

LINDA HOYT

**ANTHOLOGY OF MAGAZINE ARTICLES
AND STUDENT WRITING**

CONVENTIONS
and Craft

GRADE 3

 SCHOLASTIC

Dedication

Special thanks to members of the Scholastic Magazine Group for their contributions. We are grateful to Laine Falk, Patricia Janes, Kristin Lewis, Amanda Miller, Blair Rainsford, Elliott Rebhun, Stephanie Smith, and Lauren Tarshis.



Photos ©: cover left: Christopher Fitcher/iStockphoto; cover right: GlobalStock/iStockphoto; 4 main: Josh Reeder; 4 inset: Timothy D. Easley/AP Images; 5 center right: Torchdesigns/Dreamstime; 5 bottom right: Josh Reeder; 5–6 background: Dave White/iStockphoto; 6 top right: Josh Reeder; 6 bottom left: Darron Cummings/AP Images; 7 top: Francois6/Dreamstime; 7 center right: Keith Barlow/iStockphoto; 8: Hsc/Dreamstime; 9 top left: vlad_karavaev/iStockphoto; 9 top right: Rgbe/Dreamstime; 10: Stu Porter/Dreamstime; 11: Louis Jean Desprez/Getty Images; 12: Bierchen/Dreamstime; 13 top: De Agostini Picture Library/Getty Images; 13 bottom: DHuss/iStockphoto; 14: Vasiliy Vishnevskiy/Dreamstime; 15 top: Hsc/Dreamstime; 15 bottom: Michael Barron, National Park Service, Bugwood.org; 16: stockcam/iStockphoto; 17 left: Elisabeth Burrell/Dreamstime; 17 right: Kaan Ates/iStockphoto; 18 top: Lunamarina/Dreamstime; 18 bottom: Juanmonino/iStockphoto; 19: Xavier Arnau/iStockphoto; 20: Paul Fleet/Dreamstime; 21 top right: llynxv/Dreamstime; 21 bottom left: Kyodo Extra/AP Images; 22 top right: Zhukovsky/Dreamstime; 22 background: Mikhail Kusayev/Dreamstime; 22 bottom left, 23: im Soter; 25: Martin Harvey/Alamy Images; 26: clickenya/Splash News/Newscom; 27: Fg3724727/Dreamstime; 29: Tara Olshaw/Memorial School; 30: Kenneth Canning/iStockphoto; 32 left: Valentyn75/Dreamstime; 32 center: Robyn Mackenzie/Dreamstime; 32 right: Catalina-Gabrie Molnar/iStockphoto.

Publisher: Lois Bridges
Development editor: Raymond Coutu
Production editor: Shelley Griffin
Editorial director: Sarah Longhi
Editorial assistant manager: Suzanne Akceylan
Cover designer: Eliza Cerdeiros
Interior designer: Sarah Morrow

No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

Compilation copyright © 2017 by Scholastic Inc.
All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Inc. Printed in the USA.

ISBN-13: 978-1-338-13447-6

SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc. Other company names, brand names, and product names are the property and/or trademarks of their respective owners. Scholastic does not endorse any product or business entity mentioned herein.

Contents

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Surviving the Storm	4
The Cheetah Daddy	7
Buried by a Volcano	11
Snake Attack!	14
What Causes Allergies?	16
Are Trampolines Too Risky?	18
Danger From Outer Space	20
Surviving Hurricane Sandy.....	22
Saving a Baby Elephant	25

STUDENT WRITING

<i>Black Whiteness</i> Book Review	28
Ban Circuses	29
What's Good for Wolves Is Good for US!	30
Dear Mom	31
Gran's Melty Cheese Surprise	32

For digital versions of these magazine articles and student-written pieces, go to scholastic.com/CCresources.



HENRYVILLE SCHOOLS
2012

SURVIVING THE STORM

A fearsome tornado ripped Cody's world apart.

by Justin O'Neill

"My classmates and I thought it was a joke."

Cody Gray, 18, and his classmates heard a storm might be coming. But no one took the warning seriously.

"We'd always joke, 'Oh, we hope a tornado comes and takes down our school,'" Cody says.

There'd been storm warnings before in Cody's hometown of Henryville, Indiana. Nothing serious had ever happened.

But on March 2, 2012, something very serious was happening near Henryville: A powerful tornado was forming. By the end of the day, much of

Henryville would be destroyed.

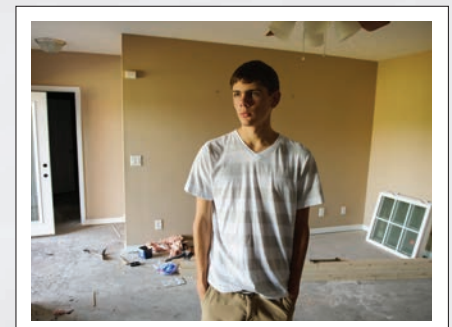
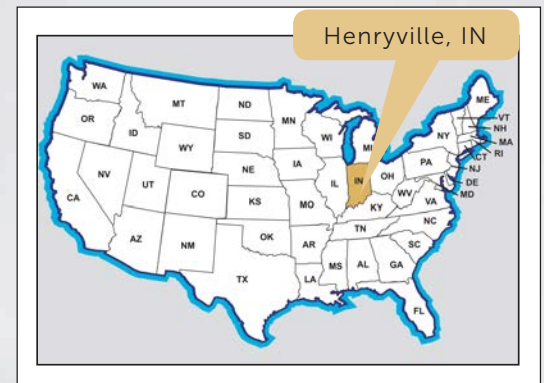
DARKENING SKIES

At around 2:30 p.m., a huge tornado touched down 20 miles from Henryville. All students and staff were dismissed from Cody's high school.

