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What's Up With Kids!

Fall 2006

Harry's Monster by Gio B., age 9

Harry thought that there were monsters under his bed. Whenever he thought of getting out of bed, he remembered the monster. He only got out for meals and for school.

One night he felt something slimy next to him, so he hollered, "DADDY!" When his father came up, he didn't see anything weird in the room. He told Harry, "You are imagining again, Harry. Just try to go to sleep."

For another three months this went on until Harry's birthday arrived. Harry asked his dad to lift him out of bed. When Harry was out, his father said, "Surprise! Here's your birthday present from me."

As soon as he finished talking, a dog jumped out at Harry. "Ahh! A monster!" Harry cried.

"No, silly, it's just a dog. While I trained the dog, somehow it would escape from its cage, lick you, and run back to its cage."

"So there aren't any monsters?" Harry asked.

"No, of course not," was the reply.

And Harry lived for many years, until he was 105 years and 302 days old.



Picture of "Harry's Monster"
by Akanksa S., age 10

Featured Reporter

Featured Reporter - Gio B.

Age - 9

School - Spring Hills

How long on the newsletter - 6 months

Favorite subject in school - Math

Favorite teacher - Mrs. E.

Favorite sports team - Boco Jr.
(Soccer team from Argentina)

Favorite book - *Pendragon: The Merchant of Death*

Hobbies - Reading and mentally solving math problem

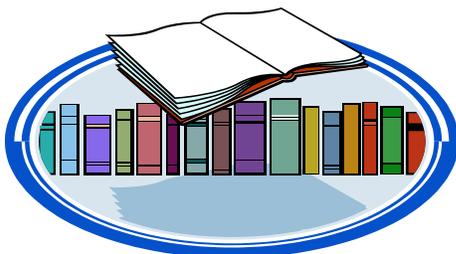
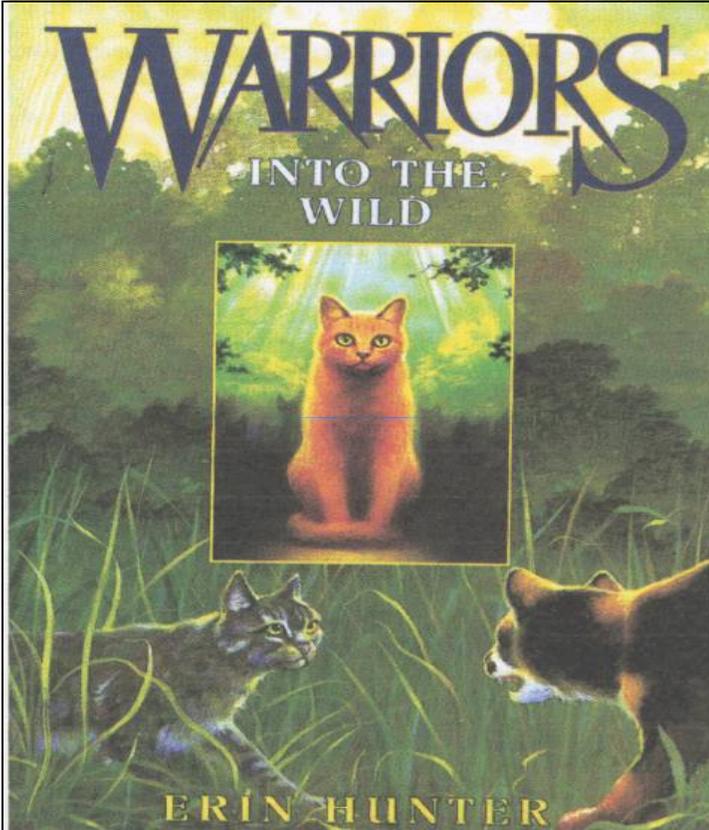


Have You Ever Wanted to Know What
Forest Cats' Lives Are Like?
by Katarina M., age 9

In the Warriors book series, cats risk their lives for their clans. There are four clans: ThunderClan, RiverClan, ShadowClan, and WindClan. Each clan has a leader, a deputy, a medicine cat(s), warriors, and apprentices. Some clans have queens, and some have elders. Others have both.

