe that the word pizza has come from the Langobardic word 'Bizzo' which means bite.

The Man and the Spider

Josie G, Kindergarten

The man and the spider bite each other. The spider dissolves into nothing. The man suddenly grows a spider head and becomes Manspider.

Meanwhile the aliens who live in water are trying to invade the world. The aliens create seven droplets of water which forms an army of water.

At the same time, Manspider is trying to find a friend. He accidentally runs into a tree but it is not a normal tree. It is a spider tree.

Manspider tries to fight the aliens. He starts to wonder, "Should Manspider have a sidekick?"

To be continued...

Pierre de Coubertin

Khangai D, Year 2

Pierre de Coubertin was born in Paris on January 1st, 1863. He is known as the father of the modern Olympic Games. It was inspired by the ancient Greek people who started the Olympics and held them in Olympia, Greece. Pierre de Coubertin was interested in Greece and Olympia after learning about them as a child when the ancient city was found underground and dug up.

In 1890, Pierre de Coubertin travelled to the United Kingdom to stay with an English doctor named William Penny Brookes who had organised a British version of the Olympics which had been taking place in Birmingham and Shrewsbury since the 1860s. This is how Coubertin got the idea for a world Olympic event.

In 1894, Coubertin set up the International Olympic Committee and two years later, Athens held the 1896 Summer Olympic Games. Back then Coubertin only allowed men to compete. 14 countries, mostly from Europe, entered the games. Winners received a silver medal and the runner

up received a copper medal.

The Invention of Smith's Crisps

Dimitri T, Year 5



Smith's Chips come from a company called Pepsico, the one that makes soft drinks. Smiths Chips are the number one most popular market share company in Australia.

The history behind the company goes back all the way to 1931 when Frank Smith and George Enor made the first Smith's Crisps in Australia. Frank Smith invented Smith's Chips in the United Kingdom and he came to Australia to bring the company here as well.

Early crisps in 1931 were sold for three pennies across markets who were selling them in small packets. After WW2 ended, sales started to

increase rapidly.

Before 1961, Smith's Crisps were unflavoured with just a bit of salt. After 30 years the company released for the first time a new flavour adding a seller to the shelf for it to become popular among all Australians, called Chicken flavoured crisps.

By 1998, it was the largest producing company for chips in Australia. The company was acquired by Pepsi-Co, undercover as Frito-Lay, the second highest salty snack company in Australia.

Since the early 2000s, Smith's have been releasing limited edition flavours across Australia into the mix for people to try before they disappear off the shelves.

In 2021, Smith's turned 90 years old! To celebrate, they released five limited edition packs, Loaded Baked Potato, Tasty Cheese, Crispy Bacon, Garlic Bread and the iconic Australian snack, Sausage Sizzle.

They took the humble potato for their company and created an iconic snack for all Australians. Their potatoes have been grown by Aussie farmers

across the country including a family that's supplied them for 50 years.

There's one thing that still remains to this day in my opinion. They are still the original and the best.



How to Look After Guinea Pigs

Liam O, Year 3

1. Guinea pigs poop a lot. A LOT. 150 poos a day in that tiny body so not so easy to clean their cages.
2. Be careful with their hideys (a safe hideout in their enclosure). Once I got a bad hidey and it was H O R R I B L E because all the poop and wee were getting stuck in it so we threw it out. WASTED! Also guinea pigs get scared, like really scared, like D E A D scared but if you get them hideys, they feel safer and more relaxed.

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3. Be careful with their food and water because they're hungry. Also CHECK THEIR WATER EVERY SINGLE DAY! They can very easily die of thirst if you don't give them enough water. You can get their food from PET O where I usually get their food.

4. You H A V E to get them big enough cages but not too big. If you give them a tiny cage they will probably die like one of my guinea pigs were given to someone for their birthday but they couldn't take care of him properly and he was getting so skinny so they gave him to a more responsible family A.K.A mine so it could live a better life.

