

“Flying Home”- Selected Submission

As I'm flying I saw some kids going to a red building. I was wondering why they are going to school, so far away, from their village. I heard a kid say he wanted to be free from all the rules that did not make sense. He did not speak this language called “English”, and did not understand why he was being punished. Why wasn't he allowed to speak his Native Language? As I watched him running through the field one of the teachers was chasing him. “Whew, that was close”, I thought. I was flying in a circle to tell him it was safe to continue and follow me.

As the sun went down the boy found shelter in a cave. After spending the night the boy continued. While running through the forest the little boy made his way to the river to get a drink of water and to try and catch a fish. Using a tree branch the boy made a spear and caught a salmon. After catching a salmon, the boy shared the eggs with me. So I could keep up my strength and fly. When the boy continued his journey he came upon a bush of wild berries, he ate some and put some in a leaf to have later. We went through the forest and we saw a man from a near village. The boy asked for help to hide from people from the red brick building. The man hid the boy in the wagon of hay. I played hide-n-seek in the fluffy clouds. So the little boy did not get bored on the long ride home. The scenery was nice, better than looking at the dark walls in the red brick building. The sun rays hit the boys face, put the red back in his cheeks. There were salmon jumping up the water fall and other birds like raven and crows feasting on fish leftovers on the bank of the river. While crossing the valley the boy spotted coyote who tried to scare the horses. The man driving the wagon scared coyote off by throwing sticks at him. As the sunset again they finally got to the boy's home. “What an adventure, stay safe little one....”

Your friend, Eagle

Author:
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Grade 5

“The Owl and the McLeod Lake Storm”- *Selected Submission*

Not long ago Owl was awakened by crashing trees. A screeching noise filled his ears. Trees were falling around him and he felt anxious and wanted quiet so that he could go back to sleep. He was worried that he would get damaged by falling trees. The wind was blowing so strongly that it wiped out power lines and even the strongest trees were felled by this mightiest of winds. Fish in the lake beside owl’s tree had only one place to go and that was deep down because of the tsunami like waves.

Owl had only one chance of survival. He had to move to a new tree. He flew over the trees that had fallen over, blocking the road. He flew past frustrated people holding onto boats as the waves pushed them both, people and boat, to the shore. He flew past people who were crying because someone in their family had been hurt. He flew past people trying to leave but they couldn’t because the fallen trees blocked the road. He flew past the bear running to his den. He flew past the moose charging into the water.

He flew to an island in the middle of the lake and found a big clump of strong birch trees. He hoped it would last the storm. He fluffed up his feathers and tucked in his head and waited for the calm. And finally the storm ended.

After the storm was over Owl flew back to his tree. The bear was walking out of his den. The moose was climbing out of the lake. On his way back he called “Who, who, who” and people rebuilding their tents called back, “The wind, the wind, the wind”.

Author:
Justin Woolfrey
Grade 3

(Justin wrote this story about the huge wind storm that happened at McLeod Lake a few years ago.)

“The Truth”- Selected Submission

Growing up, Kylie Strong never had a good childhood. She never met her real parents, when she was only a few days old she was found outside an apartment building in downtown Los Angeles, it never bothered her not knowing where she came from. All she thought of was making something for her self, something she could be proud of. Kylie searched for a career in which she could enjoy and that others would be proud of, one day she found her answer. She would become a Police Officer.

Kylie was a strong willed woman who never let anything keep her from what she wanted. She was very pretty, even though she never would have thought it. She had brown eyes, curly brown hair and had the softest face. She studied hard in school and took Tie-Kwon-Doe.

Though she had friends and relationships, Kylie thought she'd never find love. She had a weird way of thinking, like she lived in her own little world and if any one wanted to understand her, she couldn't find the words to tell them. They would have to read her mind to understand.

After graduation Kylie's goal was achieved, one morning she received a letter saying that she had gotten into the Los Angeles Police Academy. Kylie was ecstatic jumping up and down with joy.