Usually the clans are rival clans, but in the second book series, Warriors: The New Prophecy, the cats have to join together as a single clan to survive.

ThunderClan's leader has not named the new deputy in time, according to the warrior code. Will ThunderClan be punished by the StarClan? Read the books to find out.



Shiloh's Adventures
by John C. P., age 8

Episode 1: "A Puppy"

It was a Sunday afternoon around Easter. I was playing with Julia, a very whiny girl, when my parents told me that we're going to my uncle's for a surprise. When we got there, he led me to his garage and opened the door. I heard my mom say, "Johnny, choose one that licks you," but two of them licked me. Finally, I choose the second one. It was a boy, and I called him Shiloh. I chose that name after reading the Shiloh book.

When we got home, we tried on a blue collar, one of the many dog "things" I have been collecting hoping that someday I'll have a dog. The collar was too big, so we went to PetSmart and bought him a collar and some food. When we got home, it was time for bed. Dad and I took Shiloh to go potty in our backyard, but he did nothing. Mom was worried.

During the night Mom heard a "Shhhhh" noise; she got up, turned on the light, and found Shiloh going potty on the carpet! I heard Mom say something about "returning that dog." Well, that was a bad beginning. But Shiloh had some fun adventures too. Be sure to read about them in the future issues of "What's Up With Kids!"



Photograph of Shiloh

A Weird Combination
by Gio B., age 9

Trel saw the mouse on the log. At first, it was hidden by its brown pelt, but then Trel saw its pink tail. Trel flew to the mouse, who was screaming, “Don’t eat me! Don’t eat me! I’ve got a wife and three kids! Please do—”

“Be quiet! I’m a hawk who eats plants, not mice.” Trel cut off the mouse.

“Oh,” said the mouse. “Well, that’s kind of weird. And, by the way, you’re a vegetarian.”

“Yeah, a veggie-something-or-other. I’m Trel. So who are you?”

“Darx. *D-A-R-X*,” said Darx.

“Huh? P-J-Mars-Eats?” asked Trel.

“You’re not very bright, are you?” replied Darx.

“Well, duh. I’m brown and grey. Are you color-blind?” asked Trel.

“Ugh. This is going to be a weird combination if we are friends,” said Darx.

“Friends? I love friends! Friends, friends, friends, and more friends! *F-R-I-E-N-D* spells friend!

Let’s be friends, Darx! Please, please, please, please!” shouted Trel joyfully.

“Okay. I wonder what adventures we’ll have,” said Darx. “Grrrroe.”

“RORESER!” screamed Trel.

Dragon’s Breath
By Natalie S., age 10

Do you like adventure, romance, and a lot of magic? Then you should seriously read my article.

I’ve been reading *Dragon’s Breath*, which is the sequel to the *Frog Princess*. This book is about Emma and Prince Eadric, who go on a quest with Emma’s Aunt Grassina. They have to find Grandmother so she can break the spell and make Haywood (the otter) human once again. Emma and Eadric overhear Grandmother repeating the spell. They tell Aunt Grassina. They ask their grandmother to reverse the spell, but she gets mad and zaps Haywood back to the forest. Grassina will look for Haywood and Emma and Eadric will look for a gossamer hair from the “Mother of Pearl,” the breath of a dragon green, a feather from an aged horse, and the husk of a magic bean. I can’t tell you what happens, but this book is awesome!

Craigalo: “Chapter 2 — Barckan”
by Craig H., age 9

“Whoever you are, please step out and show yourself,” called Craigalo. By now he had too much of the Nathanack talk, and he really did not like to talk to someone he could not see.

“No! I shall not step out! If you would like to see me, go to Moriks and see Nathanack, and then you shall see me. But take care; if you blink, I shall disappear and never be seen again for your entire life. Also, take that sword and Minatora’s belt,” said the creaky voice in the shadows.

