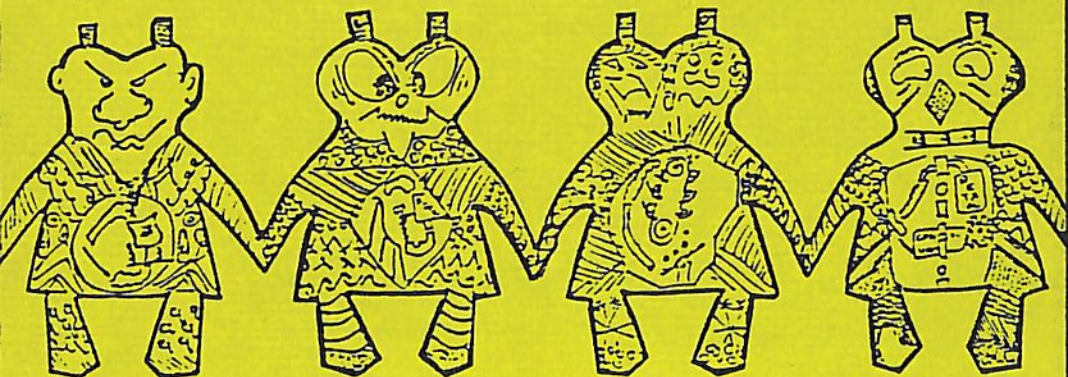


SCHOOL IS AGE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY STUDENTS OF
RINGWOOD HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL IS ACE

Written and Illustrated by Students of
Ringwood Heights Primary School as
part of the Artists In Schools Program,
1985.

Selected by Barbara Giles
Collated by Christine Gray

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School is Ace.
School has lots of friends.
Girl friends, boy friends.
We work, we play.
School is good for play,
For sums, rhyming, miming,
Learning songs, learning how to read,
looking at books.
Teachers we like,
games we like.
We like to draw.
School is for learning
for when we grow up.

The bell rings, then it stops.
We go home over the crossing.

Group Poem, Grade One.



BALLOONS



Balloons are
Very light
Fun !

Sarah McInnes, Grade One.

Balloons can pop,
They can shine in the sun.
They can bounce,
They fly everywhere.
They are very light.

Shey Webber, Grade One.

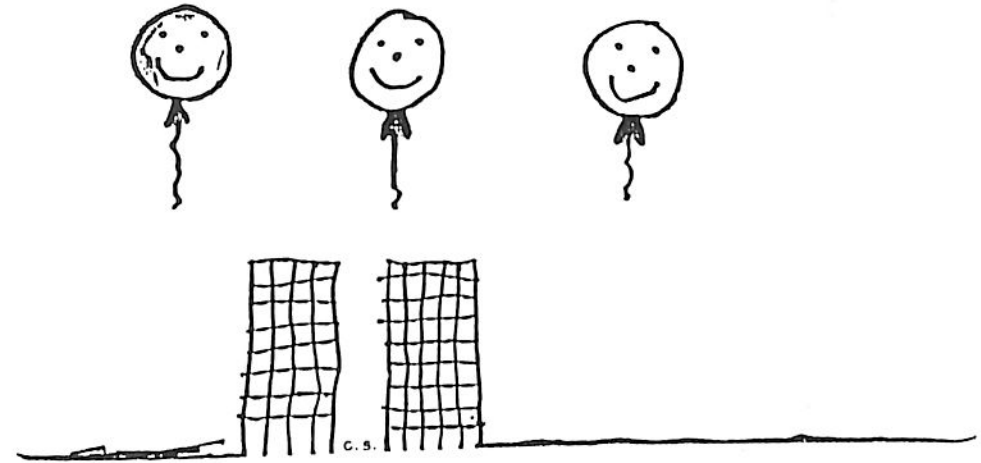
Balloons can squeak,
They can pop,
They can bounce.
They have air in them.
They shine in the sun.

Joanna Garretty, Grade One.



Balloons look good in the sky.
Balloons float in the sky.
If you blow them up high
They pop!

Paul Waycott, Grade One.



Balloons are great.
We like the colors,
red, blue, pink, orange, green.
Balloons fly everywhere,
they bump your nose.
Balloons go 'Pop!'
Finish!

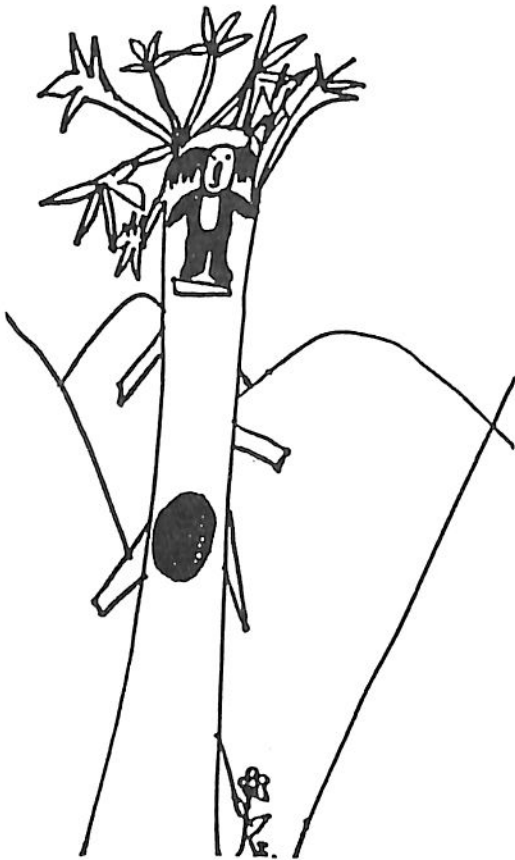
Kylie McInnes and Kathryn McDonald, both Prep.



FRIEND

A friend is good to play with,
and to make a friend you do this.
Say hello. Ask them their name.
Ask them where they live. A
friend is a person you care
about. Do you have a friend ?
Are you my friend ?

Kate Wadsworth, Grade One.



TREES.

Trees are nice,
they make lots
of shade and
birds can nest
in them.
I like trees
because
koalas can
live in
them too.

Kylie McInnes, Prep.

I LIKE THAT STUFF

Children pray for it.
Parents pay for it.
Candy
I like that stuff.



Young people rate it.
Old people hate it.
Rock
I like that stuff.

Pimples thrive on them.
Children dive on them.
Chocolates
I like that stuff.



Mum baked it.
Kids ate it.
Cakes
I like that stuff.



Girls wear it.
Boys tear it.
Denim
I like that stuff.



Grandpas play bowls for it.
Grandmas go strolls for it.
Exercise
I like that stuff.



Clouds fill with it.
Buckets swill with it.
Water
I like that stuff.



I run when I sight one.
Some people fight one.
Bulls
I HATE that stuff.



Susan Jackman, Mark Wakeham, Nikky May,
Belinda Davis, Rhonda Corrigan, all of
Grade Six.

I LIKE THAT STUFF

Engines and steam,
Noisy, never clean;
Engine rooms. I like that stuff.
Old and new,
Ships and crew.
Boats. I like that stuff.

Cold and wet.
"All hands on deck."
Storms. I like that stuff.
Rods and reels,
And fish for meals.
Fishing. I like that stuff.

Calm and bumpy,
Beds all lumpy,
Cabins. I like that stuff.

Susan Jackman, Grade Six.

LIMERICKS.

Once there was a snake called Zarden.
I found him in my garden.
I put him in a box
with a very vicious fox
and that was the end of Zarden.

Monika Barna, Grade Four.

There once was a puffin
Who lost all his stuffin'
So he lay on his back
As flat as a tack
And faded away to nuffin.

Nicholas Blackmore, Grade Four.

POLLY

Polly put the kettle on
Her brother turned it off.
So Polly turned it on again
And said to her brother 'Nick off.'

Marisa Ho, Grade Five.

MONSTER

My monster is hairy, with fangs and a curl.
I don't know whether it's a boy or a girl.
For breakfast it likes to eat worms and snails,
while for lunch he enjoys red-painted finger nails.
Dinner time treats are slug bars which fill up his
belly,
followed by some delicious blood-flavored jelly.

Amanda Spittle, Grade Three.

YUK

'Yuk, Yuk', said my brother one day.
What does it mean? I used to say
But now I'm older and now I know.
I'll tell you about it here I go.
Yuk is horrible, Yuk is bad.
Yuk is something you say when your'e mad.
Yuk is snails and slime and blood.
Yuk is eyeballs and spit and mud.

Marisa Ho, Grade Five.

MY NAME IS

My name is Allouette.
My name is Don't-forget.
My name is Sergeant-Cleo.
My name is Go-to-Rio.
My name is Wobble-Knees.
My name is Mouldy Cheese.
My name is Horrible-Brat.
My name is Ally-don't-do-that.
My name is Stop-that-singing.
My name is Go-back-to-the-beginning.

Emily Thomson, Grade Four.

MY NAME IS

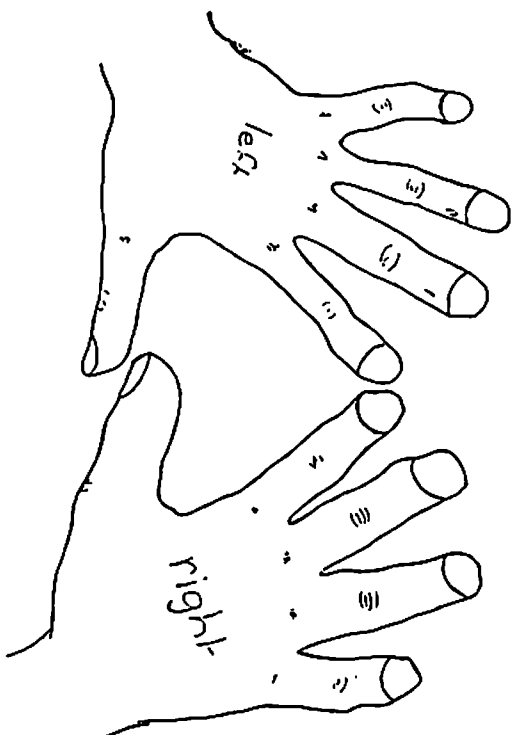
My name is Flea,
My name is Brat,
My name is Dirty-Deeds.
My name is Uck,
My name is Fish,
My name is Doctor Bleeds.

Shelly Luck, Grade Three.

HANDS

Hands are very useful things,
What would you do without them?
They can be fat, big, hairy or thin;
But best of all there's two of them!

Alexandra Weatherby, Grade Three.



THE SINGING

The singing came down from the sky.
I could nearly feel the surface of the sky
I thought I could feel heaven
It was piercing my arms.
Just then lakefuls of rain
Heavily fell.
It was draping, long, low and grey.

Lucinda White, Grade Four.

Look at the soft blue sky.
See the singing heavens.
There is nothing heavy or mean
In those singing heavens.

Angela Hassett, Grade Four.

IN THE FOREST

In the forest I like to run and smell eucalyptus
leaves as I pass
But I also fear an animal jumping out at me...
I love to hear the birds chirping a little song.
In the forest there I play, but careful
That I don't step on a snake or porcupine.
The trees are sticky or they are smooth.
I also like to climb a tree.

Sarah Jacobs, Grade Four.

The patter of animal feet
Along the forest floor,
you drown in its quietness
Until you hear
The quiet trickle of a stream.
You have a drink
And completely refreshed
you continue on your way
Singing your favorite song.
You jump away suddenly
For in front of you
A huge red gum root
Had tripped you flat on your face.



Sally Graham, Grade Four.

In the forest all day long,
Singing my favorite song,
Wildlife here and there,
little creatures everywhere.
It's so fun to be alone,
sitting on a stone.
Look here, look there
Little creatures everywhere.

Emily Thomson, Grade Four.

Quiet and calm,
big large trees,
sounds of birds.

Catriona Watson, Grade Four.



WINTER IS HERE

Winter is wearing warm clothes,
Running noses and hankies
And hot foods
Winter means playing in puddles
And mud and going to the snow.
Winter means sitting by the fire
And having hot chocolate.



Sean Barlow, Grade Four.

WALKING THROUGH THE FOREST

Walking through the forest what do I see?
I see a little squirrel looking at me.
Walking through the forest what do I hear?
I hear something trembling with fear.
Walking through the forest what do I smell.
I smell honey comb sitting in its cell.

Angela Hassett, Grade Four.

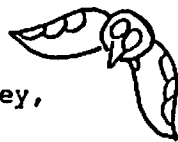
THE COUNTRY SIDE

I love to see the countryside,
To feel the fresh air and breathe its smell,
See the trees gently move,
Have picnics,
Hear birds whistle,
Lie down,
Look at the clouds through the trees.

