

It was a dark and subfusc morning in late January. As I trudged down the gravely garden path, I heard a faint squeak of a lorry's brakes on the road. Immediately, I knew what it was - the gang of groundworkers arriving to tarmac our uneven, rutted drive.

The high - vis jacketed men worked like sleepy snails preparing the ground for the tarmac, only moving quickly when the delicious bacon rolls arrived. Big, Bill was in charge, mumbling orders and giving signals, his basketball belly shuddering every time his spade hit the rocky soil.

Just as Poppy, my golden gem of a dog, was getting used to the shuddering vibrations of the powerful wacker plate, I heard a terrified shriek. "STOP!"

Poppy leapt out her comfortable, red basket and bounded towards the bi-fold doors, with me close in pursuit. As we pressed our noses against the cool and smooth glass, we saw the men with fear flooding over their faces, staring at the gritty soil.

I crept up to my bedroom window and had the shock of my life as the scene emerged through the glass. There looking up at me was what looked like an ancient, white skull, sprinkled lightly with a covering of soil.

The trembling men were now talking, so I opened my window with a shaky hand to listen. Bill was babbling, "It's b...b...bones Phil!"
"They look old, what shall we do?" spluttered Phil, the much younger man.
"We'd better call the police," muttered Bill, his brain working at last.
An hour later, the garden was surrounded by blue tape with the words 'do not cross' printed on it. Bill and his gang had retreated to the Plough to calm down and the police scientists were on their way. My parents told me we couldn't go out because we'd contaminate the evidence.

By seven o'clock, my mum was upstairs with my sister and my dad was wallowing in the soapy bath. My mind was racing, I had to see it for myself. I quietly opened the door and crept out onto the dry soil. Just as I reached the bones, I heard Dad call, "Harriet, fetch me a towel please!" I stomped inside angrily to find the missing towel, forgetting to close the door.

When I came back downstairs, I was horrified with what I saw. Poppy was sitting in front of the blazing fire with a tiny bone in her mouth. "Drop it, Poppy!" I screamed. As she dropped the creamy finger bone, I noticed it had a silver ring on it, with a bright ruby-red stone. Panicking, I scooped up the ring, running quickly to hide the evidence of my trip to the garden. I put the muddy ring under my soft pillow and remembered the bone. I searched downstairs but realised it had gone - had Poppy eaten it?

It took me ages to get to sleep, I couldn't forget the ring. As the old, grandfather clock struck two a.m., I woke with a startle. Something was pushing open my bedroom door. I held my breath as a grimy skeleton rattled to my bedside. "Give me my ring. My ring, I want my ring!" it whispered. I was frozen with fear, as I felt a four fingered hand slide under my pillow.
"Ah, at last," the skeleton muttered. It clattered out, fainter and fainter were the steps. Then all was still.....

I will never forget when I passed my Driving Test, I will never forget my $10^{\text {th }}$ Birthday when my team won the girls football tournament, I will never forget my mum and dad and the lovely life we had together, they were the good times, the happy times, the times when I didn't need to worry. Now life is not the same, life is torture, and I don't think we will ever be able to go back to those happy times.

It all started on my $18^{\text {th }}$ Birthday when I woke from a re-occurring nightmare, a nightmare where all adults had disappeared leaving us to fend for ourselves. When I woke, I couldn't smell the usual birthday pancakes cooking or the smell of bacon sizzling. I could hear my brother Logan and sister Millie giggling, but something wasn't right.

I got up to see what was going on and my parents were no where to be found, my brother and sister we are eating cereal out of the cereal box sitting on the kitchen counter, but I just remember the silence, no cars running outside, no aero planes overhead. When I looked out the front window, I could see cars abandoned children running around and crying not knowing what to do it's as if all adults had suddenly disappeared no where to be found.

I grabbed my brother and sister and held them tightly because it would seem my dream really had come true.

We spent a year living off what we could find in the local supermarket I would drive my dad's car there once a week and only took tinned foods as all fresh food had rotten. We managed to survive like this for some time, but I was also aware that the petrol in my dad's car was slowly running out and with no deliveries of petrol being made to the pumps we would soon have no form of transport.

All the capable teenagers of the street would meet up once a week to try and come up with a plan but all we could do was agree to try and survive another week and then another and then another until a year had passed.

One day I decided to call a meeting to try and come up with the idea of maybe trying to find our parents, but everyone was too scared to leave the city, their homes and what they knew.

5 years have now passed, and we have learnt how to grow vegetables and hunt for meat my brother and sister have grown so quickly but I have managed to keep them safe I am now their parent and I am now in charge they look at me now as their mum and dad and not just their big sister.

I miss my parents I miss adults I miss going shopping with my friends or to the cinema. I miss school but I know we are safe I just hope one day my parents return wherever they are...

## By Megan Gallinagh

Year 6
Fannsfield St Michael's Primary School.




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 "V crone insole and pall in said Akgla and then "1 " Frances are you aright to do the clay again "Yes". Akela took two steps pormardo and told us to site down. "Akela we mill do our best"l chorused the cubs. "Cubs do your best "said Elaneces." Night all!" And everyone vent home. "Was the adventure fun" said Wontolla, "Yes of course it has sun I
 really enjoyed it "I caird. When we gat home I ? was lucked up into my nice cosy bod and t. II
slept really really well.