The first few days of orientation were very uncomfortable to Kylie, for she was very awkward with people and she kept getting lost but eventually found the legal class that was on her schedule. There the instructor gave everyone worksheets for personal information and quizzes to see where they should start, after a few days of gathering information they were all assigned partners. Kylie being a shy person avoided meeting hers until the very last second. She was surprised when she met her new partner Michael Heart. He was lean, tall with rugged dirty blonde hair and the most intense eyes she had ever seen. She would have thought him to be a jerk college boy, but he actually seemed very nice and she was amazed that might even be shier than she was. “Hi, my name is Michael.” A moment of awkward silence passed “So... how have you been getting along here? On my first day I was such an idiot.” Kylie couldn't help but open up to him, his personality made people feel very open and confident. “Well, I kind of feel the same way right now. But I'm glad I have such a nice partner to talk with.” She noticed that he had blushed with the good compliment. “So, you are a junior here, right? And,

you probably don't know any one here, why don't you come and have lunch with me and my friend?" Since Kylie was a junior and didn't know anyone she decided to take the invitation and hang around her new partner. "Okay" they talked all through out class, Kylie learned that Michael was in his second year and he wanted to be a homicide detective the same as her. She found that they have a lot in common with each other; Michael was second in command of their Squad, next to his best friend James Madison. James and Michael were best friends since childhood; they were very close they even wanted to be the same thing, cops. It was love at first sight for Michael; he thanked the stars for putting Kylie as his partner. Michael was a very handsome man; he had a slight build and dirty blonde hair with dark brown eyes.

As they walked to the cafeteria Michael was silent trying to think of what to say, the silence was making Kylie very nervous. When they entered the cafeteria the awkward silence was broken, when Michael heard James shout out and waving them over. "Hey buddy how's it going' with you?" Kylie noticed right away that James and Michael were very different from each other. Michael was sweet and timid like her, but this James person obviously is very out going and not timid at all. "Hey James, I'd like you to meet my new partner Kylie Strong. She's new at the academy, I read her file, and she is supposed to be really smart."

They all became close and graduated the same year; they even got work at the same station. At first she only could think of James he was the strong silent type who was very mysterious. Kylie barely talked to anyone else other than Michael but as time pressed on Kylie and James began a relationship and poor Michael's heart got broken.

After two years of dating James he finally asked if she would marry him. They had a beautiful wedding in a small chapel with Michael as best man.

A year after their marriage Kylie gave birth to two beautiful fraternal twins. A boy she named Gabriel, and a girl she named Blair. The first time James saw them he cried. Two years later Kylie gave birth to another beautiful girl named Andrea. Kylie was with Michael at the time because James couldn't get there in time so Michael had to take his place.

One night while on his way home, James noticed he was being followed by another car and tried to elude it. The two cars swerved down a narrow road. James looks in his rear-view mirror and sees headlights closing in behind him. He hears the sound of honking

and turns his attention back to the road just in time to swerve past the truck but the car runs off the road and into the bushes.

“Hey, got anymore coffee?” “Yeah sure I’ll get you some.” Kylie was sitting down talking to Michael about how strange James has been acting since he was assigned to a new case. “Michael have you noticed that James has been really jumpy lately?” Michael sips his coffee” No, but he did try to call last night the line went dead.” Kylie was sitting there staring at her coffee and twirling her wedding ring. Ring, Ring. Kylie answered the phone while Michael watched her and saw her start to cry and nearly fainted. He rushed to her side and asked, “What’s wrong?” “It’s James!” she shouted.

The Emergency doors flung open as Kylie ran through. “Where is my Husband? Where is James Madison?” Tears are flowing down her face. “He’s still in surgery. You’ll have to wait.” Michael was holding her while she cried. “Calm down your acting hysterical! He is going to be fine.”

In the waiting room, two hours later the doctor enters the room. “Mrs. Madison? I’m Dr. Curtis your husband is okay there is no serious damage but the accident has left him in a comatose state. After a couple of days rest he’ll hopefully wake up.”