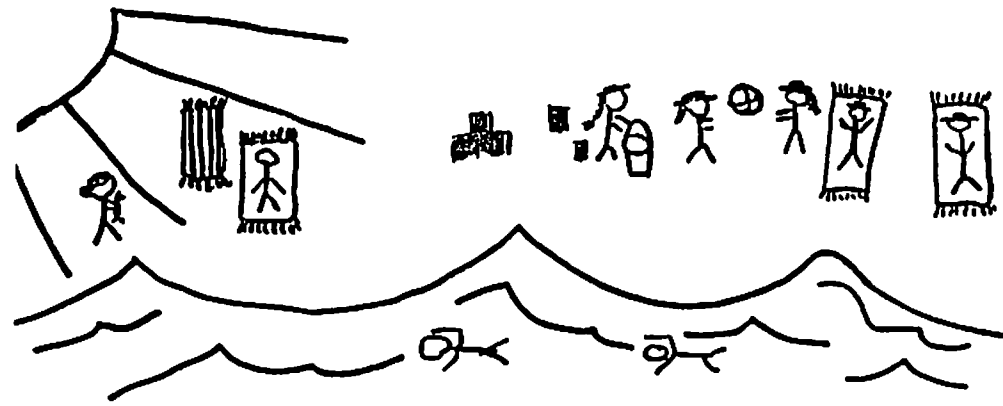
Sarah O'Callaghan, Grade Four.

THE GULL

The gull flapped down and ate her prey,
then suddenly she flew away.
Her wings looked lovely, streaked and white,
as up she flew in graceful flight.
She then let out a noisy screech,
as I was walking along the beach.
Again I looked up in the sky,
as the gull let out her mournful cry.
Then up to the sky so bright
she flew and flew, till out of sight.



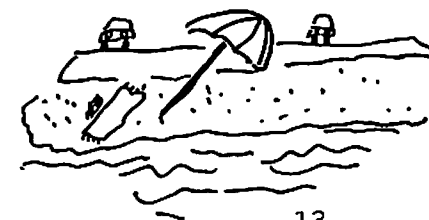
Nikki Miller, Grade Six.



THE BEACH

I love the beach where the waves roll in,
Tickling my toes at the shore.
I run towards the frothy waves
And dive to the depths of the sea.
I open my eyes and look around
At the yellow, squichy, sandy ground
Then I quickly surface to catch my breath.
The warm fresh air against my face
Sends a sharp shiver down my spine.
My friend swims towards me
So I dive down again
She's chasing me, I know she is
I keep swimming faster and faster
Until I'm out of breath.
I gasp for air
I dive under again.
She's caught me !
We stand laughing,
And walk up the beach together.

Nicole May, Grade Six.



CATS

Cats like to play in wool.
Cats like to sleep in a nice warm place.
Cats are as soft as a ball of fluff.
I like cats. Do you ?



Catherine Fox, Grade Two

My cat is fluffy like a rug, so soft and beautiful my cat is. I would like another one to be my friend, as fluffy as the other. So could someone give me another cat ?

Kate Sullivan, Grade Two.

CATS

It makes me feel warm when my cat curls up beside me in front of the fire in the morning.
Her coat is so soft.
And her purr is so soft as the warmth from the fire runs down my back.

Tim Neate, Grade Six.



MICE

I like mice because they sleep in old rubbish and they sleep in 'fridges and under rocks and under cars and in petrol cans and I like mice even dearer than cats and dogs because they are sweet.

Dominic Blank, Grade Two.



MOUSE

I have a pet mouse who eats his cheese without saying please.
My mouse runs around the house.
Of course, that's my mouse.

Paul Prossor, Grade Two.



SNAKE

Look, there's a snake
Slithering past the garden rake
Scary, scaly, creepy, cold
I do not feel very bold
Forked tongue flickering, hissing
Beautiful patterned skin glistening
Is it a tiger, python or cobra?
Maybe even a huge boa constricta
I stand still
Kill, Kill, Kill,
Kill that deadly snake
But use an axe not the rake.

Amanda Spittle, Grade Three.

SLITHERY SNAKE

A slimy, slithery snake,
slithers through the grass.
It was red, blue and black.
I got shivery and quivery
I said scat, scat
So he went away
in the dark, dark night.

Erika Barna, Grade Five.

SNAKES

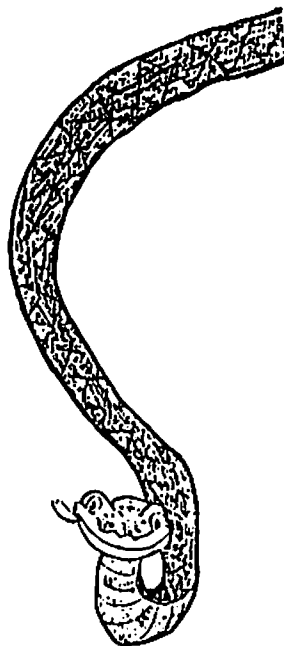
Snakes are slimy and skinny.
They wriggle and bite if you get in their way.
He's shiny but terrifying and ugly.

Tristan Nickless, Grade Five.

SNAKES

Snakes are long and thin and slick,
Which explains why they are quick.
Lots of people see them round,
Slithering along the ground.
I have never ever found
Anything so close to ground.

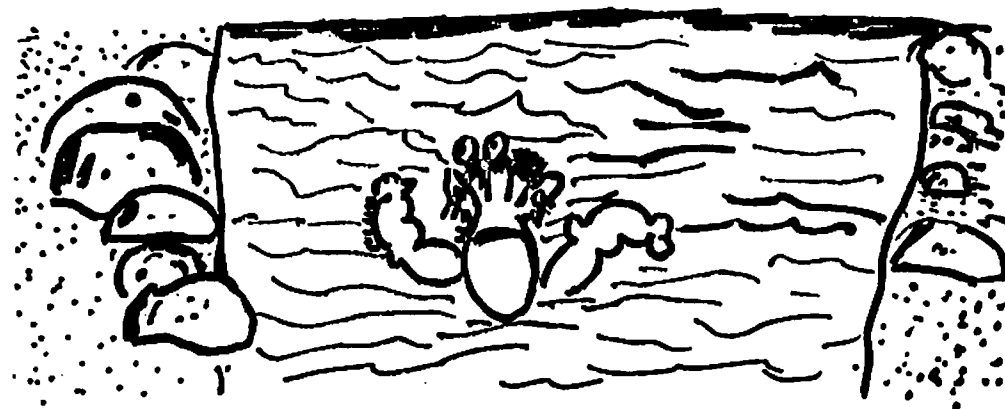
Nicholas Blackmore, Grade Four.

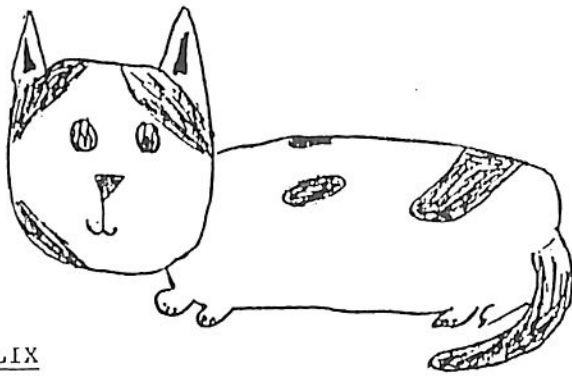


THE WATER BEASTS' FEAR

The glimmering waterfall crashed against the rocks
Going down in never-ending patterns.
The waterbeasts with bulging eyes
Never daring to near the waterfall
For fear of going
Down the rocks,
Into the bright bay,
And getting caught up in the reef,
Smashed to smithereens upon the rocks -
Never going back up the waterfall.

Mark Wakeham, Grade Six.





MY CAT FELIX

My cat Felix

He is a wild fluff that zips around the house
every time you open the front door.

Felix.

With a white back and black face-and a tail black,
like a beard.

On every full moon his hair stands on end
and every second it's very soft.

A real fighter. He fights all the time.

That's why he has a chunk out of his right ear.

He might scratch and fight

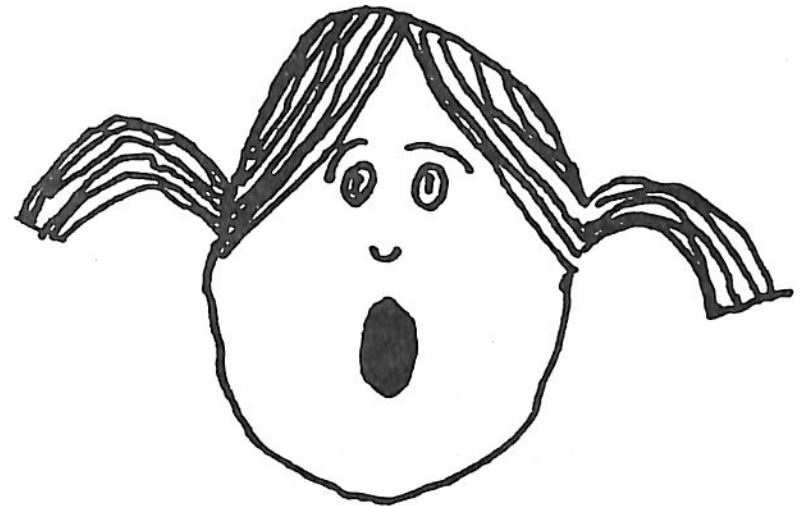
but he's my cat,

Felix.

Amanda Dinsdale, Grade Five.



Who am I ?



WILDERNESS

There's a leopard in me
With fast moving legs
That lives in the jungle
With a mean personality
And the wilderness will not let it go.

There's a lion in me
Which takes great pride in what it does
It's proud to be king of the jungle
As it walks through the jungle it takes great strides
And the wilderness will not let it go.

Oh, I've got a zoo,
I've got a menagerie in me,
All these animals are in me
and I control them all
and the wilderness will not let it go.

Debbie Baerken and Sarah Jones, Grade Five.



WILDERNESS

There's an eagle in me
He flies around in search of exploration and food
He will look after his family no matter what happens
and the wilderness will not let it go.

I have a zoo inside me
each animal will appear
when its needed but no one will see them
only me because I'm controlling them.

Cathy Beesley, Grade four.

There's a monkey in me,
Climbing a tree,
swinging around,
eating bananas,
and the wilderness will not let it go.

There's a puppy in me,
ready to play,
chewing his bone,
snuggled up tight,
and the wilderness will not let it go.



The wilderness gave me these wonderful things,
for I'm happy to have them in me,
and how long I live I'll never let them go,
and they're there for ever and ever.

Krissy Laidlaw, Grade Four.

I'M A GIRL

So what if I'm tough
I might be a girl
I can play football
I'm still a girl
I can explore
I might be a girl
I might ride a motorbike
I'm still a girl
Whatever I do.....
I'm a girl!!

Nicole May, Grade Six.

I LIKE BEING A GIRL

I like being a Girl
Because I'm not expected to be strong.
I don't have to ride a bike
Or lead the family on a hike.
I won't have to be a scout
Or push the car 'cause the petrol's run out.
It would be fun to get dirty at school
But I'd rather sunbake by the pool.
It would be awful having to collect toy cars
Or getting drunk all one night at the bar.
It would be awful having to discover the man's world
I'm glad I can get my hair curled.

Susan Jackman, Grade Six.

I AM A GIRL

I am a girl, I am sure of that.
I have room to grow,
To act sophisticated -
And play all day.

I like to do things girls do
I like acting old and slack
I can be babyish too
I am glad I'm a girl.

For boys. can't act like girls
For they would be teased
Yet girls look up to tough girls
A girl can act old, or young
Nobody cares.

Browyn Smith, Grade Five.

I AM STILL A GIRL

I do boy things,
I do girl things,
I am still a girl.
I play football,
I play netball,
I am still a girl.
I do woodwork,
I do cook work,
I am still a girl.
But that does not matter,
I do what I like.

Nikki Miller, Grade Six.

SURE I'M A BOY

I am a boy,
I think I'm a boy,
I know I'm a male child too,
But if there are girls, and boys in the world,
I may be either of the two.

Girls are giggley and wiggley and squiggley and
HE HA HO I am not one for that
But I know I'm a boy, I'm sure I'm a boy
And at this I throw up my hat!!

William Newman, Grade Five.

I'M A BOY

So what. I'm a boy
I can be what I want
I draw and ride billycarts.
Boys do that
And I'm a boy
And if we didn't have boys
We'd all die out
And that would be the end of that.

Carl Williams, Grade Six.

I AM A BOY

I am a boy I'll tell you that
I like to play football
I don't like dolls
I would be lost if I was girl
but it wouldn't hurt just to try
just one day, maybe more if it was good
just to try it!