5. When it's cold you should probably put a rug or blanket on their cage, basically a warm blanket you don't really care about. You should cover the little wire bars like I do because that's where the cold air likes to flow in and the blanket blocks the cold.

Also when it's raining put a tarp over the cage so the guinea pigs don't get wet. Get something heavy to weigh the tarp and the blanket down.

6. Guinea pigs need friends but sometimes when they get older you'll start to find that some guinea pigs do NOT NEED FRIENDS. It's kind of sad because they don't want their friend anymore and it's like they're betraying each other. One of my guinea pigs, Scotty was friends with Frosty my other guinea pig but as Scotty got older he started to fight with Frosty. It is not pleasant when they fight, they start to nip the other guinea pig's bottom. If that ever happens you should either separate them immediately or ask a guinea pig master what to do. Don't worry about Frosty. He got his revenge on Scotty by biting him on the foot and making him get a abscess, hee hee hee hee hee!

7. If your guinea pigs ever gets sick, take them to the vet immediately. Two of my guinea pigs have got sick. Scotty got the abscess and Frosty has been constipated twice but he got constipated because there was a huge poop stuck up his bottom and he couldn't get it out.

8. When you clean their cages, do it once or twice a week and while you're cleaning their cages, keep them inside but make sure they

don't run away.

9. This is probably the hardest thing with guinea pigs. You have to chop their nails when they get long but they have skin connected to their nails so don't chop that bit and there are special scissors to use.

If you don't get any of that just watch a Youtube tutorial. This was just to give you an idea.

Blue

Malakai B, Year 1

Blue, a rainbow friend, was walking through the park, playing tips with his friends. Blue was in and started to chase Purple who was the closest to him. Suddenly he fell in a hole in a tree and the next thing he was in another world. A blue world. Everything was blue except for a big thing he spotted inside a big cave. It kept moving around. When it saw Blue, it jumped away and disappeared. It was the biggest thing Blue had ever seen.

To be continued...

Why Join StoryChasers?

Luka D, Year 4

Using stories, authors and illustrators are able to let their creativity flow, producing hundreds of stories and making their readers satisfied. It is fun to make stories and make ideas.

Most people don't make their ideas come true, so making stories at a young age can inspire people who join StoryChasers for whenever they have an idea they can make a fabulous story. Having this opportunity is quite amazing at this time.

If you join StoryChasers, you might become a big name, for example, an illustrator like Ben Wood, or an author like Andy Griffiths. It would be amazing if your name could be one of greatest authors or illustrators in the world.

You can change the world for the better with stories, and let your creativity flow. This is why the opportunity for StoryChasers club is a great choice.

Nike: A Company Full of Controversies

Stavros T, Year 5

A WARNING TO ALL VIEWERS UNDER THE AGE OF 10-11! This story is meant for audiences that are in Stage 3 and above. Anyone younger is required to have a parent to read them this story. We are exposing disturbing actions done by the corporation Nike. Parental guidance is required.

Child Labour Allegations

In the 1990s, Nike got bombarded with a lot of criticism over using Child Labour in Cambodia and Pakistan, which was proven true by a report by the BBC in the 2000s about a Cambodian factory run by Nike. It was about six children who worked 7 days per week and 16 hours per day. Nike claims they took action against the child labour and reduce the practice, however we are currently unsure about that.

Nike's Sweatshops

During the 1990s, Nike had a stampede of protesters storming their headquarters in order to protest about Sweatshops allegedly being

used in the manufacturing process for shoes, (practically slavery, if you know what I mean). They have sweatshops mostly in the eastern side of Asia.

Is Nike generating a lot of waste?

According to a study by Statista in 2022, Nike generated a lot of waste, in fact around 3,942 metric tons of waste. It has increased 47% to around 50% for comparison to the previous fiscal year. Nike also pollutes the air by 10,942.7 thousand tons of CO₂ (a decrease of 7.3%). So the answer is a Yes, and a No.

Is Nike ethical?