By 2:45, the skies were darkening. The air felt strange. Families rushed for shelter, grabbing blankets, food, and flashlights.

Cody's parents were at work. His grandmother picked up Cody and his younger brother.

Cody remembers, "My grandmother picked up my younger brother and me because our parents were at work. We watched the



Cody in his house, which survived the tornado. Many of his neighbors lost their homes.

(photo left) Cody Gray holds a photo of his school after a tornado destroyed it. Behind him is the same scene months later, as workers finished rebuilding.

tornado warnings on TV and knew we needed to do something quickly."

TAKE SHELTER

“Grandma, my little brother, and I were scared, but we took as much food and water as we could down to the basement,” Cody says.

Meanwhile, the tornado was destroying everything on its way to Henryville. It sucked a factory building into the sky. It smashed houses and snapped telephone poles in half.

“Grandma, my brother, and I huddled in a basement storage room with the dogs. We hoped the concrete walls would protect us.”

Soon, the tornado hit.

“We heard the wind pick up,” Cody recalls. “We heard hail shattering windows. We were crying and praying. The walls started cracking. I thought for sure the house was coming down on top of us.”

They waited in the dark for one long, terrifying hour. Then everything went silent.

REALLY, REALLY QUIET

When it was over, Cody and his family went upstairs.

A light rain was falling. “It

was really, really quiet,” he remembers.

All around town, people emerged from cellars and closets into a world of wreckage. Buildings and homes were destroyed, and cars were smashed.

His friend’s house was torn in half. Cody’s house was still standing, but it had a hole in the roof, and the windows were smashed.

Cody’s neighbors gathered in the street. “We didn’t know what to do yet,” says Cody. “We were speechless.”

When Cody’s parents returned, they had to park half a mile away because of all the rubble in the street.

The town prepared for sad news. One man had died. Many had lost their homes. Cody’s school was wrecked. Its roof had been torn off. A school bus had been thrown through the windows. But all of the children were safe.

BACK TO NORMAL

Cody and his family moved into a rental home. The community’s school started again

A night Cody will never forget: Lady Antebellum performing at his prom.



Cody Gray and his dog Isabelle made it through the storm together.

in a temporary building. Slowly, things started to feel normal again.

People all over the country reached out to help Henryville. To show support, the band Lady Antebellum performed at the high school prom, a night Cody says he’ll never forget.

The town is recovering. The school was rebuilt by September, and Cody’s house was fixed in a few months. The disaster pulled the community together. In Henryville, Cody says, “if anyone ever needs anything, there’s always someone there to help.”

Cody started college in the fall. After surviving the tornado, he feels that he can deal with anything. “I’ll handle whatever is thrown at me,” he says.





THE CHEETAH DADDY



by Lauren Tarshis

The amazing true story of two orphaned cheetahs and the man who taught them to survive in the wilds of Africa.

Born just a few weeks before, they weighed less than two pounds each. They couldn't see clearly. Threats were everywhere. In the sky, eagles soared, ready to grab the cubs with their sharp talons. On the ground, king cobras and mamba snakes slithered around with their deadly venom. At night, hyenas and jackals hunted in hungry packs. And most fearsome of all: lions. In this part of Africa, lions truly are king. And they

pose a constant threat to cheetahs, which are lightning fast but not strong.

The cubs slept while their mother roamed the scrubby land in search of prey. Hours went by. When the cubs awakened, they sniffed for their mother. They cried out in hunger. Strange sounds echoed around them—the hoots of baboons, the shrieks of hyenas.

Maybe they heard the roar of the lion that attacked

their mother. Their mother probably fought back, desperate to return to her cubs. But she would have been weak from recently giving birth. Likely, she died very quickly, leaving her helpless cubs behind.

Even with a mother's protection, 90 percent of all wild cheetah cubs die before they are three months old. But these cubs—both male—were lucky. Within a few days of the cheetah mother's death, two young boys—members of the Samburu tribe—heard the cubs' desperate cries. The boys immediately rescued the cubs and brought them to Jane and Ian Craig, who run a large wildlife reserve called the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

LOVE AND COMFORT

For many years, the Craigs have devoted themselves to helping save the endangered, black rhino and the rare Grevy's zebra. Both species now thrive on Lewa's 62,000 protected acres. The cheetah is endangered, too—only about 12,500 are left in the wild, almost all of them in Africa. The Craigs and their staff mobilized to bring the two cheetah cubs back from the brink of death. Over the next few weeks, the cubs received

24-hour-a-day attention. Staffers cradled them like infants, fed them with bottles, slept with them, and comforted them. And they named them Sambu and Toki. Within a few weeks, the cubs were scampering around their enclosure like

and antelopes, which are favorite cheetah prey. Guards patrol the area and protect the animals from poachers.

But how would the cheetahs survive on their own? In the wild, cubs stay with their mothers until they are almost two years old. During that time, cheetah mothers painstakingly teach their young how to hunt, how to avoid danger, and how to protect themselves. The Craigs wouldn't be able to find a cheetah mother to school the cubs in the ways of the wild. So they settled for the next best thing: a man named Simon King.