Leon Eyck, Grade Six.



THE KIDS AT SCHOOL

The kids at school make rules,
They say that boys are not
Allowed to sit with girls..
When we're young
we do not mind
But then we grow apart.
Once we are adult
We've grown together again.

Mark Wakeham, Grade Six.

GIRLS AND BOYS

Girls, said to be good.
Boys, said to be bad.
Boys and girls they play together.
Which one are you?
A boy or a girl.
I play some boys games
but I am a girl.
Boys play some girls games
but they are boys.
Boys can dress like girls,
girls can dress like boys.
It's up to you
what you say and do.

Belinda Davis, Grade Six.

I'D LIKE TO BE

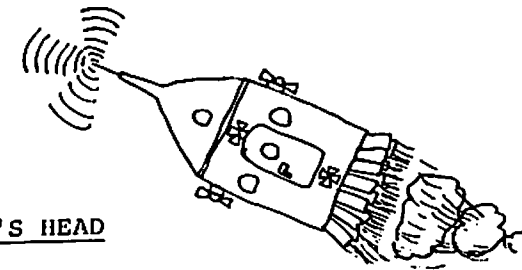
I'd like to be a teacher
And ring the bell each day,
Say to the children
'Go out to play'.
I'd like to be a teacher
And call the children in,
Set some work and tell them
At once you must begin.

Sarah Jacobs, Grade Four.

WHAT'S INSIDE ONE GIRL'S HEAD

There's a poem unfinished,
And tropical seas,
A beach on an island,
One winged horse
And a giant bird.
There's the test tomorrow,
And tea of course!

Sally Graham, Grade Four.



A BOY'S HEAD

In my head are TV stars,
Men jumping out of planes,
In my head is a man of the future.
There are men burning round the corner in racing cars,
There's a space ship somewhere in there.

Justin Parker, Grade Four.

THE THINGS IN A LITTLE GIRL'S HEAD

Her pet that she has starved at home.
The things that she is going to write in her poem,
The things she is going to do after school,
What she's going to do at the pool,
Her basketball that is flat outside
And where on the earth is she going to hide.

Of course, a little girl thinks
Of many more things
And the day is over
She's dreaming of
a horse with golden wings.

Lindy Payne, Grade Four.

ME.

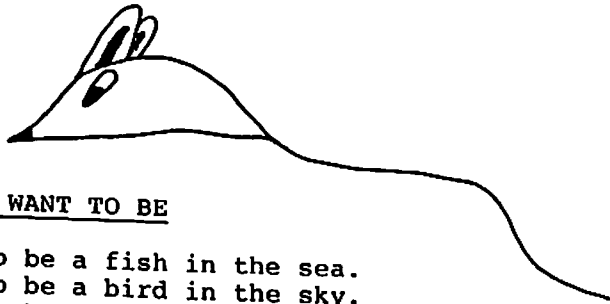
Once I was a baby, a little
cute tiny baby, with little
hands and cute toes, lucky,
lucky me. But now I am older and
miss little me. But when I do
handstands I don't.

Sarah McInnes, Grade One.

ME

I am a lion.
I am a flea.
I am a turtle.
I am green.
I am a pythoh
and a fish.
I am everything
You can think of.

Kylie May, Grade Four.



I WANT TO BE

I want to be a fish in the sea.
I want to be a bird in the sky.
I want to be a rat in a cave.
I want to be a cat in a basket.
I want to be a dog in a house.
But really I want to be - Just me.

Collette McDonald, Grade Three.

Sometimes I feel...

FEELINGS

I feel happy when I have company because I like to talk to them. I am sad when I have a fight because I lose a friend. I feel good when I have done something special or a good deed for somebody. I feel happy when my mum or dad gets me a surprise because I know they love me.

David Logan, Grade Five.

FEELINGS

There's a place in New South Wales where I can really relax and express my feelings down at a river bend or under tall trees with the breeze blowing gently. I often write poems or stories down at the river about my feelings. One time I was lying down near the river and all these emus came right near me. I was so scared that I wanted to run far away yet my curiosity made me stay. It was very exciting watching them as my heart was pounding with fear. In the school holidays coming up I will have a lot of poems to write. The river changes every year and a lot of new trees have grown.

Lying under the trees
Enjoying the cool breeze
Watching all the birds fly
As time goes by.



Jackie Perkins, Grade Six.

TIM

How sad I was when I heard the news! Tim was dead! We were in the car when Mum broke the news. "We had to put Tim down today", Mum said. "They could do nothing to help him. It was the kindest thing to do." I sobbed and sobbed. Nothing Mum said made me feel better. I was so sad and lonely. I knew Mum was right but I felt angry. I tried to stop thinking about Tim but I couldn't. I kept thinking of all the happy times we had had together. The times when I used to feed him and he would look cute, the times when we went walking together and he would run off ahead, and the times when he would sit and gaze at the telly. I loved my Tim but now he's gone!

Rebecca Manzin, Grade Five.

FEELINGS

I get annoyed when people follow me and call me names. I feel happy when it is play time and all my friends are with me. I feel sad when I get into trouble at home and school because I feel like no one likes me any more. I try to do my best but sometimes it doesn't turn out right.

Stephen MacDonald, Grade Four.



HAPPINESS

Yesterday I went to the football and I felt nervous. Our team is called North Ringwood and we have only won one game this year....The Lightning Premiership. I love to play with my friends in a team. It gives me a good feeling when I kick goals. Running makes me feel good when the wind goes through my hair.

Ben Stoops, Grade Three.



WHEN I WENT TO MY NEW HOUSE

When I went to my new house I felt funny because I was happy. I hoped I was going to get some new friends and I was sad because I was going to lose some friends. Dad and I had to look after the house so no one could steal the furniture and I watched Ivan's Movie Classic and I slept with dad in Luke's bedroom. The next day the whole family came to live happily all together.

Kristian Tkatchenko, Grade Three.

HAPPINESS AND SADNESS

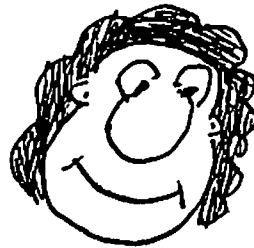
NERVOUS....NERVOUS....

Last week I did my Viola exam. I had been working for that day for a year. My sister, Katrina, was doing her Violin exam too. I knew after teabreak it was my turn to go and show Mr. Blake what I could do. I was after a boy called Juri Jeske. I really started to panic when Juri came out. I had 30 minutes to wait, my heart started to pound. My pulse rate was at least 100 per minute. Now it was time, I grabbed my Viola and walked in. Thirty-two minutes later I came out. The first question I was asked was "How did you go?" My answer "I do not know." My heart had died down but my legs were still shaking. My pulse rate had dropped down to 64 per minute. BUT still I was relieved that I had finished my exam. Tonight I am going to find out what I got. I just can't wait.

Karoline von Moller, Grade Six.

MAGGIE AND I

I had a good friend
Who was in an accident.
She told me
That she had a disability.
I felt frustrated, hurt and confused.
I walked away
Feeling really embarrassed.
How could she have done it to me?
Maggie had had a car crash
And now she couldn't see.
How would I cope with a blind person?
How would I look as well in in her company?
But, aren't I forgetting Maggie?
She feels helpless as well.
And then I got to realise
That she could do a lot.
Maggie and I remain best buddies
And we still do a lot
Together.
So, never fall into the trap
That I did.
Just treat them normally.



Catriona Watson, Grade Four.

I got such a shock when my cat was lying on the driveway. Mum and my sister and I were in the car but mum did not see her. When she hit her she thought it was just a rock, but then she saw Babette run out from under the car.

We buried her near our garden under a pretty plant. The next day we went to look for another cat. The last place we went to was the vet's. They had two kittens there. One was a girl and one was a boy. The girl one was purring like a motor bike, and the boy one was not purring. Mum came out to the car and said, "Come in and have a look at this cat." So we went and got her, and that made me happy.

Francine Cooper, Grade Three.

FI-FI

I was surprised when I heard you were born on Christmas Day,
When I saw you I loved you in that special way.
I though Fi-fi was the cutest cat at Di's.
Boy, I wish cats had nine lives!
For when you died I cried a lot,
I was like a baby in a cot.
I gave you flowers especially from me;
We buried you beside the lemon tree.

Belinda MacLean, Grade Five.



MY CAT SAMANTHA

I used to have a black cat called Samantha or Pussy Sam. Before she died I didn't really show I loved her because she used to bite me, but deep down I really loved her. Unfortunately she was old and weak and my dad accidentally ran over her. She ran away for about a day but she did come back and dad took her to the vet. Then she was put down. I couldn't help but cry. I found out I didn't know I loved her.

Felicity Lang, Grade Six.

DISABILITIES

If I had a disability
I wouldn't like to be inside or shy.
I would want to play sports
of all kinds and sorts.
I wouldn't like to be inside
or to be treated like a pet
or to be sitting down
and everyone doing everything for me.
If people treat me like a pet
I will feel terrible,
hurt and angry
and silly and confused.
If I was walking down the street
I hope someone would help me
cross the road,
but I wouldn't like to be treated like that
all the time.

Sean Barlow, Grade Four.

FRUSTRATION

Normally I could rapidly devour a bar of chocolate without thinking about it, but when I'm frustrated, I chomp as hard as I can. I know it's not hurting the chocolate even though it's probably doing considerable damage to my teeth. All my frustration disappears. It gives me a satisfied feeling to have finished eating the chocolate. This is a personal activity I enjoy doing by myself. I do this as soon as I get home from school because this is when I feel most worked up.

Hilary Badger, Grade Five.



I HATE IT

It make me jump
A chill down my spine
Just the thought
Makes me slither.
SUDDEN NOISE!



Leon Eyck, Grade Six.

FRUSTRATED

I feel nervous because a lot of frustrating things are going by. Oh, you may be wondering what nervous and frustrated means. Well, nervous means say you are going to perform on live stage.. well, the feeling you have then.

And frustrated means, well.. say you are looking at a brain and you are wondering how it works and how it stores all the memories...well, you are frustrated.

Russell Thomson, Grade Two.

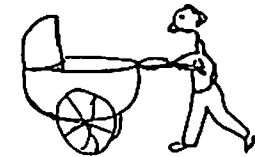


FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is a very important thing because everybody needs a friend. Well, today is just such a confusing day. How it all started was, I used to always play games that I hated, just to be wanted by the girls, and now I've found to do that, I've got (well not got) to go around with the boys. So I did, but now it's so confusing because all the girls want me to come back with them, but I don't know what to do...

But the good thing is that I'm finding out who my real friends are and who will stick behind me. That's really good, so I'm still thinking about what I'll do. So as you can see now some different things about being confused.

Tara Chambers, Grade Six.



EXCITEMENT

My mummy is going to have two baby twins. She is going to bring home a scan and show us how big the babies are. We bought a van for the babies. Ryan is going to push a pram and so am I. We are very excited about it. The babies are going to be born in February. Mummy's car would be too small to fit the new babies in so we bought a van for the babies and Ryan and me.

Trent Summers, Grade Three.

THE LITTLE LEAGUE

When I was playing for Carlton I felt proud when I took a mark over one of the other players and kicked it down field. Then another player from our team caught it. When I played at the Skills Clinic I kicked a goal for our team. And our team won. I felt happy when everybody patted my back and they all yelled at me "Well Done." Mum was ironing when I got home and it made her day when I told her the news.

Brent Webber, Grade Four.



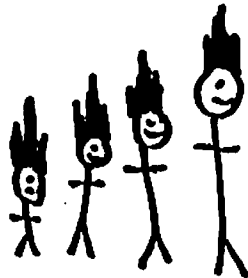
JOY! JOY! JOY!

I was very happy when I went for a trip to Europe. The place where I went was Yugoslavia. My grandmother, my grandfather and the rest of my relatives live there. When I was on the aeroplane it seemed as though we were having food every fifteen minutes.

When we arrived at the airport I looked out the window and it looked as though it was snowing but it wasn't. We stayed at my grandmother's place for a few days. Later we travelled by train to the country but I got sick.

When it was time to leave all my friends I felt very sad but I had to go on. We travelled to the beach where I saw my cousins. I was very happy to see them but I was a little bit shy so I didn't talk very much. We stayed there for a week or two but then it was time to go home. I really love my cousins and I was sad to leave them but it was time to come back to Australia. I was happy to see my Dad again.

Samantha Banko, Grade Five.



SADNESS

When my Nana died it was really sad. She was put in a coffin and burnt. The ashes then went into a steel box and then the steel box went into the ground. A few weeks ago we went and saw her. It was sad. Her first name was Elva and her last name was Logan. She died of old age. She was very sick. Before she died she went into hospital and we always visited her. The last time I saw her was when I took my teddy elephant.