Based on a study by EthicalConsumer, Nike is not the most ethical, however it is not the worst either. Instead, you should try looking for the EthicalConsumer Best Buy sign, assuming that they are the most ethical out of the companies.

The Odyssey: A Greek Myth

Sage, Year 5

The Odyssey is a Greek myth written by Homer about the king of Ithaca, Odysseus who journeys back to his home after the Trojan War that lasted ten years. He faced Scylla, a nymph transformed into a sea monster by Circe who will be mentioned later, a cyclops named Polythemos, sirens which are human like beings that lure ships towards the rocks with their voices and Charybdis, the deadly whirlpool. Odysseus conquered every one of them but lost crewmates on the way.

Odysseus stopped at an island to rest while his crew looked for food. He discovered a woman sitting with his crew eating like animals. The woman said to Odysseus that because they were eating like animals she would turn them into animals and as she said that the crew started turning into pigs. That woman was Circe, a witch who was banished for turning Scylla into a monster.

Odysseus actually stayed on the island

for a while but had to return to Ithaca where his wife Penelope waited. When he arrived he was surprised to see that suitors were lined up waiting to be tested. Odysseus walked up a hill and found himself face to face with Athena the goddess of wisdom, war and crafts. She said she would turn Odysseus into a different man so he could not be noticed by Penelope and the other suitors.

Odysseus walked into the palace and up to the roof where the trials were being held. He got out his bow and arrow and shot straight through the space between the axes. Penelope stepped forward as Odysseus turned back into himself.

This myth is one of the greatest Greek myths of all time!

The Bridge Part 2

By Olivia N, Year 3

Recap: In the Bridge Part One, the girl named Ellie who lived with her mum named Jilla found out there were people nearby building some kind of new bridge or a new road and Ellie was excited for what it could be.

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Ellie was most excited because she saw something being built right this second so she ran downstairs and



told her mother, "Mother! Mother, there are weird people and they are building something!"

A month later, Ellie woke up one morning to discover it was finally done...and it was a bridge! The excited little girl raced down the stairs, almost tripping over. Ellie got to her mother's room and told her all about the thing that was now a bridge.

To be continued...

FANTASY FUN

By Sharlin S, Year 2

- Ravenheart - leader, 19, female, mature, brave, fabulous and caring.
- Mortalhuman - co-leader, male, 19,

mature, fascinating, kind hearted and generous.

- Pawleaf - kitty, 7 months, female, brave, dangerous, playful and energetic.
- Sandy ed -18, brave, male, mature, tired all the time, helpful and introverted.
- Harmony - new, 13, kind, mature, shy, female, tired, energetic, helpful and quiet.
- Whitey - kind, extroverted, Sandy ed's bestie, female, kind, quiet and caring.
- YN/YURI - twins, different. YN is kind and extroverted, YURI is mean and introverted YN=Boy YURI=Girl.
- Tales - male, annoying, quiet, always smiling, 17, plays with Pawleaf all the time and silly.
- Aura - kind, 9, short, female, crazy, always happy and lazy.
- Luna - kind, 12, female, calm, tall, elegant and precious.
- FireStar - kind, female, not really interactive.

Chapter 1: Welcome to our base!

"Hi, I'm Ravenheart! Raven for short."

"Raven no."

"Shush ed!"

"Ugh."

Raven walked around, talking more

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about the people you will meet soon! She kept walking around, showing you the offices that you CANNOT enter... yet.

"Anyway, goodnight reader! It's time for me to work!"

Raven turned off the camera and went into her office. She slammed the door as Mortal Human was about to ask her something "RAVEN!"

"She forgot to give me my chicken nuggets..."

Mortal Human walked away sadly without his chicken nuggets. Raven threw some chicken nuggets into Mortal's hand and he ran to the dinner table to eat them.

"Annoying," she said, clicking on the keys on her keyboard. (CLICKITY CLACKITY CLACK)

She kept clicking until the morning. Nobody will ever know what she writes about, or will they? She left her room and woke up everyone, just as she did every morning.