WILD LESSONS

King is a Kenya-born award-winning wildlife filmmaker who has spent more than 20 years studying cheetahs

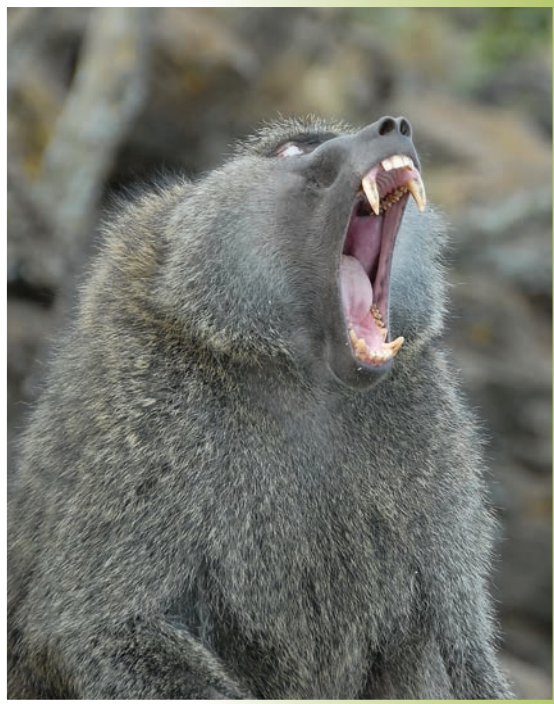
and other animals. His film work had already connected him to Lewa and the Craigs. And his years of studying cheetahs had given him detailed knowledge of their behavior. Taking care of two baby cubs would be a huge time commitment for Simon. For two years, he would have to spend most of his time with them at his



frisky kittens.

But what next? What would become of these orphans?

The Craigs felt it was urgent to get the cubs into the wilderness, where they could find mates. The vast grasslands of Lewa would make an ideal home for the cheetahs. The area is filled with gazelles



Baboons and lions are threats to cheetahs in the wild.



side. But he felt there was no other choice. And so, when the brothers were one month old, Simon became their father.

Simon quickly fell under the spell of the brothers. And they became attached to Simon—following him everywhere, nuzzling him with their triangular faces, twisting their elastic bodies around his legs whenever he came near. Before long, Simon and a Lewa worker named Stephen were taking the cubs on excursions into the more remote areas of Lewa. If they saw large animals that posed a danger—black rhinos, lions, baboons—Simon would growl at the cubs like a mother cheetah would, signaling to them to stay away. They learned quickly.

Hunting was a more difficult skill to teach. Often a mother cheetah

will bring a live impala fawn back to her cubs to practice on. Simon had to devise his own lessons.

One afternoon, he showed the cheetahs a toy rabbit tied to a string. The brothers hissed at the creature. “What is that?” they seemed to say. “How do we know it won’t attack us?” In response, Simon rolled around on the lawn with the stuffed rabbit, “proving” that it wasn’t a threat. Soon, the cubs were tackling the rabbit and chasing after it as Simon pulled it around on its string. The hunting lessons continued, and the brothers began to stalk prey on their own.

Progress was slow. At first, every chase ended in failure. The cubs didn’t understand they were still too small and clumsy to be chasing full-grown animals.

One kick of a zebra’s hind legs can crush a cheetah’s skull. But the brothers’ skills improved, and they started aiming for smaller and weaker animals that they could easily overpower.

The brothers stalked as a team. But their bond went beyond the hunt. They “talked” to each other with short, high-pitched chirps. They snuggled together when they slept. One day, Sambu froze in fear trying to cross a river for the first time (cheetahs hate water). Toki went back and forth across, as if to say, “Look! It’s easy.” Finally, Sambu made the leap right behind his brother.

TRAGEDY AND HEARTBREAK

As they approached the age of two, Simon knew the time had come for the brothers to live independently on Lewa.

Radio-transmitting collars would enable Simon to track the cheetahs' whereabouts, but they would be on their own. At first, the transition went smoothly.

And then one night, tragedy struck.

The brothers were asleep in some rocks when lions attacked. Toki escaped. Sambu didn't. For Simon, Sambu's death was a heartbreak that would last for years. For Toki, it was a catastrophe. Life is hard enough for cheetahs in the wild. A lone male has a

particularly difficult time.

And sure enough, not long after Sambu's death, Toki was attacked by a gang of three male cheetahs protecting their territory—his throat was slashed and his hind legs were badly mauled. He recovered only because he had around-the-clock care at Lewa. Simon and the Craigs wondered whether Toki could continue to live in the wild at Lewa. Those three male cheetahs were lurking; they would surely

attack again.

Simon and the Craigs decided that Toki should be moved to a nearby refuge, Ol Pejeta, which had fewer cheetahs than Lewa. Within that 90,000-acre reserve protected by an electric fence, there was a 1,700-acre area where Toki was free to roam. It wasn't a vast wilderness, but he could live independently, hunting on his own and, hopefully, finding a mate. Simon and Toki made the trip together; Toki was drugged so he would sleep through the airplane ride. But from the moment he woke up, he seemed pleased to be at Ol Pejeta. He walked confidently, marking his territory, something he had never done at Lewa. "This is home," he seemed to say.

Today, Toki is thriving as a wild cheetah. Simon still keeps close tabs on him. A proud father indeed.

Cheetahs can run up to 70 mph. (They could outrun your mom's car on the highway.)