Kristen Logan, Grade Three.

HURT INSIDE

I get hurt inside when I do something for someone and they don't even say thank you, when people swear at me and call me names, when people say they are better at writing than me, better at sport than me and better at reading than me. I also get hurt feelings when they say they have better things than me like BMX bikes, radio-controlled cars and a better mini bike than I have. I also get hurt feelings when people say things about my parents that weren't very nice and I get hurt inside when I hear people calling my sisters names and when people swear at them. I also get hurt when people die who are very close to me or who are a relation. I get hurt feelings a real lot when people call me dumb and think that I don't know anything. I get hurt when people take something of mine without asking, when people just walk straight into my room and start playing with my things and start wrecking them.

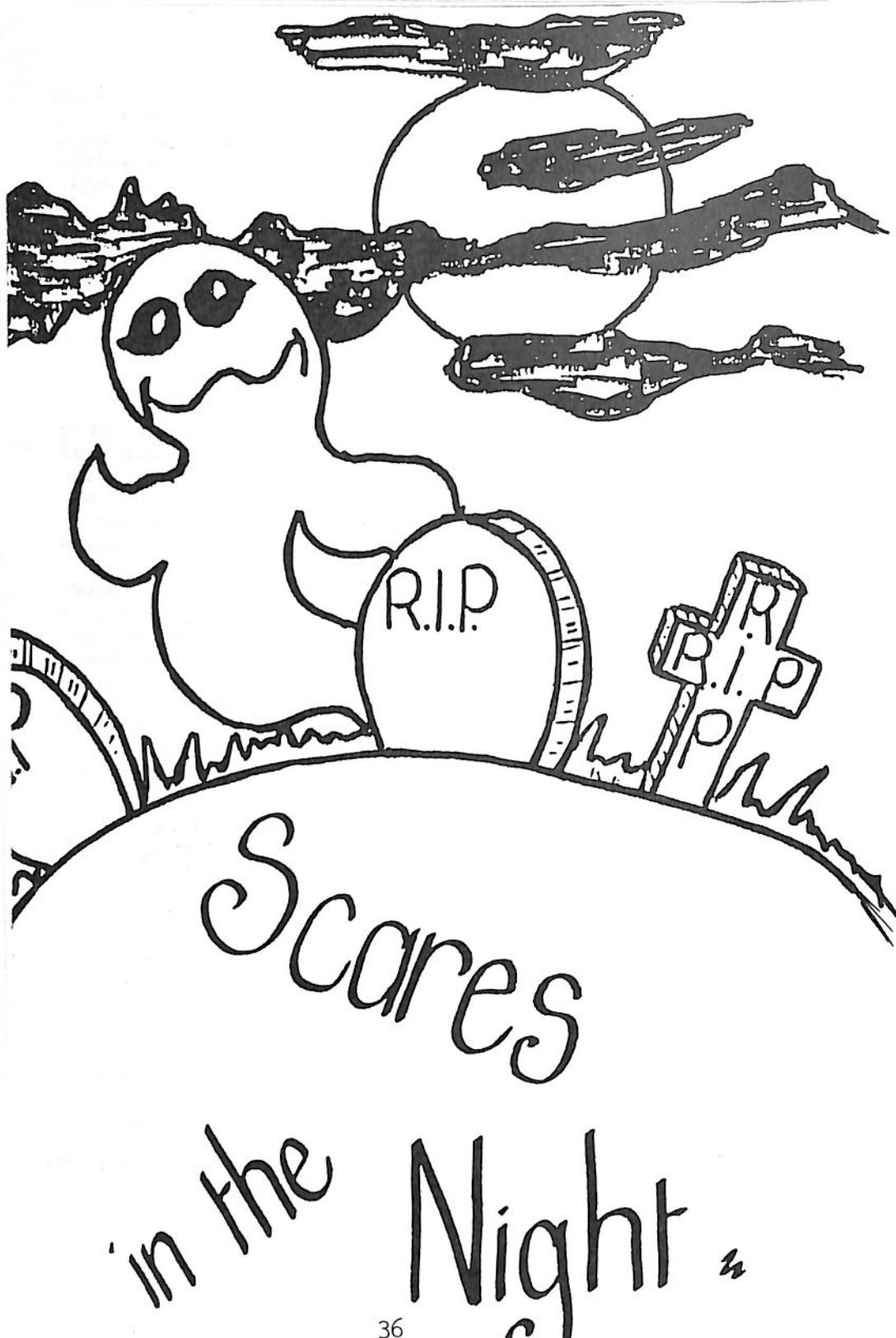
Robert Halden, Grade Six.



MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

On my first day at school I felt nervous and scared. I turned red and wanted to go back home and come back the next day. But even if we did I would say the same thing the next day. I sat next to Michael Belfrage and felt as if he didn't like me. I really felt as if I could go home and never come back again. And another thing, we were doing maths (my favorite subject) At playtime I played Octopus. As the days wore on I felt better.

Shannon Lebel, Grade Four.



Scares

in the Night

SCARED

I feel scared when I'm walking out in the pitch black dark, and I hear a slight sound nearby, or I see a shape that looks like someone trying to mug me. And when I approach my house I think I haven't been mugged or killed yet but I *might* get killed in my own house but I haven't so far!

Kim Elmer, Grade Six.

MY FEARS IN THE NIGHT

Last night I thought we had a burglar in our house. I got really frightened. My tummy started churning over and over. I was nearly ready to scream and yell.

I was too scared to move. I nearly went up to dad to tell him but I was too scared to do that.

When I told them in the morning, all they did was laugh and scoff. I said to them, "How would you like it if it happened to you?" All they did was ignore me. I got really angry and just stormed off.

Kim Garretty, Grade Three.

SCARED

I saw a worrying thing it looked rather strange I looked around I felt scared it gave me the creeps I had to run somewhere but there was nowhere to run It was all misty around me. I just sat and screamed. I thought I was in a dream I tried to open my eyes I couldn't because they were all ready open All of a sudden I found that I was in a dream.

Sophie Chambers, Grade Three

IN THE DARK

In the dark you cannot see anything. Possums and cats wander in the dark. There is no such thing as ghosts. I really cannot understand why people are scared of the dark. Crickets squeak, squeak away, there are funny noises in the dark, like this 'OoooooOooooow'. Sometimes it ends nowhere, like 'Ohhhh, not againnnn.' It is dark.....oh.

Holly Stewart, Grade One.

I FEEL SCARED WHEN.....

The wind blows swiftly through the tall trees;
Mum turns out the lights;
The door creaks;
Everyone's asleep except for me.
I'm all alone in the night.
I hear the screech of brakes.
I hear dogs crying.

Angela Hassett, Grade Four.

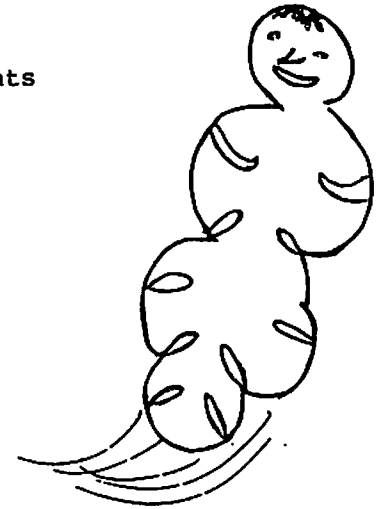
SCARES AT NIGHT

I think there's a goblin in my room because I hear it every night. It always keeps me awake. I say, 'Please be quiet,' then I think it stares at me, Then I think it goes away and something else comes. It goes 'Ta-wit-a wit-a-whoooo. I jump out of bed and run to my Dad and Mum, yelling, 'Helppp!' But IT WASN'T. IT WASN'T, IT WASN'T!
I wake up.

Shelley Luck, Grade Three.

THE COLD MISTY LAND

One night
Was so cold
I couldn't get to sleep.
I got up
Looked around at what sights
Bewitched me.
Suddenly
I saw an enormous
Creepy
Whispering thing
That scared me
So much
I couldn't get to sleep
But then
Just then
It started to waver
To get misty
And at last
That strange thing
Was gone.



Kim Garretty, Grade Three

IN THE DARK

In the dark a monster hides with his eyes as red as red and a knife in a hand. I don't know where it hides. It is an ugly thing. I walk slowly down the hall. "BOO!"
'EEEEeer'
"NO!"
'EEEEer'.
He waves the knife and goes bananas. In comes the army. They shoot the monster.
'GOOD. HE'S DEAD.'

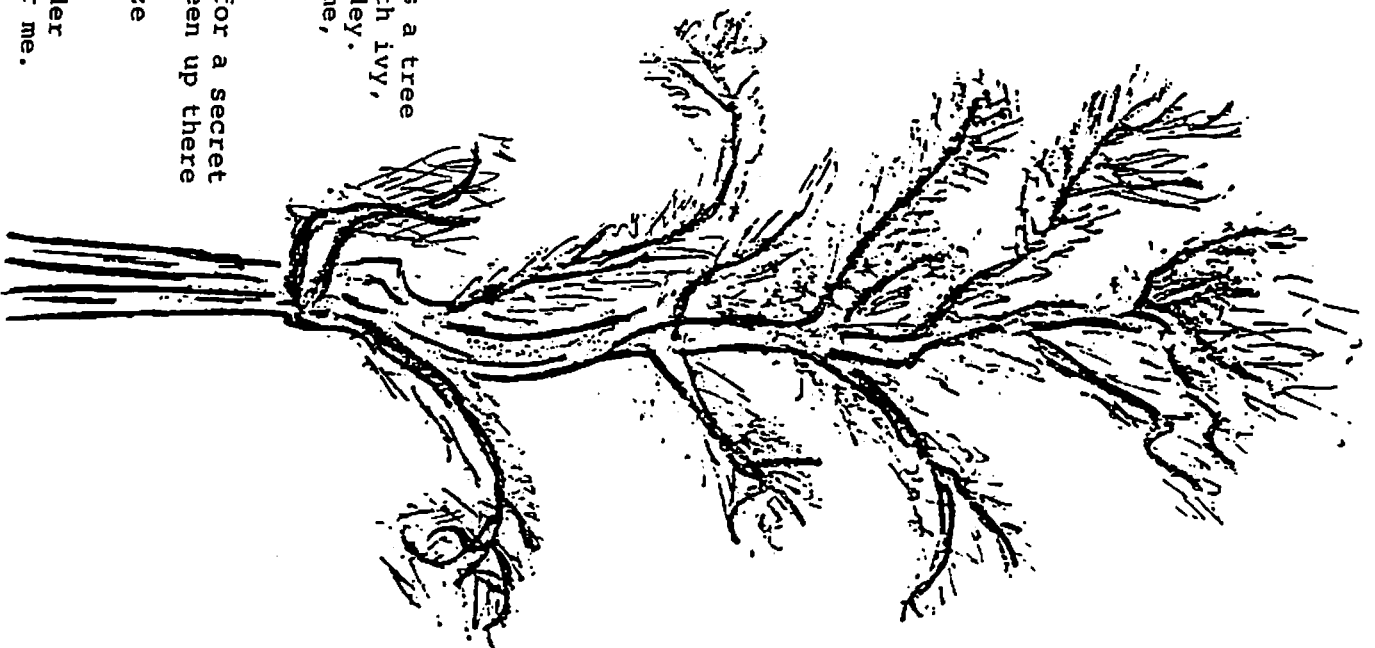
Sam Burke, Grade Three.

SCARED

At home when I have to go to bed I always turn my lamp on and open the curtains so that it isn't dark. When I'm drowsy I turn off the light. Later in the night I often hear my dog barking or the house creaking so I get out of bed. Sometimes I'm even afraid of the clown hanging in my room because I think it is a person.

Rebecca Stoops, Grade Five.

The Secret Place.



MY SECRET SPOT

My favorite spot is a tree that is covered with ivy, a good spot for hidey. No one ever finds me, no one can get up except me.

It's a great tree for a secret though I haven't been up there lately, because of a spider the size of my hand.

Except for the spider it's just right for me.

Cameron Black, Grade Five.

THE PRIVATE PLACE

Dan and Tom met in their spot, far away from anywhere else. The place, a distant island surrounded by a creek in a Menung paddock.

"What's the time Dan?" asked Tom in a I'm-in-another-world sort of manner.

"3:10 Of course, this is when we always meet."



This was a typical day for the pair, lazing around amongst the freshly dug wombat holes, and so the hour passed and it was time for them to go. "See ya, Tom." "Cheerio mate". And with a wave of the hand the two departed in different directions.