Craigalo did not want to go to see Nathanack, especially because now he knew they were brothers. “I don’t know where Morkis is,” lied Craigalo.

“If that is true, then I have your two partners,” said the creaky voice. He didn’t look strong when he talked, but when he finished he looked so strong that he could lift Holl Vanorin, which is a monster that lives in the Voran Lands. They are in the middle, east of Sorransck, a large city. “I am from a row of very good fighters. I am the son of Maren, a farmer that is in Morikis. She has many orchards around the Voran parts too. I am married to Menan, a beautiful lady that should be here any minute now.”

“I am Craigalo; I am from the city—” but Craigalo could not finish his sentence because a cloud of dust was rising from the south, and in the cloud of dust were sounds of Sonves. Then as quick as it came it was gone, and at the same moment a field mouse appeared. “Hi, Menan. You’re a little late, but that’s ok,” said Barckan. “You’re married to a beautiful lady mouse?” asked Craigalo in a little, confused voice.

“No. Menan is a shape-shifter,” said Barkan. “Menan is very good.” As he said that, the mouse turned into a girl. The girl looked very pretty. She had long, golden hair.

“Hello. My name is Menan,” she said in a calm voice. “I will also help you on your quest to Moriks.”

“I knew that I was to go to Moriks, but not a quest to Moriks,” said Craigalo.



Drawing by Craig H., age 9

Fill In the Blank
By Akanksha S., age 10

Ask a friend to tell you the different parts of speech and fill in your answers. Then read your hilarious story and compare to the original.

Momo Taro (Peach Boy)
A Japanese Myth

Once upon a time, there was a childless elderly couple. Every day, the old man went out to 1 (verb) _____ firewood and to the river to 2 _____ (verb) clothes.

On one such day the old woman saw a gigantic 3 _____ (fruit) floating down the river. It looked 4 _____ (adjective) and ripe, so the old woman took it home with great difficulty.

At home, the old man took a knife and was about to slice it open when—"Please don't hurt me!" a voice came from the 5 _____ (same as 3). The old man carefully pried the 6 _____ (same as 5). Where the pit should have been was a baby boy. The couple was overjoyed and called the baby *Momo Taro*, or Peach Boy.

Several years later, Momo Taro was a 7 _____ (3 adjectives) young man. One day, he heard about some *Oni*, or demons. They were terrorizing a nearby town and were taking all the people's possessions. Nobody was 8 _____ (adjective) enough to fight the *Oni* and cut off their horns. The *Oni* were helpless without their horns. "Mother, Father, I have decided to go 9 _____ (verb) the *Oni* and return peace to the land!" His mother gave him some *omigiri*, or, rice, and with their blessings, was on his way.

Soon he encountered a 10 _____ (biting animal). The 11 _____ (same as 10) kept following him until at last he gave the 12 _____ (same as 11) some *onigiri*. The 13 _____ (same as 12) was from then on his "travel companion." Next a monkey jumped on his shoulder and attempted to steal some *onigiri*. Momo Taro scolded the monkey and gave him some rice. Then he resumed walking once more, with the 14 _____ (same as 13) and the monkey trailing behind. Soon, a tired-looking 15 _____ (bird) dropped down on the path. Momo Taro gave the 16 _____ (same as 15) some *onigiri*, and the 17 _____ (same as 16) joined the troops.

At last, they reached the town. If one had not known about the *Oni*, they would have thought that there had been a 18 _____ (something destructive). At the far end of the town was a huge stone castle. Momo Taro approached the door and knocked. An *Oni* opened the door. Immediately, the 19 _____ (same as 17) flew up and pecked at its 20 _____ (body part). The 21 _____ (same as 14) bit the *Oni*. And the monkey created confusion. Momo Taro quickly chopped off its horns. The process was repeated inside the castle and the *Oni* fled.

Momo Taro returned the possessions of the villagers and then returned to his parents.