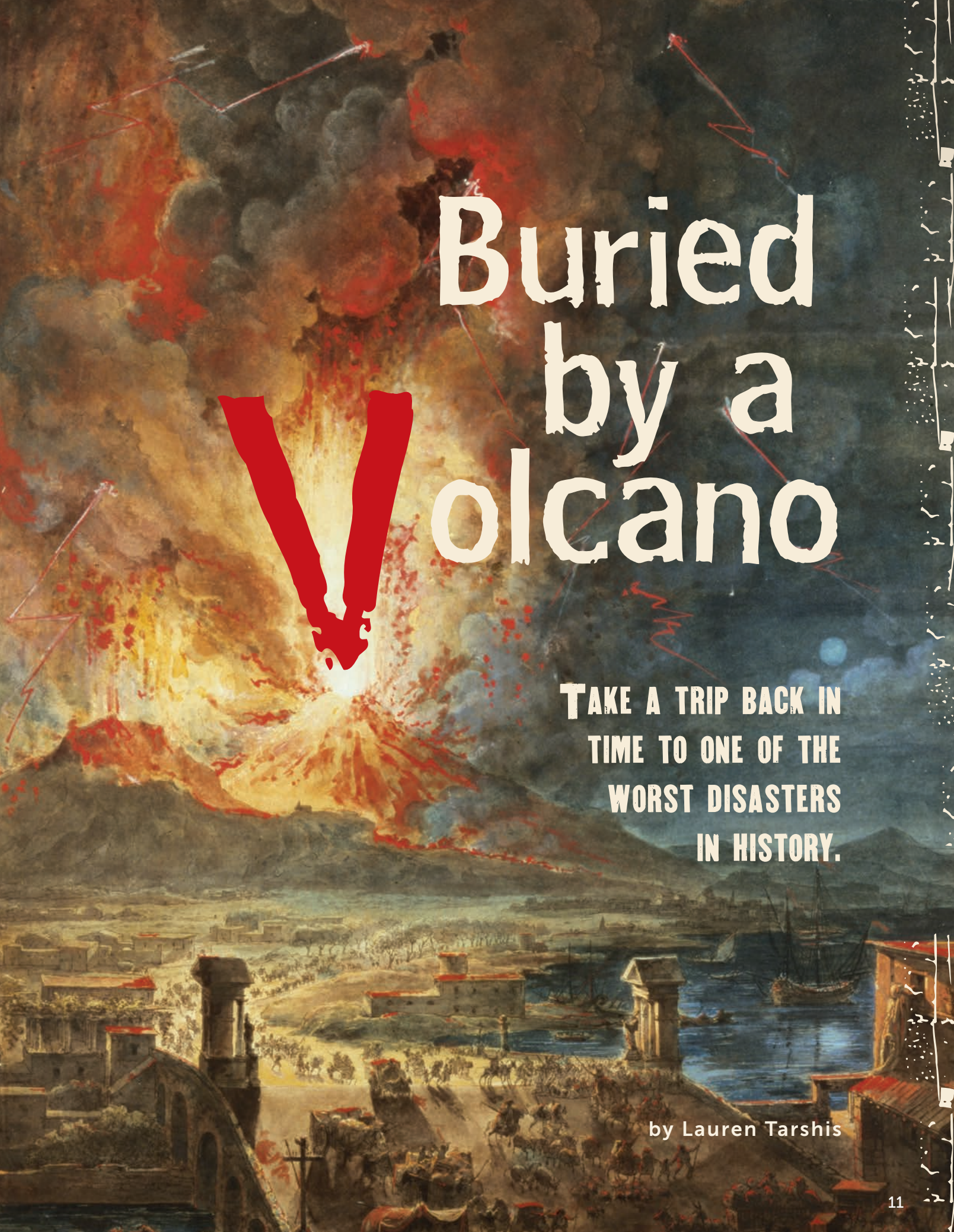
A flexible spine lets a cheetah's body stretch out fully when running at top speed.

A small head means more speed, but less powerful jaws.

A super-sized heart pumps extra blood to muscles.



Today, Toki thrives as a wild cheetah. He is strong and healthy and an expert hunter.

A dramatic painting depicting a volcanic eruption. In the foreground, a city with classical architecture, including a prominent temple with a pediment and columns, is visible. The city is filled with people and structures, some appearing to be in a state of panic or fleeing. In the background, a massive volcano is erupting, with a large plume of dark, billowing smoke and ash rising into the sky. Bright red and orange lava flows are seen cascading down the slopes of the volcano. The sky is dark and filled with the smoke of the eruption. The overall scene is one of a catastrophic natural disaster.

Buried by a Volcano

**TAKE A TRIP BACK IN
TIME TO ONE OF THE
WORST DISASTERS
IN HISTORY.**

by Lauren Tarshis



Picture this: It is 2,000 years ago. You're in the city of Pompeii in the year AD 79. Pompeii is a busy city. It has a library, theaters, temples, shops, and restaurants. A market sells foods like roasted mice with nuts and rose petals.

THE VOLCANO

Have you noticed the huge mountain near the city? That's Mount Vesuvius.

The people here don't think much about it. It's just a mountain . . . right?

Wrong. Vesuvius is a volcano. Volcanoes erupt.

Vesuvius sits on a crack in Earth's crust—the hard, rocky layer that covers our planet. The crack allows molten rock called magma to come up through the crust from miles below. A huge lake of magma boils under Vesuvius. It gives off dangerous gases.

The people of Pompeii know nothing about volcanoes. Vesuvius has been quiet for 1,500 years.

But Vesuvius is waking up.

There have been warning signs over the past few weeks. A bad smell has been coming from the mountaintop. The extreme heat underground has caused streams to dry up. Goats and sheep have been dying because of the gases. And there have been small earthquakes.

An eruption is coming. It's not safe to be in Pompeii.

MAJOR DISASTER

The people of Pompeii don't have much time. Boom! Boom!

Two huge explosions shake the ground. People fall. Horses and donkeys scream. Birds scatter. You see gray smoke rising from the top of Vesuvius. Except it's not smoke. The heat from the

eruption has turned millions of tons of rock into super-hot foam. The foam shoots 12 miles into the sky. When it hits cold air, the melted rock turns into tiny pebbles called pumice. The pumice falls on the city. Hot ash fills your nose and throat.

Many people are fleeing. Go with them! If you hurry, you just might survive.

Other people stay behind. Crime is bad in Pompeii. If people leave, their homes might be robbed.

People stay indoors. They think this strange storm of ash and rock will soon end.

They are wrong. The molten rock mixes with ash, forming a scorching-hot wave that rushes down the mountain at 80 miles per

hour. When the wave hits Pompeii, it brings death.

Ash and rock continue to fall on the city. Over the following weeks, people from nearby towns search for survivors. There are none.

In fact, the whole city seems to have vanished. Pompeii is buried under 12 feet of rock. Within a few decades, Pompeii is almost forgotten.