CHAPTER 2: Laptop Secret

Pawleaf went into Raven's room, like a sneaky ninja. She jumped onto the chair and read the lines one by one. Pawleaf gasped like no air was left to breathe. She jumped off the chair and went to tell Tales. Paw looked everywhere, but she couldn't find

him!

"Meowww?"

Tales entered the hallway, not in a good mood. But when he saw Paw, Tales' mood changed!

"Oh Paw, what are you doing up so early?" Tales stroked Pawleaf's fur, picking her up like she did every day. Paw purred and Tales put her in her little bath. He turned the tap on, adjusting it to the right temperature. PPPSSSSSSHHHHH...The water went, and Paw jumped in the bath like a mermaid.

CHAPTER 3: Just the Amazing Duo

The water splashed everywhere as Tales backed away from the water. The water splashed on him anyway. He picked up Paw and washed her fur like it was a charm. Paw purred as she jumped back in like a frog! Ow! She landed on her belly and went side to side like a person on a slippery slide! "You silly cat, c'mon let's get you dried up," Tales said, picking her up like she was a block.

He grabbed a mini towel and dried Pawleaf's fur. Ed walked past them while looking at his phone. Whitey followed him like a clingy fly.

"Whitey, Raven gave you chores to do," Ed said.

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"I know, but I just wanna be with you," She said, not going away no matter what.

"Okay, but in five minutes you have to do your chores," he said.

Whitey nodded. She still clinged to him.

Ed kept on walking until he saw YN and YURI fighting...

CHAPTER 4: Some Dramaaaaaa...

"YN BUT I DON'T WANNA BE KIND TO RAVEN!" YURI screamed.

"SHE'S OUR LEADER THOUGH!" YN replied. He seemed like he agreed but didn't want to get in trouble.

"SHE'S RUDE AND UGHHHHHHHHH-" Ed walked away before she could finish.

Ed called Raven and asked her to go to Downstreet or Uptown alone.

"Yeah sure, go to Middlehome and ask Luna or Aura to go to Uptown, or if you want to go to Downstreet, ask Firestar."

"Thanks Raven, I'll be back soon." Ed put his phone in his pocket, walked down the stairs all the way to the lobby and exited.

"LUNAAA can I go to Uptown?" Ed asked.

"Yes, just hop on the train!" Luna replied.

"Thanks, I need to talk to pen- I mean

Tales," he said, setting off to Uptown. Luna walked back and stood still like a statue. Like always...

TO BE CONTINUED...

Brain Rot Content

By Stavros T, Year 5



Brain-rot is a term for 'degradation of intelligence, common sense or morals', and also 'low value content that affects the brain'. It affects children our age, as they say 'skibidi toilet in ohio mega'. There are more brain-rotting terms such as 'oh my god a sigma in ohio!?! is he mewing to baby gronk kai cenat????!?!?!'.

Doom-scrolling on TikTok and YouTube Shorts can cause brain-rot as you see pretty weird stuff such as "Skibidi toilet, skibidi rizz in ohio". Yeah, uh let's move on. I want to talk about how we can avoid this garbage.

So, how can we prevent brain rot?

Give kids a screen-time limit. The only reason why we have brain rot is because of parents and the YouTubers making this garbage content (e.g. Lankybox). You should also step in, and watch something else like informative videos (e.g Nestle is an evil company by @MagnatesMedia, I enjoyed this one and made a whole article about it.).

A note from Stavros \$ _ \$

Hey! I hope you enjoyed this piece of text. I recommend some good parental control apps!

Microsoft Family Control for Windows (PC)

Qustodio Parental Control App (PC & Android)

For those of you who use any Apple devices, there IS a screen-time option.

Space Heroes: The Big Explosions

Mitchell R, Year 2

We are relaxing at home right now. "Hey guys, do you wanna go to the beach?" I ask.

"Hmmm. "How much does it cost?" asked Max.

"Well, it's \$20 a person, so \$60."