4:30 and another visitor came, a thirsty kangaroo to drink at the shallow creek encircling the island. Then with a satisfied prick of the ears it hopped away through the long green grass. Then came the mother bird to feed her hungry babies, the snake, the croaking frog and then darkness. Yes, it seemed impossible for such a lively place, but the night is still young and barely quiet or dull. Out comes a young wombat rolling in the dry leaves. Oh, what fun he's having and here comes the possum weaving his way to his home, on the island they all love so well.

William Newman, Grade Five.

MY SECRET PLACE

My secret place is in the garage. There is a great big board there. You have to go through a secret passage. You have to go here, there and everywhere and I made it myself. My sister and some friends that live across the road helped us. It has a roof and walls and a floor. It is made out of wood and we go up steps and get some food and we take it down stairs and have some afternoon tea. And it is really fun.

Sophie Chambers, Grade Three.

MY SPECIAL CORNER

There is a corner in my bedroom that I visit every day. My giant beanbag Puggle is in residence which provides a handy sitting spot. I have a rather convenient baby dresser which has equally convenient cupboards. These are useful for storing books and food (if necessary). This spot is nice on sunny days when the light from my window floods in and provides not a glaring light but a pleasant source of heat and also a light to read by. My bed juts into this place a bit but because it has a bed ruffle it is ideal for hiding large objects that do not fit into the cupboard. I haven't got a TV in my room, so being right next to the TV room has its advantages. I can go in and turn the channel to what I want to watch (when I'm not allowed to) and sit in my corner listening to the TV. A largish doll's house provides the third wall (the bed providing the fourth). It doesn't quite fit its space which makes a pleasant entrance. It is also perfect for hiding in as when I crouch down the doll's house hides me rather well.

At my dad's work they were having new carpet laid. They had a number of samples which my dad brought home and I laid it in my corner. All in all, this is the ideal area for spending an hour or so alone.

Hilary Badger, Grade Five.

MY SECRET HIDING PLACES

One day Kylie and Erika went for a walk into the bush, they were supposed to be home at four o'clock in the afternoon.

But Kylie and Erika were having so much fun that they forgot to look at their watches. As they were playing Kylie said with a laugh, 'What's the time, Erika?' Erika said, 'It is five o'clock, we were supposed to be home an hour ago.'

So off went Erika and Kylie, hurrying home. When they got there, their Mums yelled and they said, 'To your rooms, OK?'

They went to their rooms, then snuck out the front door and went to their secret hiding place and had drinks, they were shaking with fear.

For the rest of the day their Mums were calling out, 'Kylie! Erika!'

Kylie Marks, Grade Five

Strange Pigtails and

Other Stories.

HERBERT, THE NAUGHTY PIG

Herbert sat in his pen all alone. A truck came up the road. Herbert knew that this was to come and take some of the animals that live on the farm. Herbert hid behind his trough. A man came into the pen.

"Hey, George", he yelled. "I thought you said there was a pig in 'ere!"

Herbert saw that the man's back was turned and away he went.

"Yeah. What's up, Bill?"

"There ain't no....."

"Catch the stupid thing, Bill. Catch him!"

"What?"

"I'll get him, ya dummy!"

Herbert ran on to the road and jumped into the truck. The engine was still running, and being such a curious pig, he snuffed at the accelerator. But suddenly he tripped and the truck started. Herbert quickly jumped out of the truck and the truck ran over the farmyard.

"Got you..... Well, a free dinner."

Herbert was put in a truck. The window was open. Herbert jumped through. He landed on the roof of a car. He slipped and fell, but he was safe.

"Hey, a pig!"

Herbert ran and ran and ran, but soon he came to a dead end. He had only one escape and he took it. ZOOM! He raced through the Supermarket.

"A pig!"

"Catch him!"

Clothes went everywhere! Then he bumped into George, his owner!

ZOOM! Under his legs he went and through the exit and banged into a fire hydrant. Water went everywhere. The screaming and yelling could be heard in Tim-buck-too. A little girl picked up Herbert.

"Can we keep him, Mummy?"

"Of course!"

And they walked through the water and back home. And there they lived happily ever after.

Paul Howell, Grade Three.

POOR LITTLE PRINCESS

Once there was a clean and tidy pig who liked to sing and dance her name was Princess. One day her owners, who were very rich and gave her the best of luxury decided to sell her to their old friends who lived in the country. Princess and her owners lived in the most expensive house in the town. It took four hours to get to the farm. When they got there the farmer took her out into the smelly old barn. Princess turned her nose up at it. All the other animals frowned at her, immediately Princess knew she wasn't going to like it. Her rich owners had put lavender perfume on her before she came and it didn't mix in well with the smelly old barn. Her owners left. The farmer's name was John Brown and his wife's name Emma Brown. That night when Princess looked in her food dish she saw burnt toast mashed banana and cold gravy which the Browns had for tea last night. At home she always had fresh crayfish and some jelly. All the other animals seemed to like the food but she didn't. After she ate it she was sick. In the morning at her house she was let inside to have a sleep on a sheep skin rug, but Farmer Brown didn't even give her clean straw. After a few weeks she got sick of it so she tried to escape.

One day when Farmer Brown was transporting his straw to a rich city by truck Princess sneaked in amongst the straw. When they got Princess hopped off the truck and found a nice house with music to sing and dance. She lived there happily ever after.

Felicity Ellis, Grade Three.



BLOSSOM

Blossom the pig lives in a tree. He is like a flower. He can camouflage himself well. He is just about invisible. Every Spring you will see him. In Winter, Summer and Autumn you won't see him. He will be tucked away.

Justin Winch, Grade Two.

HEATHER AND GILBERT

Heather and Gilbert lived on a farm together. The two pigs went to the shed and got some food but the man was there. They went "Oink, oink. We want some food,"

The man said, "Yes." And they ate the lot and they got fat. And the man said, "You are not going to eat any more." So Heather and Gilbert slept for eight weeks and then they were skinny again, and they were sick.

When they got better the farmer didn't want them. He sold them and Heather and Gilbert said, "The other farmer was annoyed with us when we were doing it, but we won't do it for you. So he blamed us and the other pigs didn't like us. They were mean pigs with no manners,"

"When are we having tea?" said the two pigs.

"In four minutes, and the pigs will have a wash after tea when I say so. You can play in the mud and you will have a bath in warm water. And if it gets cold I will put hot water in and then I will put the other animals in the paddock."

When it was dark the farmer was trying to kill a giraffe, or two giraffes because he wanted to catch a tiger or three tigers. He got three tigers to come, and they nearly got the two pigs Heather and Gilbert killed. But the two pigs hid with the other pigs.

The farmer said, "What the hell are you doing?"

The two pigs said, "The three tigers were trying to catch us." "Okay. I will lock them up so they won't get you."

Naomi Bomford, Grade Three.

THE WEDDING

One day there was an animal. He lived in a pig yard with his mother and father. One day Oink was playing in the yard when he saw a stunning lady pig. It was Princess Pig.

She fell in love with Oink. They were a romantic couple. They had a wedding. All the animals went.

Jason Roche, Grade Three.

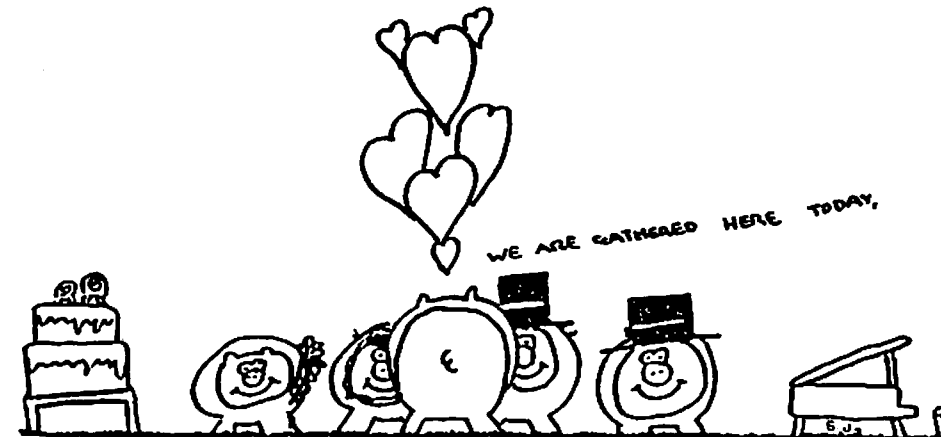
PRINCESS AND OINK

Once upon a time there was a pig called Princess. Princess was a clean pig she loved to dance and she sang at the opera. Everybody came to watch her sing. One day a pig called Oink came to town and heard Princess sing. He said to himself she has a marvelous voice. After the concert was over Oink went to see her, and gave her some flowers and a little present, the present was a box of chocolates, and they went out to tea. He said, "You sang beautifully tonight. Isn't it hard work to sing?" She said, "No, all you have to do is sing", and they laughed. Now after every concert Oink went out with Princess.

One day Oink said, "I want to marry you", and Princess said "Yes, I want to marry you too". So they married, but when they got married Oink always went into mud and was loud and lazy. Princess had to do all! She had to clean his shoes, get him dressed, make the bed and a lot more things.

One day Princess said to her husband, "I won't have it any more", then Oink thought how nice he was when they met and said to Princess, "I will help with doing everything." From then on Oink always helped doing his shoes and making the beds and he even got himself dressed. After the concert he would give her a box of chocolates and flowers and take her out and they lived happily ever after.

Jessica Blank, Grade Three.



HERBERT, THE HERO

One day as usual, Herbert was being very naughty, because he had already jumped in the mud and it landed on Mrs. Green's washing, and been in the house with mud covering over him. While Herbert was waiting for his feed, he came across some strange noise in the barn which no-one ever used any more. He decided to go and have a look. He could not see much of it, but it looked like someone was in there.

He was not sure about it so he raced off. He knew he was very fat so he was not able to go that fast, but he kept on going on. By the time he got back to the pen he had to have some food, and just then Mr. Green came out with some feed in his hand. He forgot about it so he started eating up.

When he finished it he went to have a sleep and then he remembered that something was in the barn. He got up and ran to find Mr. and Mrs. Green, but he knew that he was not allowed in the house. So he wondered where Mr. Green was, and suddenly remembered where he was. Mr. Green was in the garden.

So he ran to the garden. Mr. Green was not in the garden. So he ran to the shed but he was not there either. He remembered he went down to the shop to buy some groceries, so he had to do it himself.

He went back to the barn and had another look. It was a familiar man, so he ran so fast he lost a mud patch. And there was a fight and he tried to headbutt him and he knocked him over. By the time he did that Mrs. Green came out with the gun and stopped the robber and he went to jail.

Herbert was a hero.

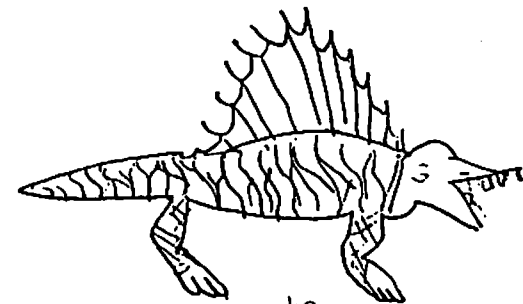
Andrew Grieve, Grade Three.

ALBERT THE DINOSAUR

Albert was a big dinosaur and scaley. He was a meat eater and a very strong thing. He had great big sharp teeth that could crunch bones. One day he crept up on another dinosaur but it swung around and saw him. The mother whipped him and he fell in the water. His great weight pulled him down and he drowned. Over the years mud layered over him. Ninety-five million years he lay there. After that a scientist came to where Albert was killed 95,000,000 years ago and he took him to a museum and they gave him a name. It was Albertosaurus.



Brent McKinnon, Grade Two.



WHEN TIME MISSED CHRISTMAS

It was two days before Christmas and Sally couldn't wait. She put out her stocking and went to bed early.

The next day Sally woke up and was surprised to see wrapping paper all over the floor. She went back to her room and saw all her unwrapped presents on her desk.

Then she went to look at the calendar and it said the twenty-sixth.

"WE'VE MISSED CHRISTMAS," shouted Sally, waking her Mum and Dad up.

Mum got up and said, "Can't you remember opening your presents yesterday?"

"No," said Sally crossly.

"Go back to bed," said Mum.

And from that day on she never knew what happened.

Angela Hassett, Grade Four

MY MONSTER

One day I went walking. I saw a hill, it was green. So I went up the hill, when I walked on it but I slipped off it. Now I knew that it was not a hill. I poked it with a stick. It moved and lifted its head, it was a monster! I ran away. The monster turned around and chased me. He chased me all the way home, then it was quiet. I looked out the door and I saw the monster crying. I said "Come on monster, I will play with you and I will show you to all my friends". He liked that.

Colette McDonald, Grade Three.