A CITY LOST . . . AND FOUND

You survived your day in ancient Pompeii.

Now let's travel to modern-day Pompeii. For nearly 1,700 years, the city was forgotten. People rediscovered it in 1748.

The pumice and ash that



A preserved loaf of bread from Pompeii

fell on Pompeii formed a shell that preserved many items from ancient Rome. Archaeologists have found jewels, silver dishes, and human remains. They even found a basket of petrified eggs and a bowl of chicken soup.

As you walk through the ruins of Pompeii today, you can see the remains of houses, shops,

and temples. You can almost hear the people's voices. And you can see Mount Vesuvius.

It is silent and still. But don't be fooled.

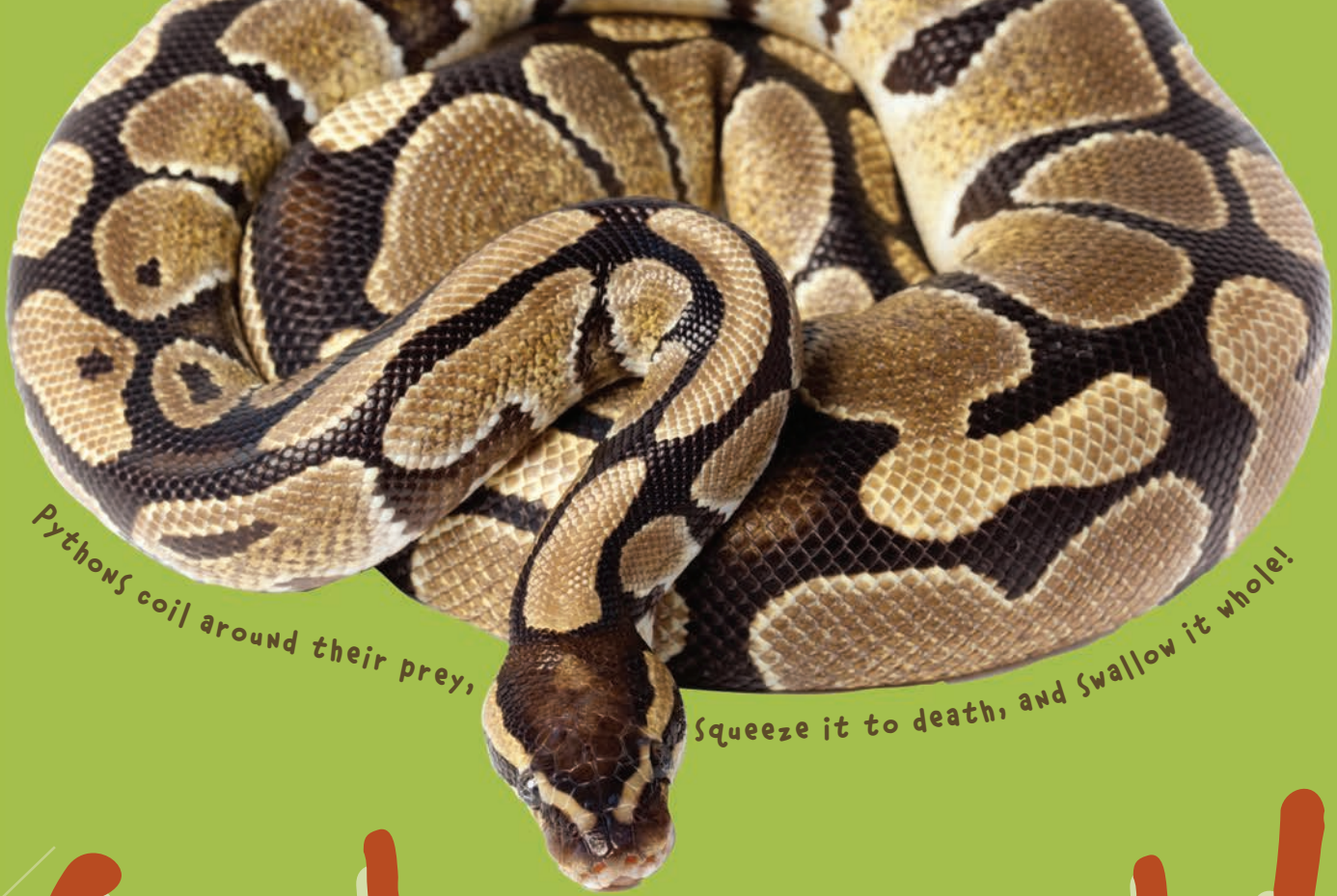
Vesuvius has erupted more than 80 times since Pompeii was destroyed, most recently in 1944. These eruptions were weak. But scientists believe a strong eruption will happen again. They worry about the millions of people in Italy who live nearby.

Will there be enough warning next time? Or will people suffer the same fate as ancient Pompeians?

Would you want to be there to find out?

Mount Vesuvius is calm today. But when will it erupt again?





Pythons coil around their prey, squeeze it to death, and swallow it whole!

Snake Attack!

**Monster Snakes
Slither through the
Florida Everglades,
filling their bellies
with creatures in
their paths.**

by Kristin Lewis

What's as thick as a telephone pole, as long as a fire truck, weighs more than a refrigerator, and can swallow an entire pig in one gulp? It's a python, a kind of deadly snake from Southeast Asia that's creeping its way through Florida's Everglades National Park. This powerful predator is an unwelcome invader species, a nonnative animal that undermines the local ecosystem.

SNAKE SNACKS

With the number of pythons on the rise, the Everglades'

fragile environment is at risk—especially the endangered species that live there. Pythons slither through land, water, and trees looking for a meal.