## Thï Socret Zarden

There was a young girl called Charlotte with long flowing brown hair and sparkly blue eyes. Charlotte always wore a white floral dress with short sleeves. She loved to play in the garden, with all the trees and beautiful flowers. When the grass was green and smelt it was the happiest time of the year for Charlotte. In autumn it became cold and the grass went brown, the trees lost theirs leaves and the flowers started to die and fade away.

Autumn was the season Charlotte hated because it was dull and the plants had died. Charlotte was always bored in autumn because she always played outside. Charlotte always lay on her bed dreaming about the grass and all the nature she played with in the hot weather.

After a while in her bedroom she saw one of her bedroom's wall was different from the others, this made Charlotte query it so she walked to the wall and did a gentle push, It opened like a door but when she pushed it to the side she saw there was stairs that were in the dark. When Charlotte saw this she got really scared and thought why she never saw this before then suddenly she heard a sound, she got even more scared she quickly closed the door in fright. Charlotte ran out of the room to tell her mum but when her mum was in the room it didn't open. Charlotte had butterflies in her tummy. When Charlotte's mum left the room she knew that she needed to find what's down there. Charlotte asked her mum for a torch so she could see then she was ready.

When Charlotte was ready she pushed the wall again and turned the torch on. Charlotte slowly walked down the stairs while looking around, it seemed to be an old staircase with loads of wall paper falling down. When Charlotte was at the bottom she suddenly heard water drops echoing through the corridor on and on. This really creeped Charlotte out but she stayed strong and carried on walking. When she reached the end of the corridor there was a dead garden with a fountain. Charlotte knew it was special. When Charlotte went into the garden she heard crying so she looked for who was crying. Then she found who was crying it was an elf! Charlotte said, "Why are you crying?" The elf replied there's no spring water that means the garden will disappear.

Charlotte went upstairs and found some spring water and gave it to the elf, suddenly there was a bright spark, the elf said bow down so charlotte did, then all of a sudden the king and queen of nature appeared. The king and queen said, "What is your name?" and she replied "Charlotte" then the king and queen said "Thank for saving our beautiful, green garden." The king and queen said, "As an award you can come here any time you want." Charlotte said, she would come in autumn.

## The Nurburgring

It was late at night. All that could be heard was the roar of the turbo charged v8 engine in the back of Tom's koenigsegg Agera RS. Tom looked at the car next to him. It was a Lamborghini Sesto Elemento. He was going to have a hard time beating it for sure. Tom was starting in twelfth place which was the last position, making it harder to win. The prize money was $£ 1.5$ million, the stakes were high.

The lights turned orange. Tom stopped revving. Then, the lights turned green. Tom's tyres spun then gained traction again. Accelerating 0-60 in 2.5 seconds, Tom almost overtook the Sesto. The first corner was coming up. Tom slammed down on the brakes, turned the wheel and drifted around the corner at 80 mph . the end of the corner was coming up so Tom straightened up then put his foot on the gas and blasted off. Then came up to the next corner and took it perfectly then quickly put his foot back down on the accelerator. He was still in last place, losing was not an option.

The most dangerous corner was on the horizon. Tom needed to focus. As he entered the corner cautiously, there was smoke ahead. Further around the corner he saw fire and debris on the track. There had been a crash! He needed to dodge it or he would be part of it too. Tom slammed the brakes down and turned the wheel to the right. The car bounced around as he travelled across the grass, then he felt a thump as it returned to the track.

There were now only 5 racers left, the rest were totalled! He was now behind the Porsche 918 Spyder, pulling up closer he started drafting it. " $3,2,1$." He exited the draft and overtook the Porsche, then floored it and overtook another car. Now he was in third place approaching second. After that, he came up to the side of another car and pressured it. Eventually it gave up battling for second and put its brake on.

Tom was now behind the Sesto Elemento and was taking the last corner. It was now up to acceleration. He was on the straight. Soon Tom was neck and neck with the sesto Elemento. Then it started to pull away but Tom had a few tricks up his sleeve. Pushing a blue button and firing the nitro, Tom felt the G-force push him back as he caught up with the sesto. The nitro had almost ran out but he had already overtook it. A few seconds later, the nitro ran out but it didn't matter at all because Tom had already won the race! He had just won $£ 1.5$ million. Tom pushed the brake down, got out of the car and put a hand up. This was it - he had won the hardest race of his life.