LISA'S DAYDREAM IN THE FOREST

One day we went on a picnic in a forest. I was standing where the barbecues were. I asked mum if I could go for a walk in the forest. She said, "Yes," I could go.

I started walking down the track. Then I said to myself that I could go a little further off the track, so I did. As I went further it started to get darker and darker because the trees were in the way of the sun.

I felt something on my face. I was terrified. I looked around but it was only a fern. I was so relieved. I walked a little further then I felt something crawling up my leg. It was a spider on my leg. I screamed as loud as I could. But no-one came because I was so far away from the track. I looked about. I saw something that looked like a monster. I walked up to it and touched it. I found out that it was only some trees.

I said to myself, "I've had enough of this spooky stuff." But I was LOST...I said, "I'm going back." But which way was back.....? North, or south, or east or west...?

Suddenly I heard someone calling me. It was my mother's voice. She was saying, "Lisa, Lisa, your sausages are ready." I looked around.

She said, "Lisa, why are you day-dreaming? Your sausages are ready. Come on!"

Just then I realised that I WAS daydreaming..

Felicity Ellis, Grade Three.

POSSUM

One night Michelle went to put the rubbish out. Just then she heard a noise, so Michelle went over. It came from a hole in the tree. She looked in and a scared little possum was looking after her babies.

"I wonder why these possums are asleep?"

Michelle went inside to ask her mother. "Mum, why don't possums sleep at night?" "Go and look in the nature book." So Michelle had a look. "POSSUMS," it said. She looked where it said, "Why don't possums sleep at night?"

It said, "Possums sleep at day and they are awake at night."

Catherine Fox, Grade Two.

WHEN MY BROTHER PLAYED A TRICK ON ME

I sleep in on Saturday. One Saturday when I was asleep, my brother woke me up.

I said to him, "What's the time?"

"Nine o'clock," he said.

"Oh yeah," I said.

"Look at the time yourself", he said. I looked and sure enough it was nine o'clock. I got up and made the breakfast.

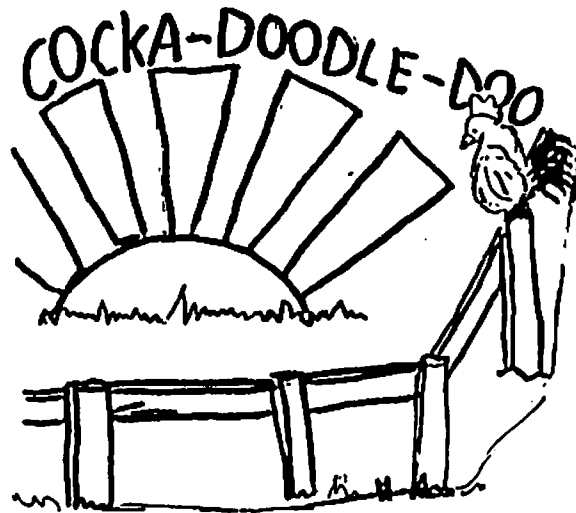
Dad said to me, "Why are you up so early, Gavan? Do you know it's six o'clock?"

I hit my brother. He went red. "WHAT WAS THAT FOR?" he shouted.

"FOR TURNING THE CLOCK THREE HOURS FORWARD!" I shouted back at him.

He punched me back, he kicked me. "It's your fault for believing me," he said. "So there!"

Gavin Cooper, Grade Four.



MAY HOLIDAYS

In the May holidays my dad asked me to go to work with him. Mum packed my lunch and we were off to Kew. In about half an hour we arrived. Dad asked me to pull down the roof of the two storey house. When I saw the roof I had to think because the roof was made of roof shingles. I thought that I was going to hurt myself.

I decided to take the shingles off first and then the battens. I started to go up the ladder. I took the first shingle off and threw it to the ground. In the end I got all the shingles off and then I had to start using my hammer to get the battens off. About the twenty-ninth one I pulled off I got stuck. It would not come off. I pulled and pulled. I was starting to perspire. In the end one end came off and the batten broke. Dad heard the crack and came rushing up the ladder and said,

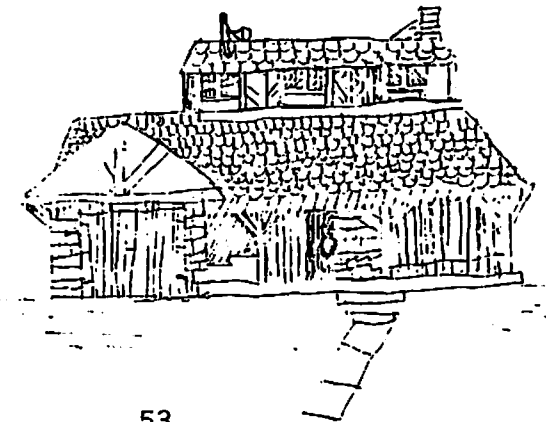
"Are you all right?" I replied, "Yes, I am."

I went on with what I was doing.

After I had finished that I had to get the AC sheeting off the rafters. I nearly fell through it but I was all right. I got all the AC sheeting off the roof and now it was the rafters turn. It took me a lot longer to do them because I had to use a hand saw to do it. I was all right.

It was about 3.00 p.m. at that time. It was time to go home. I hopped in the car and we set off for home. When we arrived home Mum said, "How did you go?" I replied, "It was fun pulling down a roof of a two storey house, but it was like having a cold chill down my back all the time." My Mum nearly fainted!

Jason Webber, Grade Six.



CATTIE AND I

Cattie and I were best friends since Grade Two. We were in the same grade each year until the accident. Cattie was in a car crash. Cattie's mum rang us up and we rushed to the hospital. I felt really annoyed. All there was on the news was car crashes and car crashes and car crashes. We were told that she was concussed and were not able to see her. For three days I was angry and hurt. We were rung on the third day and told that Cattie was paralysed from the waist down. I cried for ages until I could cry no more.

Cattie came home from hospital later. No one really knew how to cope with Cattie. She felt so confused and sad she said nothing apart from when someone started petting over her. Then she said, "Leave me alone." I wanted to help her but wasn't sure how. In this I was really frustrated. I went over to her house a few times but she just sat there. For ages and ages it went on like this..... Cattie sad and confused, me bursting to help her. At last Cattie snapped out of it. It was still hard but we managed, and most important of all, we stayed best friends.

Sally Graham, Grade Four.

THE TREE HOLE

One day when Kathy was climbing her favorite tree, she saw a hole in the trunk big enough for her to climb down. So very carefully she climbed down feeling for notches as she went. When she was down to the ground she saw a sort of little desk. It was very small. It was only about thirty centimetres square.

The next day Kathy brought a little stool to sit on. A week later she found a tiny cupboard as she was rummaging through the shed. She got some nails and a hammer and hammered the tiny cupboard onto the wall.

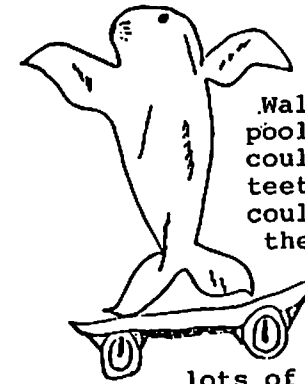
When her mother went shopping she stole three candles, a box of matches, a lantern to put the candles in, two Mars bars, three Aroo bars, one Cherry ripe and a couple of apples. Then she put them in her little cupboard.

Kathy put a nail in the wall to hang the lantern on, then she lit a candle and put it in the lantern. Now she could see all around she thought it looked quite cosy.

The next day Kathy asked her mother if she could do her homework in her hidey hole. Her mother said yes. From then on Kathy did her homework in the tree.

54 Finley Pitt, Grade Five.

MY HOLIDAY



When we went to New South Wales we went to the porpoise pool and we saw a dolphin that could feed and I cleaned his teeth. There was a seal who could ride a skateboard and there was a bigger seal who came around and kissed all the ladies. Then we saw a pool where there were sharks and tortoises and lots of fish.

Brett Sinclair, Grade Four.

B.M.X.

Two years ago I was chosen for the Australian BMX championships and my sponsor Graham Stevenson was coming down from Queensland to give me a new bike for the championships and to also see me race, so I had to do my best. When I woke up the day of the race I couldn't eat my breakfast and I had butterflies all the way to Glen Waverley. When I got there I saw Graham and he gave me the bike and I had a ride on it. Then it was the final of the Australian championships. I had made it there to the final. It was the big moment. I was in lane 2. The starter said, "On your mark, get ready, GO!" I came to the first jump, then a rider from Northern Territory came across and knocked me off the side of the track and I landed on a tyre and sprained my ankle and my bike was wrecked.

Alex Hall, Grade Five.

SNAKES

Snakes are slithery, snakes are bare.
Snakes wear spotted underwear.
They wear glasses when in bed.
If they bite you you'll be dead.

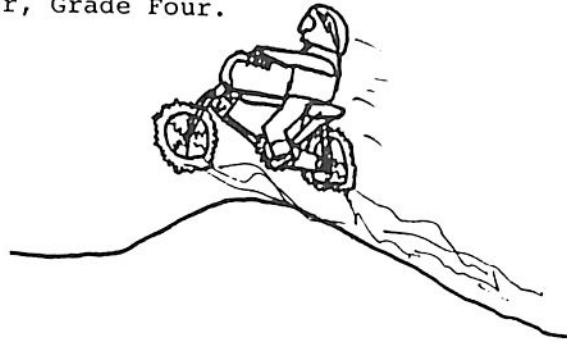
Kylie May, Grade Four.

THE BIG SUNDAY

Yesterday I went to the BMX track with my next door neighbours Troy and Brooke. There were big puddles and big jumps. At the first jump I flew off my bike and landed back on my bike. I hurt my bottom and yelled "Ouch!" There was a big puddle and I got bogged. I was laughing my head off. I was soaking wet but I wasn't scared. Anyway I was having a good time. After about a half an hour we were on our way home.

We washed our bikes and had a barbeque. Even our dog had a sausage. Oh, what a day!

Justin Parker, Grade Four.



THE SAILORS

One day a lemon called Craig went to sea in a boat. He had lots of adventures.

One of his adventures was meeting a new friend called Ryan Banana. Ryan Banana decided to join Craig Lemon. They went off in Craig's boat.

Craig Lemon and Ryan Banana got stranded on an island and met James Apple. He was half Indonesian and half Australian.

Craig Lemon and Ryan Banana and James Apple were fixing up their boat. They sailed off in the boat. Then we met Paul Orange in the water. They pulled Paul Orange into the boat.

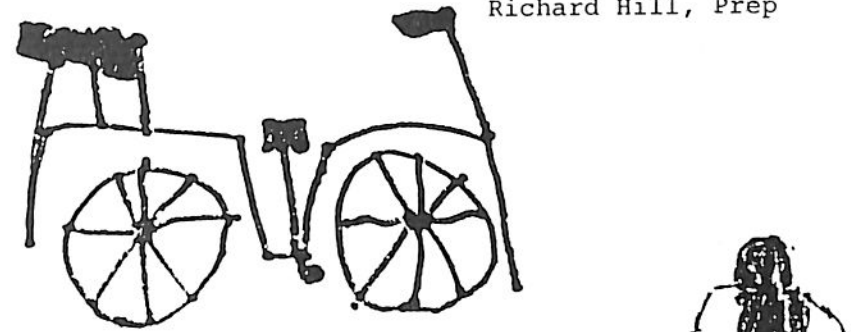
They lived happily ever after on the island.

Craig Scott, Grade One.

HAPPY DAYS

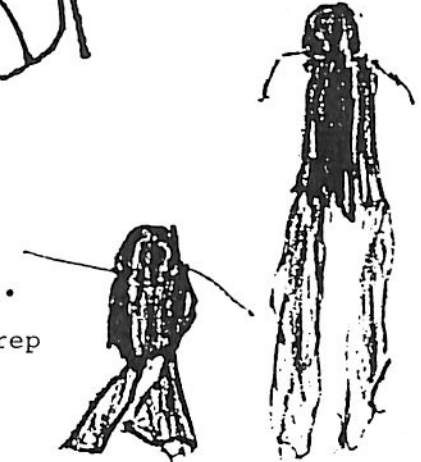
I am happy when I ride my bike, and it doesn't have any training wheels.

Richard Hill, Prep



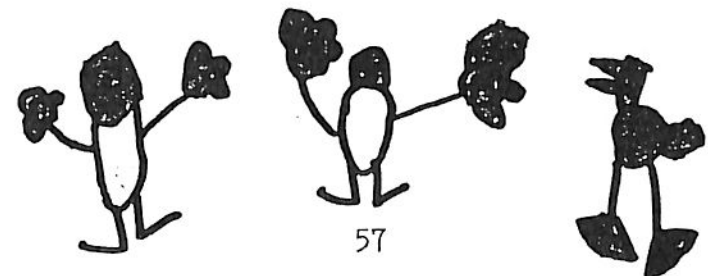
I am happy to go to school.