Peek inside a python, and who knows what you'll find in its guts. "They'll eat just about everything warm-blooded," says biologist Dr. Skip Snow, whose job is to get rid of the snake invaders. He's found birds, bobcats, raccoons, and opossums inside them.

One python made headlines in 2005 when it tried to devour an alligator. But the 6.5-foot-long alligator was too big for the 13-foot-long python, and the

snake's stomach burst open!

PYTHON PATH

These serpent beasts didn't slither halfway around the world on their own. The Asian pythons are imported from countries like Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, southern China, and Indonesia, and are sold as exotic pets.

But many people don't know what they're getting into when they bring their python home. In a few years, their pet grows from a cute foot-long baby snake into a colossal seven-foot beast with the deadliest craving for the neighborhood cats! When pythons get too big, some owners dump them in

Florida Everglades

Southeast Asia

Far From Home

Hundreds of pythons from Southeast Asia are slithering through the Florida Everglades.

the Everglades, which has a snake-friendly climate.

Capturing a python is no easy task. The snakes have camouflage skin that makes them harder to find when they are in nature.

Most of the snakes that Snow and his team catch are lolling on the side of the road, enjoying some sun, waiting for

prey, or sleeping off a big meal.

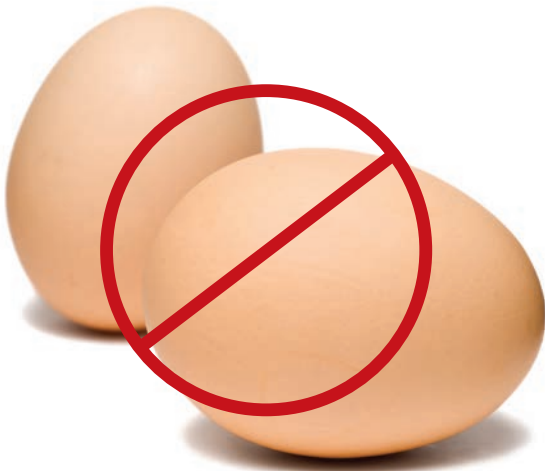
Snow and his team recently trapped a 10-foot-long female python and injected her with two radio transmitters that will help them follow her to breeding areas. Snow also plans to use a snake-sniffing dog; hopefully it won't end up as a python's lunch!

This python **exploded** when it tried to swallow an alligator that was too big for its stomach. The biggest pythons can eat leopards!



WHAT CAUSES ALLERGIES?

Our own body's defense system against diseases is to blame. *by Lauren Tarshis*



Eggs

are the second most common food allergy in children and are in many baked goods.

Imagine an enormous army of tiny soldiers living inside your body. They are working around the clock to protect you from diseases and infection. Anytime a germ invades your body ... bam! The army attacks, working to destroy the germ before it makes you sick.

This army really does exist inside you. It's called your immune system, and it comprises a network of cells, tissues, organs, and chemicals that work together to protect your body. It detects germs and other "invaders" that could make you sick, and then it seeks to destroy these pathogens through a complex series of chemical reactions.

The immune system is incredibly effective, but it can get confused. In people with allergies, the immune system mistakes something harmless—like a peanut they eat or a speck of tree pollen they inhale—as a deadly threat. An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system goes after this “enemy,” and far from doing its job of providing protection, causes harm.

Usually the result is pretty mild—an itchy rash, a drippy nose, watery eyes—and most people can control their allergies with medicine. But sometimes

the allergic response is life-threatening, unleashing chemicals that put enormous stress on the body and interfere with breathing. Scientists have not yet discovered ways to prevent these reactions, or even predict when allergies will develop.

Food allergies are far more common today than when your parents were growing up. From 1997 to 2011, the number of children with food allergies rose 50 percent, though scientists aren’t sure why. In fact, much about allergies remains a mystery.

One thing is certain: Allergies are nothing to sneeze at.



Peanuts

are the leading severe food allergy.



Cow’s milk

is the most common food allergy in young children.





Are Trampolines Too Risky?

It's all fun and games until someone ends up on crutches.

by Justin O'Neill

Thomas, 13, and his friends Mark and Josh had a fantastic idea. Why not play a game of football . . . on a trampoline?

At first, it was great fun. The boys passed and tackled while bouncing up and down.

Then Mark stumbled, tripped, and crashed, landing directly on Thomas's leg. Instantly, the ligaments—that is, the rubber-band-like

tissues that connect bones—in Thomas's knee ripped.

Thomas howled in pain.

Not a Toy

Even if you've never been injured on a trampoline, chances are you know someone who has. There were nearly 95,000 trampoline-related injuries in 2012 alone. Young kids are most at risk; up to 37 percent of emergency-room patients injured on





When trampolines were invented in the 1930s, they were intended for use by professional acrobats. Later, they were used to train military pilots. Over time, trampolines caught on with the public.

trampolines were younger than age six.

These injuries are such an enormous problem that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a group of doctors who specialize in treating children and adolescents, said in a 2012 study that trampolines should never be used at home or on playgrounds.

Never.

“This is not a toy. It’s a piece of equipment,” says Dr. Michèle LaBotz, an author of the AAP study. Indeed, when trampolines were invented in the 1930s, they were intended for use by professional acrobats. Later, they were used to train military pilots. Over time, trampolines caught on with the public, and now 900,000 are sold each year, most of them for recreational use.

Part of trampolines’ appeal is that despite the risks, they provide good exercise.

You get a heart-pumping aerobic workout, like you do when running or dancing. And young people need all the exercise they can get. A 2011 survey shows that only 29 percent of high school students get the amount of exercise the U.S. Department of Health recommends.

Still, trampolines can be dangerous—and not just for kids who fall off. (Safety nets, incidentally, provide little or no protection.) Kids are also getting hurt on the springs and in collisions with each other. Strains, sprains, broken bones, bruises, and serious injuries to the head and neck have been reported. One out of every 200 trampoline injuries leads to permanent brain damage. As a tragic example, in September 2013, a 14-year-old from Utah broke his neck after attempting a double backflip on a friend’s trampoline. He is now paralyzed.