# Dancing at the <br> Circus 

Lexi waited, nervously scribbling on her hand as other enthusiastic people jostled by, waving and cheering. But she stood still, afraid that her movements were being watched, any wrong step and she would be in trouble. Her father would find her. Running to blend in with the crowd, she pulled herself to the side and halted at a bright tent. She carefully pulled aside the velvet fabric, the delicate and pristine stripes overlapping, merging the sapphire blue, flaming red and topaz orange. There was a mirror, but not an ordinary one though, this one had colourful circus performers and horses chasing each other around the outer edge and a large wooden stool in front of it. The ground was still the pale yellow, dead grass from outside, but this particular patch felt fresher and more alive.
Pulling aside the curtain even more, she noticed a petite, dark skinned woman kindly beckoning her to come in, insisting that she sit beside her. Lexi did as she was told. "Come, child," she assured, a familiar warm glow lit up her face as Lexi sat in silence on the cushioned chair next to her. "It is time, come," she whispered, leading Lexi out of the tent and into a larger, more vibrant, silk one. A joyful smile formed across Levi's face as two intriguing trapeze artists with matching purple jewelled costumes entered the circus arena, both contentedly beaming back at her. Embracing flames shot upwards, a small woman with blazing dark torches invaded the spotlight as one of the trapeze artists was gracefully thrown high in the air and caught in an astounding pose in the other's arms. The diminutive lady (who the circus master boomed to be Fire Lily) crazily shoved the scorching flames into her mouth and puffed it back out again, like a dragon burning its prey. The crowd roared, and Lexi, entranced in the magic, wanted more. A huge horse came cantering in, tribal markings with feathers and lines seemed to move across its body as it danced.

Hypnotised in the unique beauty of the creature, Lexi hardy seemed to notice the young star on its back. A small girl with tiny but identifiable freckles scattered all over face was performing handstands on the horse's bare back while it cantered around happily, understanding the amount of praise it was receiving. The dark-skinned woman came in as the trapeze artists exited, she had five identical, intricately designed china pots on her head, balancing them perfectly. Lexi's eyes sparked with joy, and, before she knew it, she rushed down the indistinguishable isles of seats and began to dance. Engrossed in her own rhythm, she barely noticed the evil looking figure staring and sharply pointing at her. He clicked, the two other robust figures behind came and grabbed her by the wrists dragging her towards him. "Dad!" Lexi whispered to herself. And Ran!

By Meera Subramanian Year 6

## 481 Words

Harlan School.


A gate to the centra of the whee

It was a warm Tuesoloy in rebrany polly term, an exited withe boy named natty wars using in his bed with book int a big decision to make.

The bright morning sun woke him up as it shone through his window. Today was the day.
The day he had been looking forward to

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help them search for the sorcerer.
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super $m$ and Big $L$ had to get to the sercereers dea on treasure island.

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yet sightings of
agar. Big L helped super in off' the ride as his billy pelt suzy offer the sterdy rise and freaky pest drop of the lunar carven tower. super M serial. I le re thant ride, once we have coptenned the sercerear we will rear jor another go.

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zoomitey down the slide super in tucked his steen Juice into his Morgue stan gun.



apurals.
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Sercercar happily as
all the children were outside in the sun.
with one shot from his baker gun the sorcercer turned to dust. Wheelgate woes sale and all the children covid li soy their hail g term without the risk that the evil sorcerer caul spoil their fun.

After saving the day bigh ordered the piglet of the super

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Jet Slip he 888 also Renown is a careaster bomber to start the engine so super $M$ and Big $L$ could wan Whelyate and metovin home.

## The Lonely Star and the Moon

I looked out of my bedroom window, up into the dark sky, all I could see was one lonely star. I stood there gazing at the lonely star and hoped that another star was going to come and join her, but it didn't. I felt sorry for the lonely star because I thought she had been left behind by the other stars.

As I watched, the lonely star she began to move and I wondered what was going to happen next. She moved a bit faster and a bit faster, then, all of a sudden she moved so quickly, like a Spitfire, she had turned into a shooting star and she shone so brightly like headlamps; she nearly blinded me! She turned left and then a sharp right; she had made a huge smiley face in the pitch black sky. I then saw the Moon begin to come out from behind the darkest cloud in the sky.

As the shooting star got shinier, the sky seemed to get darker and darker. Then the shooting star stopped suddenly, she was so still she looked like she had turned into a statue; she was just floating in mid-air, with the dark sky behind her.

The lonely star looked down below her, she saw the twinkling lights of the houses, lights were beaming out of their windows; she watched the sparkling lights of the city street lamps, the bright headlamps of the cars. She could hear the cars beep beeping along the street; she was listening to the whistling wind blowing towards her through the trees.

I saw the lonely star begin to move again, as if she was dancing to the sounds below her in the street, the Moon also began to dance, they started to spin around each other, they spun faster and faster, to the music of the Earth.

Then I could hear the dong of the church bells strike at midnight.
The sky filled with the most amazing lights, there were a million stars, which had now appeared, it looked like they were all having a disco, shining brightly and then faintly, I could still see the lonely star; who was the brightest star in the sky.

It looked like the moon started to grin at the lonely star, he floated closer to the lonely star, he was so close it looked like he was holding one of the lonely stars points; I knew they had become friends with each other.

I realised the lonely star was not lonely at all, she really enjoyed herself in the sky, she was happy because she had peace and quiet, she also had a friend, The Moon, the biggest thing in the Universe was always beside her.

I started to do a big yawn, I quickly jumped into my cosy bed and pulled the covers over myself, I did another little yawn and soon I was fast asleep and happy that the lonely star had a friend.