Kylie is still distraught but relieved. Michael gets up and asks if they can go see him and the doctor said it okay. They walk into the room and saw James lying there on the bed. Kylie couldn’t bear seeing James like this he was usually bright and smiling, now he was just lying there covered in bruises and cuts. It was devastating.

Michael left to get coffee and Kylie waited. “Sweetie? It’s me. I came to see you. The doctor said you’re going to be fine you just need to wake up okay? Then we can go home.” Kylie is disrupted when Michael walks in. “What time is it Michael?” “It’s late you should go home and get some rest the kids must be worried.” Michael’s voice was so soothing and reassuring she had to agree.

The next day when Kylie came back she found Michael asleep in a chair beside James’s bed. She wondered if he slept there all night. She nudges his side “Hey, wake up.” “When did you get here?” asked Michael still wiping sand from his eyes. “Just now, do you want some coffee?” They both walk down to the coffee machine. Kylie looked up at Michael thinking how he can be so sweet. He is absolutely gorgeous, but he never got married. It was weird. It was like he was waiting for some long lost love to come back. “I

wanted to thank you for being here with me. I don't know what I would have done without you." And she gives Michael a big hug. "No problem you guys are like family." They got back to the room and talk the night away.

The next morning Kylie is woken up by Michael. She opened her eyes, she fell asleep beside James and Michael was watching her.

"James had finally woken up" the doctors explained that he is perfectly fine but he some what lost his memory. Everything was there, but it was either mixed up or altered like he remembered getting married to Kylie but now he thought they had gotten a divorce and she remarried to Michael. The doctors said that they all had to play along to his delusion or he could go into shock and fall back into a coma.

After when they got home Kylie had to make some changes Michael moved in and James lived in Michael's apartment. The children weren't allowed to call James "dad" anymore. No one liked the idea one bit.

Six months had passed and still no change in James's memory. One day Kylie was putting away clothes when Gabriel walks in and asks, "Mommy... When can we tell dad the truth?" His face was filled with such sadness It broke her heart to say that they couldn't say a word. "We have to wait until daddy remembers by himself."

Time went by and Kylie was spending more time with Michael and noticed that she was developing feelings for him. Then one night Michael took all his courage and asked if Kylie would go out with him. At first she said no, but after a while she said yes.

One night on their way to work the graveyard shift they get a call in for a suspicious break in over at an old Warehouse just outside town. Kylie looks over at James a sees that he is white as a ghost. "What's the matter James?" He told them that he remembered something about a Warehouse. When they arrived and looked around there was no sign of any one in the creepy desert. As soon as they step inside the whole place goes in lock down and they were trapped inside. Suddenly three huge guys step out of the shadows. Michael pulls his gun out and tells them to stop, they didn't listen. He starts shooting at them but nothing happened. They didn't know what to think. "Maybe they're wearing bullet proof vests," said Michael. They were getting to close and soon they all were in hand-to-hand combat. Kylie managed to pull off one of the guy's ski masks and sees that they are these ugly monsters. Before her eyes James steps in front

of her and shoots one in the eyes and it goes down. After everything was clear Michael asked how he knew how to kill them. James sat down and closes his eyes he tells them he remembered a little of what happened before the crash. He was working on a case that involved a satanic cult for human sacrificial murders. James had discovered something very important about them and the crash was no accident. James couldn't exactly remember what the important thing was though.