Don’t Jump to Conclusions

Bouncing on a trampoline is clearly risky. But then, every athletic activity involves risk. Kids fall off bikes and skateboards all the time. As with any sport, kids on a trampoline can protect themselves. For instance, never allow more than one person on a trampoline at a time. (About 75 percent of injuries result from having multiple jumpers at once.) Don’t do flips, and always have adult supervision.

If only Thomas had been more careful. Not only did his emergency room visit cost \$2,000, but he also missed out on a weekend trip to a friend’s cabin and spent three miserable weeks on crutches. Not good.

He then had another fantastic idea: Stay off trampolines.



Danger From Outer Space

Last winter, a huge fireball exploded above a city.

Could it happen again?

By Justin O'Neill

It's February 15, 2013. The 1.1 million people of Chelyabinsk (CHELL-yuhbinsk), Russia, are in for an unusual day. They don't know it, but a large space rock is headed toward them. It measures 55 feet across. That's as wide as a five-story building is tall.

The rock enters our atmosphere. It zooms toward Earth's surface. It gets so hot that it starts to crumble. Now it's 15 miles above the ground. It won't be long until it explodes!

People in Chelyabinsk stare as a fireball streaks across the sky. It disappears in a blinding flash, leaving behind a trail of smoke.

What was that? A missile? A plane crash? Aliens?

Two minutes pass. And then—BOOM! SMASH! Shock waves shake the city. People are knocked to the



The map shows where a meteor exploded in February 2013.

KNOW YOUR SPACE ROCKS

- **asteroids:** rocks in space that are larger than 10 meters (about 33 feet) across; smaller rocks in space are called meteoroids
- **meteors:** rocks that create streaks of light as they enter the atmosphere and burn up
- **meteorites:** any pieces of rock from space that have landed on Earth

ground. Ouch! Windows shatter, sending shards of glass flying into homes, schools, and offices. In an instant, 1,200 people are injured.

What just happened?

Rocks From Above

Have you ever seen a shooting star? It wasn't really a star. It was a meteor, a rock from space that creates a streak of light as it enters the atmosphere and burns up. Large meteors, like the one that exploded over Chelyabinsk, are called fireballs. Any pieces that land on Earth are called meteorites.

Our solar system has millions of rocks. They are left over from when the sun and planets formed, billions of years ago. These rocks usually stay in an area between Mars and Jupiter. But sometimes they bounce against each other. Kaboom! That can knock them closer to us.

Each day, about 100 tons of stuff flies toward Earth from space. Most of it is harmless and burns up in the atmosphere. But if a space rock larger than a mile across were to hit Earth, it would be a catastrophe.

Scary but Rare

Very large space rocks are called asteroids. One of them likely led to the dinosaurs becoming extinct. That asteroid was six miles across. Sixty-five million years ago, it crashed near what is now Mexico.

Dust clouds from the explosion blocked out the sun, maybe for months. That caused many plants and animals to die.

Events like the Chelyabinsk fireball are rare. Very large asteroid strikes, like the one that probably killed off the dinosaurs, are even rarer. They happen only once every 100 million years or so.



This large hole formed when a meteorite crashed into a frozen lake in Chelyabinsk.

Spaceship Earth

A group of experts wants to make sure a giant asteroid never hits Earth again. Former astronauts started the B612 Foundation. This group is building a satellite to look for asteroids.

The project is important, says Diane Murphy of B612. She compares Earth right now to a spaceship with no windows. "We're creating windows," says Murphy.

What if we spot a large asteroid zooming toward Earth? We could change its path by crashing a spacecraft into it. Poof! If that isn't possible, we might at least have time for people to evacuate areas where an asteroid is about to crash.

Part of the Universe

According to Murphy, there's no reason to panic about asteroids. They are part of the universe. We can't change that, but we can protect our planet.

Luckily, no one in Chelyabinsk was killed. Most injuries were minor. Now many people in the area have a new hobby: hunting for meteorites. Even small bits of the fireball may be worth thousands of dollars.

If you saw one, you probably wouldn't notice, though. Most meteorites look like plain, black rocks.

You'd probably walk right past one.

Surviving



Hurricane Sandy

by Lauren Tarshis

When her New York City community was devastated by the storm, one girl decided to help rebuild hope.



Ariel Creamer, 14, has always felt lucky to live in Rockaway, New York. The community sits on an 11-mile peninsula, a windblown sliver of land that juts into the ocean.

Ariel Creamer on her beloved beach near her home in Rockaway, New York. The beach is still recovering from damage from Hurricane Sandy.

Though Rockaway is part of New York City, some areas have the feel of a peace-loving seaside resort. Ariel's house is just half a block from the beach. She can see the ocean from her house and hear the power-packed waves as she drifts off to sleep. "It's the ocean that makes this place so special," she says.

But on October 29, 2012, the ocean turned ferocious. That was the night Hurricane Sandy slammed into the East Coast of the United States. The storm was enormous—as large as the state of Texas. It hit with devastating power. Scores of people died. Hundreds of communities suffered major, life-changing damage.

Rockaway was hit especially hard. During the storm, the wild waters of the Atlantic surged over the beach, flooding neighborhoods up and down the peninsula. Thousands of homes were badly damaged. Some were destroyed. Just blocks from Ariel's home, a house-swallowing fire broke out. More than 100 stores, restaurants, and houses burned to the ground.

LAST-MINUTE ESCAPE

Ariel's family had planned to ride out the hurricane in their home, but just hours before the storm hit, Ariel's father decided it was too dangerous to stay. The family escaped just before the city's bridges closed and stayed with relatives in nearby Brooklyn.