Tristan Message, Prep



I was happy when I got my new duck.

Brett Wellard, Prep



SHOPPING CENTRE

One day I got lost
in a shopping centre.
I was scared and
terrified. I thought
I was never going to
be found again.

But I got found.

Aaron Hart, Grade One.



We are going to
Eastland to show
the people our
skipping. We are
wearing leotards
and pink ribbons
in our hair. We
are going at
lunchtime.



Yvette Braybrook,
Grade One.

DARE DEVIL DANIEL AT THE BIG CIRCUS

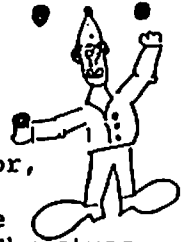
Dare Devil Daniel worked at a circus. In the circus there was Lester and Clyde (the two clowns), Dare Devil Daniel (the trick cyclist) Ramo Milton and Nin (the helpers with the animals) Mr. Biff, Meg, Mog, Tim and Michelle all helped in the circus. One day as they went through the Capital city of Australia they put on a show. It was fun. The noise was incredible. The people were amazed at the juggling, magic and the animals, but most of all they liked the noise. And the people laughing made Dare Devil Daniel work faster and faster and faster till no one could see him. Then, the show was over. Every one went home.

Jennifer Dean, Grade Two.

THE CIRCUS OF TERROR



Once upon a time there was a circus called The Circus of Terror, and a boy named Charlie, and he wanted a unicycle. The months came until December 25th came. It was Christmas and his mum and dad gave him what he wanted. Charlie shouted and shouted and said, "A unicycle."



Charlie ran outside with the unicycle and started riding. The circus man looked over the fence and said, "Come and join the circus". And he did. Mr. Mitchell the circus man said, "Do you want to be next?" Charlie said, "Yes. On the high wire". Mr. Mitchell said, "I will introduce everyone".

Charlie saw the tiger jumping in a hoop. He saw a lady holding an umbrella on a horse. Charlie saw a tiger on one foot. Now it was Charlie's turn. He was very good at it.

Mr. Mitchell said, "Good afternoon. I'm very pleased a lot of people came today. This is Charlie, the unicyclist. He balanced on a piece of light string and he fell upside down. He twirled around. He went left and right and everybody shouted and shouted. For the rest of the year Charlie stayed in the circus.

Jodie Dean, Grade Two.



SAM SNAKE

HISS! HISS! HISS! "Hi Ssammy Ssnake here. I am here to tell you that snakes aren't asss bad as you think. Hiss! Hiss! Me, personally, can't put venom in you and wouldn't if I could. Hiss. The only thing I lash out on is a vegetable, because I'm a vegetarian. I'll tell you why."

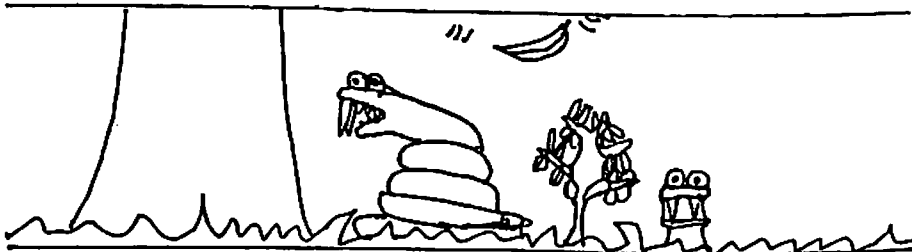
"When I was little I was a fit, happy snake, I couldn't wait until I could be like all the other snakes, I always practised biting sticks and rocks. And I loved it! I wasss the ssspeediest ssnake around. (I might still have sssome ssspeed left but not ass much as before.)"

Back to the story. "Any newcomer I would challenge and beat, but I only raced kidsss. But at 4 o'clock every day I stopped to see what the older snakes caught. Some even caught kookaburras (only stupid ones who try and attack us). A bit before hibernation my mum and dad said over dinner that I could start hunting. "By golly!" I jumped up with joy "Hiss, hiss," Fred and Jane yelled out, "Good on you, Sam." (They're my kid brother and sister.) It took me sssome time to get to sleep but I eventually did. "Hiss, hiss!" So when I woke up I put my skin that I had shed, in the trasssh hole.

The day took agesss, but it eventually was 2.30 p.m. when we left. There were two other snakes sssstarting today. "Hiss, hiss!" I saw a mouse, I lashed at it. I couldn't kill it with venom sso I sstrangled it to death but I was disss-appointed so I never until thiss day went hunting or ate meat again. But a word of warning don't be sscared of uss, none of uss are too bad.

Goodbye, HISS! HISS!

Leon Eyck, Grade Six.



SNAKE

"Oh Donna did we have to come on this walk?" asked the exhausted little Anne.

"Yes we did have to come on this walk." They trudged through the thick scrubland slowly.

"Why in the world?"

"Look Anne, it's the quickest way to get to school," Donna sighed. She was only trying to help her small sister to get to school on time. Anne is always trying to urge some one to do something and when they do it she changes her mind. Donna was just fed up with her sister whinging.

"DONNA" screamed Anne at the top of her voice "There is a snake next to me!"

"Oh Anne stop making up stories." Donna kept walking, her mind on the track ahead of her. Suddenly she felt something cold brush against her leg. She looked down. There was a snake sliding past her.

"EEEEK" shrieked Donna and kicked at the snake. The snake spun around and bit her on the ankle. "Anne, quick, in my schoolbag there is a long piece of material and get a long stick."

Anne piled through Donna's schoolbag, found the piece, stuffed everything back into the bag and ran and got a stick. "Good, here, pass it to me," said Donna. "Thank you Anne."

"Donna your face is all wet," said the startled Anne. Donna was sweating.

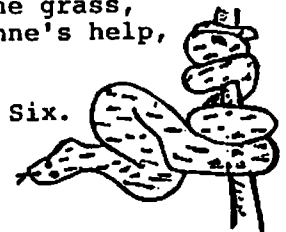
"Anne, pass me the stick now. Run back to the house quick." Anne ran to the house and Donna managed to hop along behind her. She finally reached the gate and she climbed through. Her mother was ready with the car.

"Donna, quick get in. What sort of snake was it?"

"Oh, ah, well, oh, mum, I feel so weak."

"Don't worry, we're nearly there." They reached the hospital and the nurse took them in. Soon Donna was feeling much better. Twenty minutes ago she was lying down in the grass, full of pain. But now, thanks to Anne's help, she was going to be alright.

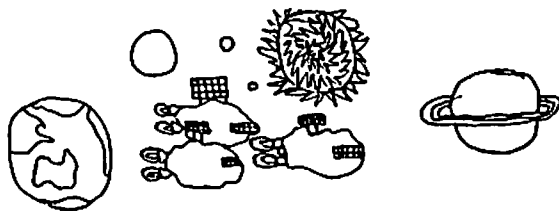
Nicole May, Grade Six.



A RACE AGAINST TIME

In the year 2010 Earth was in severe danger of extinction because Earth's distant sister planet has tapped into the master battle computer and set it to self-destruct in 0 sixty-seven hours, thirty-two minutes, twenty-seven seconds and counting. If the master computer, Telation One, was to self destruct Earth's defences would be helpless against Cybertron's mighty force. Earth is under complete confusion and the leaders of the world will have to abandon Earth. They will have to tow in three mighty asteroids. They worked day and night with no rest building the mighty space-ships. At 0 twenty hours, eight minutes and fifty-seven seconds and counting the spaceships are ready but no computer and there is not enough time to make one. So they disconnected the part of Telation One that wouldn't self destruct and connected it into the main spaceship. The spaceships will be boosted out of Earth's atmosphere and then it will start drifting. It will take many generations even to get out of the solar system. On the spaceship there is a farm, a very big farm and the colony will have to live on fruit and vegetables. All of the Earth's population are entering the spaceships at Cape Kennedy's space centre. Twenty million people are not going, saying "it is crazy" and "you'll never survive". Twenty seconds to blast off: 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0, lift off, we have lift off. It will take the spaceships five minutes to get out of the Earth's atmosphere. All of a sudden there was a great jerk and the spaceship slows down. The engines have shut off and the main spaceship shoots out its space anchor, gripping on the two side spaceships. After a few days there was a great rumble as Cybertron's forces coasted by. "They are going to a dead world," said the captain. "A dead world." It would be hundreds, even thousands of generations to get to another planet or they mightn't even get to one but I'm sure they would have many adventures.

Carl Williams, Grade Six.



THE ROBOT WAR

Once upon a time there were space robots who came down to earth. They wanted to rule the world, but the robots didn't know the earthlings and the earthlings didn't know what the robots could do.

They started off by destroying homes. Some of the robots got killed because their metal wasn't as strong as the missiles, and some of the earthlings got killed because the robots could change into anything.

The captain of the robots and his robots were not killed yet. Then a big fight began, the robots were winning at first because they kept changing into things. And then the people started firing missiles that led them into the sea, the robots got all rusty and they were never seen again.

Joel Ho, Grade Two.



MOON FLIGHT

One day the space shuttle disappeared off to the moon, it was fast. When it landed on the moon the man got off board. The UFOs were coming. Suddenly they opened with lasers. One man was killed, but the UFOs went in. They landed. The Martians got out.

They took out the USA flag and put in the UFO flag and went back to fight for the moon to be theirs for as long as they want. But the Earth people killed them and put back their own flag.

They split the UFO flag in half and they went back to Earth.

Brent McKinnon, Grade Two.

CAMPING



I went camping and we had a camp fire and we saw lots of stars. We even saw the Southern Cross.

Aaron Hart, Grade One.

FLIGHT IN TIME

The stillness was terrible. Everything stopped, it was so quiet. Then suddenly I went into a whirling motion, all I could see were colours. I was so dizzy. Going round and round. Then thump. I landed on a grassy hill.

"Where am I?" I said to myself, "Where are all the people of my town, where is the traffic and the buildings, where are all the houses?"

Then from behind me I heard the sound of galloping horses hooves. I looked around and there was a knight in shining black armour and he had a sword at his side. I just froze. I was scared stiff. I had gone back in time. "Oh no," I said.

"Whoa," said the knight to his horse.

"Who...who...are you?" I said in a trembling voice.

"I am the black knight of Jaby" he said in a powerful voice.

"Oh", I said, "What year is it?" I asked, wondering how far I had gone back in time.

"Perhaps you are crazy. It is the year 1554" he answered.

"Really?" I said, amazed. "It was the year 1985 about two hours ago."

"Thee is a witch" he shouted. And he rode off just like that shouting "Thee is a witch, thee is a witch."

Just then I remembered that in the old days any one that was called a witch was burned.

"Oh no," I shouted. "They will probably come and hunt me down soon. What shall I do?" I said, weeping. Then I wondered "Well, I got here somehow. So I shall be able to get back but how?"

Suddenly I remembered that just before I was whirled away to here a strange old woman came up to me and gave me a red whistle.

Yes I remember she said "You look like a nice little girl, would you like this red whistle?"

Yes, that's it because just before I landed here I blew the whistle. I wonder if I blow the whistle would I go back to the year 1985. Then riding up the hill on horseback was the Black Knight followed by a noisy mob of ragged peasants brandishing pitch forks and sickles at me.

"Oh where is the whistle?" I said in a fluster. "Ah, here it is." It had been in my hand the whole time. Quick, I said to myself. Then I blew it. And I was in that whirl of colours going round and round again. Thank goodness. Then I landed right outside my own house from where I had started.

"Gee," I said, "that was a trip and a half."

Then I ran inside and told Mum and Dad. And all they said was "Yes, oh really, and what an adventure you had." Then I heard Mum whisper to Dad "What an imagination that girl has got."

Nikki Miller, Grade Six.

STOLEN

Once upon a time there lived a little girl who got a rocking horse for Christmas. Her name was Carla, she was not very old, only six. But she was very adventurous.

One night as she slept, Carla heard something, it was from the closet. She got out of bed and opened the closet and there stood before her the rocking horse.

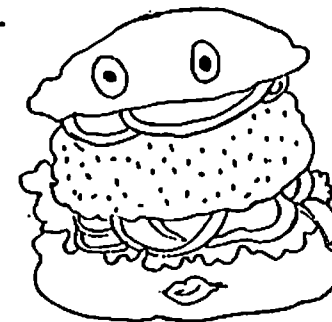
She saw that the rocking horse's eyes were sparkly, and suddenly it was speaking to her. She nearly fell over, what a surprise she got! The horse took off with Carla. She screamed, "Oh", she cried! But the horse - "Ho, Ho, Ho," he laughed. "Well, what is the matter?" "I screamed", said Carla, but off they went.