"Well then, let's go."

We pack our bags and get into the car. We keep going until we reach the beach. Surf's up!" I say. When a giant wave came, I rocketed into the air. The wave was still big at the shore!

A while later we went for some ice cream. I got chocolate mint, Max got Milo, and Rohan got vanilla. "Let's go find a table."

Once we had finished our ice cream, we went home. When we woke up, the roof had exploded! I ran out of bed and woke up the guys.

"Did you see what happened last

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night!?"

"N-what?! Noooo! What are we going to do now?"

"Well, let's go to the detective agency. They will figure it out." I say.

We eventually got to the detective agency but it was very quiet. In fact, there was no one there. We searched the rest of town but no luck!

There was nobody around so we decided to go to McDonald's. We ran to McDonald's and made whatever we wanted. "This is the best! I hope this lasts a few weeks!"



When we got to the waterpark, we jumped on a slide and enjoyed ourselves. "I think this is the best time ever in my life!" I said. After we got to the bottom we swam to the edge and

walked to the ice cream shop but on our way we heard another explosion! "Where is it happening now?"

"Well, if you can smell fire, follow the smell and we will find it!" We walked and walked and...

5 hours later... We're at the edge of town.

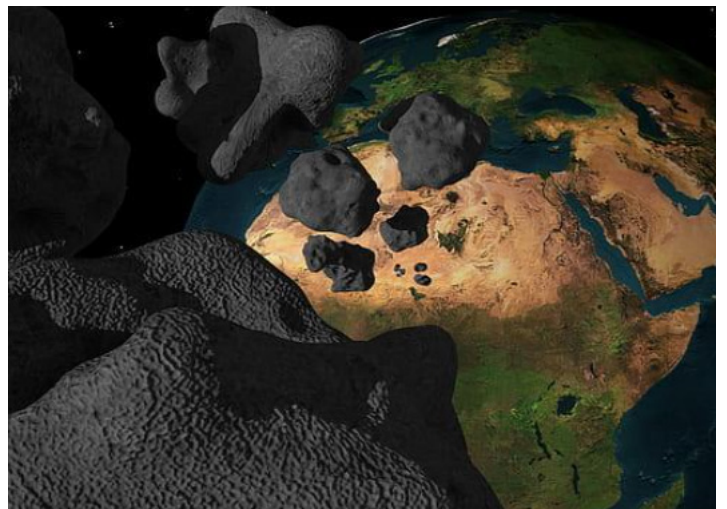
"Hey Mitchell, where are we?"

Actually, I don't know...

"We're... lost!" says Max. "Let's figure out how to get home."

When we get home I turn on the TV. "Evacuate! Evacuate! There is a giant meteor heading towards Dusty Springs! Find shelter..or DIE!"

WHAT!? Nononononononono! So that's why everyone was gone. We have got to get out of here...NOW!



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We pack all of our stuff and don't care about the speed limit. Soon we are out of Dusty Springs.

"Warning! 1 hour till a meteorite hits Dusty Springs!" Okay, we have got one hour to get as far away from here as we can. Eventually we get to a small town 100 miles from Dusty Springs. 3, 2, 1...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

We get knocked out. Oooof!

When we wake up, we're tired and can barely walk but we head back to Dusty Springs. Only problem is, it doesn't look like Dusty Springs any more.



No more sandy beaches. No more McDonald's. Nothing. But what happened?

"You don't remember?" asked Max.

"A meteor hit our town, remember?"

"What will we do, and how will we eat and live?" asks Rohan.

"Okay, that's a problem. I'm calling the builders."

Two years later...

We rebuilt the town! Life is officially good again!

Approaching Mist

Luka D, Year 4

In a normal map on this fantasy continent, there would be a ring of mist impossible to see in one corner. Ghoulish fiends lurk in this cloud of mist so if any braindead traveler steps foot in it, they are absolutely wiped out.