Later James asked if he could speak to Kylie alone for a minute. He pulled her up to what looked like a stage. He took both of her hands in his "Uh... Kylie, I never got a chance to say it, I'm glad you married Michael he's a good man and I love your kids they're great. But there are some things I still can't remember why did you divorce me? Don't you love me?" he faltered "I, I still love you." His eyes looked so intense and soft full of emotion. "Of course I still love you." She looked to the ground and took a deep breath "I think you're ready to know the truth. The reason why you don't remember a divorce is because there never was one. After the accident you lost your memory and thought Michael and I were together. I don't know where you got that idea. James, Andy and the twin's are your children not Michaels." James had the biggest smile on and twirled her around. Then Kylie stopped with a sudden shock in her face. "Oh but what about Michael?" James looked at her with confusion "What about Michael?" "Well...umm...for the past month Michael and I have been dating. We never thought you'd get your memory back and... Michael has asked if I'd marry him next month. I said yes." James's smile was gone and you could see those icy blue eyes turn red. Kylie called in Michael, "This complicates things a little. I love you both equally and there is no way I can choose between the two of you." Kylie broke off into tears and ran off into the shadows. She over hears Michael talking to James. "I guess you remember now" James turned toward Michael and started pushing him around. "How could you? You're supposed to be my best friend. Why, why didn't you tell me the truth? I guess you thought I would never remember huh? So you thought you could steal my family away from me." James kept pushing Michael around. "She is *my* wife and I love her," said James. Michael got up quickly. "Yeah, well I love her too. I always have but she married you." They both just stood there looking at each other blue in the face. A loud foot step broke both of their trances.

Suddenly more of those ugly monsters came back and surrounded them. They tried to fight them off but it was no use the monsters were too strong. The monsters took them

down in the basement through a long sandy tunnel lighted by torches. They entered a chamber riddled with bones and pictures of a man carrying a little baby.

In the middle of the room, there was some sort of alter, some one standing there spoke. "Welcome... I am Mazuse. I have brought you here to help me bring back my daughter Kira. Without her all our work is lost and you will be the sacrifices for the ceremony." He looked back up and says to every one. "It is said that Kira was abandoned in this world... Tonight we shall bring her back." Every one listened to him as if he were a king. "I guess your wondering what you are doing here." It seemed Mazuse was only speaking to James as if they known each other for a long time. "How did you know we were coming?" James shouted out, while trying to break free the guard's grips. "I meant for you to bring me something, a great treasure. You are just the bait" said Mazuse. "What do you want from us?" pleaded Michael. Kylie remained silent trying to figure out a way out of this. "Take them down to the cells and lock them up until it is time for the Ceremony of Transformation to begin." The guards did as they were told and locked them up.

In the cell both James and Michael were still at it. At first Kylie felt a little flattered but this was getting ridicules. "Okay that is enough! We are in serious trouble here! We're about to be sacrificed!" Kylie broke into tears and they stopped to listen. "All I want is to go home to my kids...have the both of you forgotten about them? You two are supposed to be their fathers." Kylie sat down in between them on the bench. The James stood up "Okay for the kids we all have to get out of this safely."

Suddenly the guard opened the door to let in Mazuse. "Come with me young lady." said Mazuse slyly. "No! She isn't going anywhere with you!" James screamed fighting the guard. The guards restrained the both of them and Kylie told them she would be fine.

Mazues took her to his office. Once inside the guards let her go and left them alone. She wondered what he wanted with her. "I won't harm you Kylie if that is what you're thinking." He said like he read her mind. "What do you want with me? Why did you bring me here?" Kylie was starting to shout. He hand her an old photo album "Here take it" it was filled with pictures of a woman holding a baby. He walked around the desk and said. "There is a reason why you're here. Your mother brought you to Los Angeles to escape the prophecy." He poured himself a drink of brandy and handed her a glass. "What about

my mother? What prophecy? What are you talking about?" Kylie was confused. What was he talking about? Did he know her mother? She wandered.

"Let us out!" Yelled James but the guards didn't listen. James was paced back and forth when he noticed Michael just sitting there with a blank stare. "Why are you just sitting there? Kylie could be in trouble don't you even care?" Michael looked at him and shot straight up. "Don't you talk to me about not caring I love her too! You're not the only one with something to lose." Their argument was interrupted when the guards come in and grabbed them. "It is time for the ceremony," said one of the guards taking them to a huge chamber.

"Kylie have you ever felt different from every one else? That maybe you're meant for bigger things? The truth is my dear that you are the great Kira! You are my flesh and blood, my daughter." Kylie didn't know how to respond but he was right about one thing something has always been missing in her life. Then voices whispered in her ear saying it felt right. "Join our family business and together we can take over this world." His voice of persuasion was good, more and more she became under his control. Kira was taking over. Kylie didn't want to say it but she wanted to stay, so she caved into her blood.