She was never seen again, up, up in the great sky she whizzed, up, up, up. She did not know, but she was kidnapped, the rocking horse was flying her to his master.

Sheradon Carroll, Grade One.

THAT NAUGHTY MAN

One day Cindi was crying. "What's the matter?" said her father. "I'm not scared of anything. Everyone else at kinder is scared of something," said Cindi.



"Look," said her father. "Most people who are scared of something have a very bad time whenever they think about it."

"Oh," said Cindi. "Well, I still want to be scared of something."

"Well," said her father. "Just go and watch TV. and think of something you could be scared of."

"Okay," said Cindi. And off she went to watch TV. Cindi forgot about thinking of what she could be scared of because she was so interested in Bugs Bunny getting chased by a man who was shooting rabbits. Then the ads. came on.

"Oh, drats," said Cindi.

First there was an ad. about Palmolive... "Yuk," said Cindi. Then there was an ad. for MacDonald's and Ronald MacDonald was eating a hamburger, and in this ad. they made the hamburger talk.

"Oh, that naughty man," said Cindi. Then he ate some chips and a lot more things. Then her dad came in and turned off the TV.

"It's bedtime," he said and carried Cindi to bed. She dreamed about Ronald MacDonald coming to her room and eating her.

"It's morning," yelled out her mum. "Come on Cindi, we're going to MacDonald's today."

"No," said Cindi. "That naughty man will eat me up." Then she started crying and went to sleep. Her mum carried her to the car and off they went. When they got there Cindi's mum woke her up. But Cindi said, "I'm not going in there."

"Come on," said her Mum. "He wouldn't hurt you."

"Well, okay," said Cindi, and they went inside.. They found a table and sat down, then Cindi's mum went and got the food. When she came back Cindi said, "How come the hamburgers aren't talking?"

"Because they've got sore throats," said her dad. Then Cindi's mum said, "Well, come on, eat up."

"Okay," said Cindi, and she took a bite. "Yum," said Cindi. "I don't blame that man for eating them."

Amanda Spittle, Grade Three.

THE LAST TIME

Me and Paddy were great friends. We did everything together except things like swimming because Paddy had a very weak chest and could not go anywhere near cold water. Paddy had come to Brisbane last year from Tasmania as it was too cold for his chest down there. It was in the early 1900's so the medical service was not very advanced. His family were the sort of people who moved houses very often so I knew one day I would have to face the reality of him moving again. I could not bear it, I thought, but one day it happened. Me and Paddy had started to play cricket before school until I hit the ball into the lake. "Six and out" Paddy called. We left the ball in the lake and started off for school. Nothing happened at school that was worth bothering about. We had a terrible day with maths in the morning and English in the afternoon. When the final bell rang we raced home for something to eat. We decided to go for a walk. We walked for what seemed like hours and decided we'd better start going home. We were about half way home when the sky turned black. Suddenly there was a downpour. We were about 400 metres away from the closest shelter but it was too late. By the time we got there Paddy was drenched and coughing like mad. We managed to get a lift in a cab to home. I left Paddy there. That night he had pneumonia. The next morning I went to visit Paddy. I heard the sound of crying. Slowly I entered. There lying on the floor was the dead Paddy.

Mark Wakeham, Grade Six.

A TOUCH OF MAGIC

On a cold, gloomy day in Spring, Angelina was moping about when her mother suggested she go outside and do some gardening. Usually Angelina jumped at the chance, but her braces hurt and she rudely answered NO. "Why not?" asked her mother. "I don't feel well," replied Angelina.

"Nonsense," said Mrs. Carson, "You shouldn't let braces restrict you from being normal."

So Angelina was forced to go outside. She sat down next to the lamp post on the bench and cried. Through blurred vision she saw something sparkle. Again it sparkled and Angelina leapt off the bench and ploughed the soil. She tried to find what it was. Finally she found it but all it was was a boring old key. She bent over and picked it up and thought it might come in handy, then she sheepishly walked inside. Angelina went straight to her room and tried the key in the lock. Suddenly she was transferred to another world of crystal stalactites where everything was perfect and it was always warm, frost never came near. Thirst took her to a beautiful sparkling spring where, cupping her hands, Angelina sipped from the spring. Immediately her braces disappeared and she became a beautiful young princess. Her hair was long and silky. Then Angelina heard a loud drumming noise in the background. Quickly she turned the key once more. It was then Angelina realised it was her mother thumping on the door. She woke up and went to the door. Angelina realised what would happen if she turned the key so she took it out of the lock and hid it. When she opened the door the key disintergrated.

Bronwyn Smith, Grade Five.



MAGIC APPLE

Amanda was walking to school along Pine Crescent and a witch stopped her. "Where are you going my dear?" "To school madam." "And what do you have in that pretty little basket my dear?" "An apple for the teacher, and don't tell anyone but I don't like her much." "Well why don't you give your teacher this apple, I'm sure she will like this magic apple better." And as she went she thought "I know she was a witch and this is a magic apple but if she was a witch she was nice." and when she got to school the magic apple went in the bin.

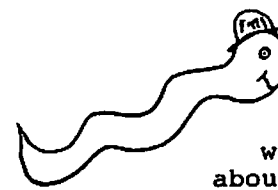
Emma Sheehan, Grade Three.

THE LAST TIME

The last time was a very sad time for me and my family and many other people. I learn Highland Dancing and one of the boys, Cameron who did Highland Dancing died just before Christmas last year. Everyone who did Highland Dancing was very sad especially for Cameron's family. He has also got a brother, Locky and he was very sad. He got killed because he was riding along the road on his bike with his friend delivering the papers and a car came round the corner and hit Cameron. They rang the ambulance and they came and by the time he was at the hospital he was completely paralysed and unconscious. Cameron's mother and father had a choice for him to stay as a vegetable or to let him die. After a while they decided to let him die. It must have been very sad. The boy Locky was not allowed to go into his room or touch anything of his.

Cameron was buried in the Frankston Cemetery. I was not able to go to his funeral because it was on a weekday. Cameron was a boy who smiled all the time. The last time I saw him he was smiling.

Melissa Rankin, Grade Six.



THE GREAT CHASE

Well, here I am! Hiding from the world! I suppose I had better tell you about myself.

My name is Freddy. This may surprise you, but I am a caterpillar. I will tell you about how I can talk and about my adventures if you are willing to listen.

It all started a week ago. It was five o'clock in the morning as I was lying in bed. I heard all this like something dropping on the ground. I got out of bed and peeped out of my hole. I saw lots of little pink fluffy balls falling down from the sky. My mouth dropped wide open in amazement and some pink fluffy balls went into my mouth. I quickly ducked back into my hole.

I felt strange and started coughing. I started to grow and in a few seconds I was as big as a bird. I didn't believe it!

After a little while, a little girl came by and saw me. She came over and picked me up. As she grabbed me, she pinched me. I went to squeak as to say "Ouch", but to the girl's surprise (and mine) I really did say, "Ouch". She let me fall and then carefully picked me up again.

She took me home to show her dad. Her dad rang up the Press and all the T.V. Channels. They all came to see me and hear me talk.

By now I was trapped on the floor with them all around me. I had to escape. So I carefully and slowly began to squirm and then zig-zagged out of the circle. I wriggled to the front door, but it was shut, so I climbed onto a bench and fell out of the window.

"Ah! Free at least!" I thought. But then I saw them coming after me. I started to panic, but as I did I also started to turn invisible. I panicked some more and turned completely invisible. I was glad. I turned round and saw them looking for me, so I quietly crept away over to a great big gumtree, made a hole in the ground and there I stayed.

After a while I became visible again. And so here I am, hiding from the World (but happy!)

Rhonda Corrigan, Grade Six.

THE MAGIC HORSE

One night I was playing and a magic rocking horse came to my open window. It was very small.

When I picked it up it grew like a real horse. It was big.

The magic horse could talk and he said, 'Where do you want to go?'

I said, 'I want to stay here.'
And there I stayed.

Kate Sullivan, Grade Two.



BIRTHDAY

One Sunday I went to Puffing Billy for my birthday and we played games. We had sausage rolls and a bag of chips and a Prima, and some of the games were find your present and tug of war and sack race and three-legged race.

Serena Burgoyne, Grade Two.

DIMMICKS

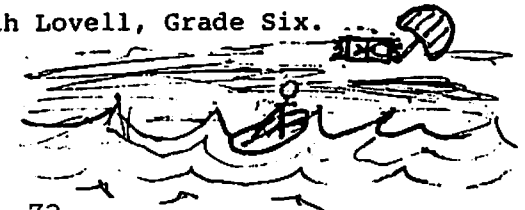
Dimmicks is a very special beach to me. I love the sound of the gigantic waves pounding against the spiky rocks. I love watching the surfies riding the huge waves, fighting to stay on the surfboard and then suddenly the wave disappears and the surfie is left with no wave, so he starts the long ride back to the deep water. I get frightened of the huge waves and the icky seaweed on the sandy bottom. I hardly ever swim at Dimmicks.

The people that I am with there are very close to me. I have known most of them just about all my life. The joy of seeing Dimmicks again, my most favourite place, and the joy of swimming in the rock pools that have been heated by the sun. Lying on the beach lazily in the golden warmth of the sun surrounded by my special friends.

There was one very scary experience when I had my arm broken. Seeing as I couldn't go into the sea, I played chasey with the waves. I wasn't allowed to get my plaster wet. Suddenly I was swamped onto the spiky sharp rocks. The wave swept over my head but I had only one thought in my mind "Keep My Arm Dry". Luckily it stayed dry but it was a pretty scary experience. Another scary experience was when my dad was swimming in the sea. He was caught in the rip and his big powerful swimming strokes weren't helping him out. He kept getting closer and closer to the rocks. So he swam out as far as he could and then across and finally came into shore. It was very frightening and even more so because a rescue helicopter had just gone overhead to rescue someone on a beach further over. Mum said later she was glad we were with other friends because one is a doctor.

I really love Dimmicks and my most favourite place there is the cove. In the cove you are sheltered from the fierce wind but you still get the warmth of the sun. I love the excitement of climbing down the cliff into the cove. I really love Dimmicks back beach and the people we always go with. There is only one thing I don't like about Dimmicks and that is the long walk in the black sand with your feet sinking with every step. My legs get really tired.

Ruth Lovell, Grade Six.



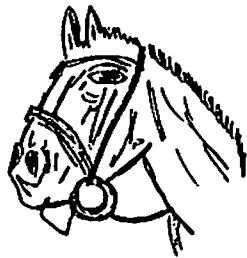
THE RACE AGAINST TIME

There was a frantic sensation in the air as we rode across Mr. Miller's paddocks. I could hear his dogs barking in the distance. When Mr. Miller's paddocks were way behind us and we were on the Harrison Cattle Station, I slowed Spunk down a bit. Then we reached the house. I noticed that Spunk was sweating all over and really blowing hard. I called for Katie Harrison (my friend) she came running out (she'd been waiting for me). She said "It's a race against time." I knew she was talking about getting the vet, Doctor Bowen. Our best mare was having her foal three weeks early and she needed help or she and the foal might die. Katie was coming with me on her horse Kipper who was a beautiful grey with white spots. She had all the tack ready in the tack room. "Take all his stuff off and hose him down, he needs it." "All right, but have we got time?" "Sure we have, if we hurry." She had Kipper out and his saddle on when I'd finished hosing down Spunk. I put on his bridle and led him around a bit. When we'd finished putting all the tack on, Katie said "We'd better take my nose bags and some oats for them." "Good thinking," I agreed with her.

After we had done that, Katie had gone in and got her coat and something for us to eat. Then we took off "Julie," she said to me, "When did Nightmarch start showing that she was going to have her foal?" "About three hours ago." "Gosh, let's get going then."

We got to the vet's (John Bowen's) who got a double horse float for Spunk and Kipper. We put the nose bags on them and got in the front with John. As it turned out, Nightmarch had her foal and they were both healthy. The foal was all black like his mother and father and was named Flica. So Katie and I had won the race against time.

Belinda Davis, Grade Six.



A CHRISTMAS STORY

One Christmas Eve Kate was dreaming that she got a rocking horse that flew away up into the clouds.

The rocking horse landed on a giraffe's back. The giraffe's neck was like stairs, and up, up, up, Kate got tired. The giraffe's neck went through some more clouds. She could not see and fell down PLOP! on the rocking horse's back.

Then the rocking horse took her home and put her in her bed.

When Kate woke up, in her bedroom there was a rocking horse. Father Christmas must have brought it to her.

Just then the rocking horse winked.....



Catherine Fox, Grade Two.