But another location on the map is Vine Central, Vine being the name of this continent because it is all a murky green forest. The central part is obviously because this town is in the center of Vine. If it's in the center of a continent, then it must be quite big. It is a busy town with merchants and people of all kinds.

But one of the bravest swordsmen in Central has legendary skill and

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courage. All people who see him are afraid of him and admire him. Anyone who underestimates him is a fool.

One day, he stomped on the wooden podium and announced to all the people of Central, "I am adventuring the deadly mist," He pulled out a worn down parchment from his bag and unrolled it. He even pulled out a map! The swordsman pointed to the upper-right corner where a cloud of mist engulfed the land. There was a skull on top of the mist, warning adventurers not to go there. The crowd shouted, "No! It's a deathwish! You're committing suicide," But the brave swordsman simply said, "How am I supposed to keep my title of a legendary swordsman if I can't test my strength on the ultimate challenge?" Those words made the crowd silent and rang through their ears. He left the podium, walked to the stable and climbed on a horse and they galloped away. The terrified citizens watched, but they were completely powerless.

As the rain fell, the horse and the swordsman stopped. He dismounted the horse and knelt on the muddy ground. He drank from a canteen and took a large bite from an apple. He threw the apple on the ground and

tiny worms started slowly devouring it. He suddenly froze. The fog was right in front of him. "It really is hard to see through it," he exclaimed in his mind. He mounted his horse and galloped into the mist.

A few minutes later the horse halted. He looked down to see a humanoid clawing at the horse's leg. He blankly unsheathed his blade and it got beheaded in a second like a knife cutting through butter. A large amount of ghouls grouped clawing the air. He was beheading every one of these monsters but an overwhelming amount of the creatures stayed and multiplied. He knew a normal swordsman would be instantly murdered. Even a legendary swordsman like him could not slay this many. But he was quite cunning too. From many stories and physical descriptions of these ghouls seemed very underwhelming so he knew they would group up. He grabbed a bottle filled with black substance, oil. He held it up in the murky air and waved it around the creatures. They got soaked with the liquid until the bottle ran out. He snatched a torch emitting a warm orange hue and threw into the drenched horde. As he rode, flames rose higher and higher

and started to incinerate every one of those ghoulish fiends that tried to devour him.

When the fog ended, there stood a tall mountain. The horse slowly trotted along a smooth path to the top, a place high enough that the mist struggled to engulf it. Suddenly, the swordsman rised from the fog and the horse soon manifested too. "Rest, now." The horse fell on the dirt and sat there. The swordsman walked to a temple placed ominously in the middle of the area.

"And that's the end of that," exclaimed an old man to his grandson, sitting on a wooden stool. His grandson half shrouded in a blanket whined, "But grandpa! That story was really exciting! Read more please!"

"Oh, you have to go to bed, or the ghost of the swordsman will gobble you up, heh," chuckled the old man.

Danger Genius: The Boy Who Redefined a Virus

Olivia R, Year 5

It was dark, cold and wet in my lab but I continued. After all, I was about to make the GREATEST CREATION IN THE WORLD! I will create something none of my fellow scientists have been able to make. This medicine will cure all diseases in the- "Lewis, come here. It's dinner time. Get out of that stinky basement and come eat your meat loaf before it goes cold!"

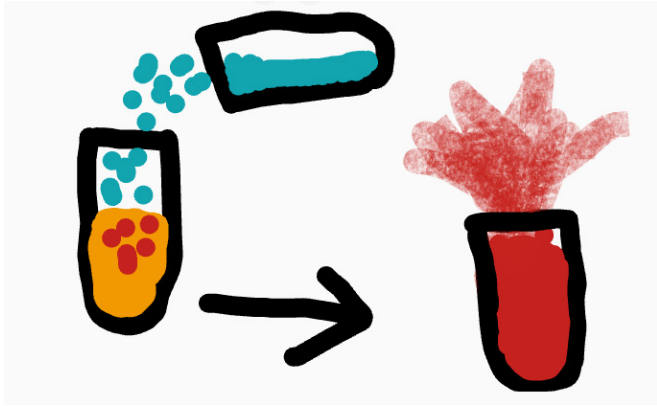
Oh yeah I forgot to mention that I'm a kid. A normal, 10 year old kid. Everything is normal about me, except that I'm a scientist. "Urgh, MUM! You know I'm working on something important...but did you say meatloaf? I'm coming!"