The men shoved James and Michael into the ground as Mazuse walked to the stand. Mazuse stood up with a proud look upon his face. "It is time for the ceremony to begin! Bring the sacrifices here." The guards grabbed the guys and dragged them to the front. Michael glanced around the creepy chamber and saw some propane tanks in the corner and gets an idea. He nudges James on the side. "Hey, you see those tanks over there? I'll distract the guards while you grab Kylie and escape. Then I'll set the tanks on fire and this place blows sky high." James realized right away that Michael meant to be in the warehouse when it exploded. Even though James was still mad at him he couldn't let his best friend do that. "No way, we'll find another way out of this," said James. Just then the flames grow higher and men start to bang drums. Mazuse pulled out a golden dagger. "My daughter has finally been found. It is time for her to make the first kill." Someone steps out of the shadows dressed in a white robe.

At first Michael and James couldn't see who it was but as the image became clearer they saw who it was. "Kylie is that you?" "Kira here are your first sacrifices" he points towards them. Kylie accepts the dagger and approaches. "No Kylie you can't do this it is us, Michael and James." But it was no use she paid no attention. James couldn't say a

word he didn't believe it, finally snapped out of it. "Kylie wait you can't do this it's me James. Don't you know who I am?" Nothing seemed to faze her. "Kylie is no longer here I am Kira." She stops in front of him ready to plunge the dagger into his heart. "Wait! What about our kids?" She stopped and paused for a second. Mazuse was getting impatient. "Kill them!" She turned and said yes. Kylie turned back to James and knelt down. "I'll cut the ropes then you and Michael get out of here." She whispered. She turns towards Mazuse and stabs him in the stomach. "Now!" James and Michael got up and started fighting off the guards. Everything started to look like they would get out of this after all.

While everyone is preoccupied fighting off the guards Mazuse got up and pulled the dagger out of his stomach. He ran toward Michael with the dagger in hand. Kylie saw Mazuse, she ran in front of Michael. "Noooo!" shouted James as the dagger pierced her flesh, time slowed down as he rushed to her side, Michael shot Mazuse in the head. "No, No Kylie it going to be Okay we'll get you to a hospital." Kylie lay in his arms a tear rolled down from her beautiful brown eyes. She is coughed up blood, and looked up at him and says "It's Okay don't be sad it was meant to happen." Tears blurred his vision. "No, I just got you back. I'm not going to lose you again." She smiled and wiped a tear from his cheek. "I love you. The both of you, Michael for always being there for all of us. And you James for giving me the most precious gifts. Our children..." Coughed once more and she closed her eyes forever. James set her down gently and wept. He truly loved her and couldn't believe she was dead; his jealousy got the better of him when she chose Michael. James hated her for never telling him the truth. But now none of that mattered she was dead and it was his entire fault for pushing her away.

They weren't out of danger yet, thought Michael.

They still needed to make sure the others couldn't escape. "James come on we're not out of the woods yet. So get a grip." Michael sets the fire beside the tanks and pulled James on to his feet, dragging him down the tunnel and up the stairs back into the warehouse.

"Hey Michael, I just wanted to say sorry for exploding on you. I kind of already new you liked Kylie before. It's just that the thought of losing her was unbearable." James was looking on the ground. Michael looked at James and knew he is sincere. "It's Okay... You know I really did love her, but you should know that she chose you over me. She took the best man. But we can talk about this later we still need to find a way out of here

before it blows.” Michael and James search through a maze of boxes until James found the exit.

As soon as they cleared the parking lot the place exploded. They lay on the grass trying to catch their breath when Michael hears sirens in the distance. James starts to laugh. “Have you ever noticed that help never arrives until after everything’s over?” Michael just looks at him then bursts into laughter.

One year later...

“Dad, do you think mommy misses us?” “Of course she does, she loves us very much.”