The End

The Original Japanese Myth
Momo Taro (Peach Boy)

Once upon a time, there was a childless elderly couple. Every day, the old man went out to cut firewood, and the old woman went to the river to wash clothes. On one such day the old woman saw a giant peach floating down the river. It looked juicy and ripe, so the old woman took it home with great difficulty.

At home, the old man took a knife and was about to slice it open when—"Please don't hurt me!" a voice came from the peach. The old man carefully pried open the peach. Where the pit should have been was a baby boy. The couple was overjoyed and called the baby *Momo Taro*, or Peach Boy.

Several years later Momo Taro was a handsome, intelligent, and brave young man. One day, he heard about some *Oni*, or demons. They were terrorizing a nearby town and were taking all the people's possessions. Nobody was brave enough to fight the *Oni* and cut off their horns. The *Oni* were helpless without their horns.

"Mother, Father, I have decided to go fight the *Oni* and return peace to the land!" His mother gave him some *onigiri*, or rice, and with their blessings, he was on his way.

Soon he encountered a dog. The dog kept following him until at last he gave the dog some *onigiri*. The dog was from then on his travel companion. Next a monkey jumped on his shoulder and attempted to steal some *onigiri*. Momo Taro scolded the monkey and gave him some rice. Then he resumed walking once more, with the dog and the monkey trailing behind. Soon, a tired-looking pheasant dropped down the path. Momo Taro gave the bird some *onigiri*, and the bird joined the troops.

At last, they reached the town. It was completely destroyed by the *Oni*. At the far end of the town was a huge castle. Momo Taro approached the door and knocked. An *Oni* opened the door. Immediately, the pheasant flew up and pecked at its eyes. The dog bit the *Oni*. And the monkey created confusion. Momo Taro quickly chopped off its horns. The process was repeated inside the castle, and the *Oni* fled.

Momo Taro returned the possessions of the villagers and then returned home to his parents.

The End

The Chronicles of Larf
Part 1, The Adventure
by Chago B., age 7

A really far time ago in a galaxy not so far away, there was a planet called Larf. It had lots of shops and hover cars. They didn't have any wars. It was the best planet anyone could ever imagine.

But one day, it all changed. Dr. Madman was there. He was the meanest, most horrible person that ever lived. Every planet feared him, especially Larf.

"BOW DOWN TO ME" he said.

"Never!" said the good people of Larf.

"THEN YOU WILL PAY!" bellowed Dr. Madman.

All of the good people of Larf ran to the council hall.

"Someone has to save us!" said one.

"But who?" said another. Then they all looked at Adam and Sally.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" asked Sally.

"Yep. Let's go." said Adam.

To be continued...

Reach For the Stars
by Katarina M., age 9

Reach for the stars—
Enter different worlds.
Answer the questions;

Dig into a book.

Imagine rules!

Nothing's impossible—
Go and read!



Jessica B. Jordan and the New Best Friend
by Hayley S., age 8

Hi, my name is Jessica B. Jordan.

Today is gym day and guess what? I met a new best friend. Here's the story. So listen up!

At gym class I bumped into a girl about my age. I never saw her before. She turned around and I said, "Howdy!"

She said, "Hi" in a scared voice. I thought I liked this girl maybe even better than Gayle and Lynn. So I said, "My name is Jessica B. Jordan. What's your name?"

The girl said, "Maria Strawberry."

I replied, "I like strawberries!" Maria laughed.

Then Maria asked, "What's going on for our next subject?"

Just then, May came up and said, "Let me show you around." Maria suddenly said, "Jessica already asked me, so back off." She said this in the loudest voice. May said, "Hm" and stomped away.

My mouth was already opened and I said, "Wow."



Illustrated by Hayley S., age 8

**The next "What's Up With Kids!"
meetings :**

**Organizational Meeting—
Thursday, Sept 14, 6:30 p.m.**

**Article Submission Meeting—
Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.**



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SO MUCH TO DO!**
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