My legs sped away with my body on top. I rushed to the stairs, but, OH NO! My two important ingredients were still in my prime, white lab coat! My fingers scrambled to get them out of there without them combining but it was too late. Blood-red and bubbling

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like a mad man. I had to get it out of here.



Tiptoeing like a shadow up the wooden stairs, I definitely couldn't let Mum see it. She would freak! I slipped through the kitchen, luckily not catching her eye. I climbed out the open window because I knew the creaky door would give away my super stealth. To be honest, I kind of felt like a ninja!

Hopping through the window I landed in a prickly bush, but when I tried to run, I tripped on a root. My plan of putting it in the bin dripped down the drain, literally!



Watching in sorrow, struggling as the last drop plummeted, I thought, "This is bad. Very, very bad. Bad as in a whole new level! Life threatening, even!" And the worst part was, my meatloaf had probably gone cold!

I awoke the next morning to a loud sound coming from the lounge. I couldn't quite figure it out because I was feeling a little dizzy. I slumped out of bed and realised the sound was coming from a reporter's loud mouth.



Only just making out what he was saying, because my ears were a bit blocked, I heard, "Stay calm everyone but there's a deadly virus going around. First you wake up feeling a bit dizzy, then your ears become blocked, you get a big headache, and your tummy hurts. When you think you can't take it any more you die. Brutal, but dangerous. The scientists

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have managed to track the cause down to Canterbury in Sydney, New South Wales but no further details are known.” BLEEP BLOOP. Hey, that’s where I live!

Just at that moment I got a massive headache, but I thought I drank enough water? Then my stomach lurched out, aching like a war was going on in there and that’s when I knew, I had contracted my own creation.

Lying on the ground panting, nearly drowning in my own sweat, I felt the pain everywhere, head to toe. I could nearly hear the devil knocking at the door. Just as I thought my body was about to pass, I felt a tingle in my stomach. Looking down at my feet, I was glowing golden! Just then my mum came in. She had a look of shock on her face, like a gnome who realised someone had squashed their toadstool. “Er, Lewis, you’re floating,” she said. And right she was. I couldn’t feel the floor any more, and the pain had completely left my body! Gone! It’s like it just slipped out the door! Am I flying?

YES, YES I WAS! Literally flying! My virus is magical! It has given me the power of flight! Flying out the door,

swooping over the towers, It was truly amazing. Suddenly I realised there was a problem at hand. THE VIRUS IS STILL OUT THERE! I had to stop It, but how?



Sydney Metro

By Stavros T, Year 5



Over \$11 billion in funding, Sydney Metro is one of the biggest transport projects in Australia’s history and it provides safer rides for people who need more assistance in getting into

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trains.

There will be no more gaps between the line and the metro, meaning that safety will be improved. We also get faster trains that go up to 100km per hour.



The T3 line closure will affect us for up to 12 months, and it will limit us to buses for transport around the whole T3 Bankstown Line to Sydenham. From there on, you can catch the metro at Sydenham, to wherever you please.

There will be no more gaps between the Metro and the platform to improve safety. The platform is barricaded with a motorised door that will automatically open once a train (metro) arrives. The platform will extend to the train (metro) to improve safety overall throughout all Metro stations, allowing access for

people with a disability or accessibility issues to safely enter/exit the train.

Faster speeds, more accessibility, safer rides and best of all driverless, trains, the Sydney Metro is all it is hyped up to be. Speeds up to 110km per hour (at peak-time), and a train arrives every 4 minutes, getting Sydney-siders to where they need to go, faster.



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Over to you, dear
reader. What will
you write today?