James and the children were standing at the foot of Kylie’s grave. It was her twenty-eighth birthday, and they wanted to say happy birthday. Andy was singing a little song that Kylie used to sing to them at night. Gabriel was standing next to James. “I’m glad your back dad we missed you.” James knelt and hugged Gabriel. “I missed you too, son.” Then Blair shouted “Uncle Michael!”

Michael was walking up the trail holding a bouquet of roses. James turns to the kids. “Why don’t you guys wait in the car and later I’ll take us out for Ice Cream Okay?” the kids all shouted, yeah, and ran to the car.

He turns to Michael. “Hey James, I just came to wish Kylie a happy birthday.” He set down the flowers at the gravestone.

“No, she would have loved them.” said James. They both stare at the grave stone. “I miss her a lot,” said Michael. James put his hand on Michael’s shoulder. “You know she died to save you” said James wiping a tear from his eye.

Then Michael smiled and looked over at the kids. “No she died for them”

Author:
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Grade 12

“Curious Little Wolf”- Honorable Mention

One bright sunny day I was walking through the forest. I wondered what it looked like in the city, a place my mother had talked about. The city seemed to be growing bigger each season, and moving into the forest each year. I made my way to the city. Then I waked through the busy streets. Little wolf nearly got ran over by a truck.

A little girl saw me walking; she said "look mama, a wolf". The mother thought her daughter was making up a story. Why would a wolf be in the city? When the mother turned to look behind her, she was scared to see a little wolf. The mother grabbed her daughter's hand and ran into a store for safety. I heard a loud noise approaching and wondered why humans were trying to trap me. I ran as fast as I could to get away, grandpa wolf had warned me that wolves have been known to disappear and never to return to the forest when caught by these humans.

I spotted a dog and wondered would she be my friend. When I tried to play with her she barked at me, I got scared and ran away to find my way back home. But I could not remember which way; it was confusing in this place with so many buildings. So I took the street that had little traffic.

When little wolf heard a familiar call, from my friend Crow. I was so happy to see him. I told Crow I was lost and needed help to find my way home. Crow led the way back, flying overheard to warn me of any danger. It was getting dark and little wolf saw a large dark shadow and got scared. When he realized it was Mother Wolf waiting for him by the den.

Mother wolf said dinner time, they had rabbit stew. Little wolf did not want to take such a dangerous trip by himself. He would make sure to have an older brother with him when walking through the forest to stay safe.

Author:
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Grade 3

“Having a Coyote brother, What a Jerk!”- Honorable Mention

Just so you people understand who Coyote is: he's a trickster just like Raven, and wise like Eagle. A trickster likes to play pranks and sometimes these pranks can be hurtful.

Coyote premeditates for the future, he thinks of how he can manipulate someone or something to get what he wants. Like the time when he convinced me to combine our Halloween candy. He thought about how I had more candy than he did. He eyed up my chocolates, and told me that we should dump both his and my candy into this big bag and store it in his room.

Unfortunately, coyote had no intention to share. His plan was to eat all the chocolates and the good stuff. When he was done, he pretended to be very angry with me, and threw the bag out the door towards me. He told me, "I don't want this anymore, have it!" This made me feel foolish and sad. It is these types of behaviors that I am talking about when I say, "Coyote can be mean and hurtful."

Another time, Coyote stole some of my Easter eggs. What a rip off! Anyway, with all of this happening to me, it makes me wiser, when it comes to dealing with coyote. I will remind him of his devious acts. I WILL NOT SHARE OR FALL FOR HIS TRICKERY!!! Do you think I can trick him? I think I can! If I can I will only share with daddy, and well, maybe trade with Caleb. As I was saying Coyote is a sneaky being with his many formations.

Anyway, it is important that you know that Coyote picks on the innocent. Sometimes Coyote is wrong, other times coyote can be a lot of fun, and very entertaining to watch. You just need to be aware that he is truly an actor. Coyote sometimes falls for tricks himself!! If I were Coyote I'd try to stop myself from being mean. It is strange how Coyote is always getting into trouble. You know sometimes Coyote can be a real jerk, but in this case it is my Coyote: Jerk or no jerk, I Love Him!

Author:
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