When they returned to Rockaway the morning after the storm, their neighborhood was in ruins. Roads were clogged with sand and wreckage. The playground where Ariel used to take her little sister and brother was now in the bay.



Ariel's house had been hit hard as well. The basement was flooded, and the heat, hot water, and electricity were knocked out for nearly three weeks. Ariel and her siblings went to stay with their aunt and cousins in Chicago while their parents cleaned up the house. Ten days later, the family was back together at home.

But Rockaway was a disaster zone. The tight-knit community was in shock. There was no power or running water. Many of Ariel's friends had lost their homes to flooding or fire and were living far away. Ariel's school had been damaged. To get to its new location in Brooklyn, Ariel had to commute an hour each way by bus.

In those first months, Ariel missed her old life—her friends, her walks on the beach, and

her favorite restaurant, which had burned down. People were suffering all around her, especially the poor and elderly. As the weather got colder, people stood shivering in long lines for water and other necessities.

A SILVER LINING

But Ariel felt inspired by the people who were working to help Rockaway heal. Volunteers came from around the country with carloads of donated clothing and toys. Neighbors devoted all of their spare time to helping others rebuild.

Teenagers climbed dozens of flights of stairs to bring water and food to elderly people trapped without power—or

elevator service—in high-rise buildings. “My mom told me you can’t control what happens to you,” Ariel says. “But you can always choose how you want to deal with it.” Ariel’s choice was to help. She created Survivors Silver Lining, a Facebook page that matches survivors in need with donors who want to help. She built the page late one February night, posting information about a nine-year-old boy named Patrick who’d lost his

entire Lego collection when his house burned down. Within days, Patrick’s Legos had been replaced. In the coming months, Ariel’s page would help many kids: Christopher, who received a new Nook; brothers Charlie and John, who got a new drum set and keyboard. Ariel has also worked with other organizations to bring much-needed donations to Rockaway. This work has made her something of a celebrity. In April, she

traveled to the White House in Washington, D.C., where she was honored as a Hurricane Sandy Champion of Change.

Today, the scars of destruction are still visible in Rockaway. But hope is in the air, blowing in the salty ocean breeze. The streets are clean, and many homes are being rebuilt. “I can’t imagine living anywhere but Rockaway,” Ariel says. “My neighborhood will be back, even stronger than before.”

After Hurricane Katrina

New Orleans Bounces Back

Hurricane Katrina, which struck the U.S. Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, was one of the worst natural disasters in American history.

More than 1,800 people were killed. The storm caused destruction all along the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines. But it was the city of New Orleans that suffered the most catastrophic damage.

New Orleans is unique in America, a vibrant city famous for its music, its food, and its architecture. It’s also prone to

flooding. New Orleans sits near the Gulf of Mexico and is crisscrossed by rivers and canals. Decades ago, engineers constructed a system of levees—huge walls made of earth—to protect the city from floods. Experts always said that these levees would not be strong enough to survive a powerful hurricane. Katrina proved them tragically right. Many levees failed during Katrina, and 80 percent of the city flooded. In the months after Katrina, many predicted the

city would never recover. There was too much damage, they said. Hundreds of thousands of people left, many for good.

But today, much of the city has rebounded. Tens of thousands of homes have been rebuilt. Problems remain, such as high crime and poverty. Some neighborhoods are still badly scarred. But overall, many report that the city is as vibrant as it was before Katrina.

In the words of a famous blues song by Earl King, “Ain’t no city like New Orleans!”



Saving a Baby Elephant

A baby elephant was alone and starving—and attacked by a lion. This is the amazing story of the people who kept her alive.

by Justin O'Neill



A baby elephant needs its mother's milk for two years to survive. But what happens if the mother is killed?

.....
Ishanga drinks milk from a baby bottle.

A baby elephant lay in the bushes. She was scared, starving, and badly hurt. Just a few days earlier, she had been safe with her family in Tsavo National Park in Kenya, Africa.

More than 10,000 elephants live in the area. The baby and her mother lived with their large herd.

Then tragedy struck. The baby's mother was killed.

A Mother Taken

Poachers probably killed the mother elephant. These hunters kill elephants even though it is against the law. Poachers want the elephants' ivory tusks. Ivory is used to make statues and jewelry. Most countries have laws against selling ivory. But that doesn't stop poachers. They can make thousands of dollars selling tusks in illegal markets.

Poachers kill males and females. If they kill a mother elephant with a baby, the baby usually dies, too.

Elephant babies need their mother's milk for the first two years of life. A mother can feed only one baby at a time, so the other mother elephants in the herd can't help. The herd must leave orphans behind.

This baby probably wandered alone for days until she collapsed.

Surprise Attack

On November 17, 2010, a team of animal rescuers was removing snares in Tsavo National Park. Snares are deadly traps that poachers set. A member of the team saw the baby and rushed to help.

Suddenly, a lion sprang from the bushes, trying to tackle the baby. The baby's knees buckled and she went down, making it possible for

the lion to clamp its strong jaws around her neck.

A park ranger pulled out his gun and fired shots in the air. The lion let go and backed away.

The baby had a serious wound. And just off in the distance, a group of hungry lions was circling.

Close to Death

The baby's kind rescuers worked for the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. This organization is 300 miles from Tsavo. It runs an orphanage for baby elephants. There, they are safe from almost certain death in the wild. The orphanage has raised 130 elephants and released them back into the wild.

The orphanage was the baby elephant's only chance of survival. The rescuers put her into a Jeep and drove over rocky dirt roads to a rescue

plane. The baby's condition grew worse and worse.

Scared and Sick

At the orphanage, the baby was scared and jumpy. She wouldn't let humans go near her. She wouldn't eat or drink.

The medical staff named the baby Ishanga, after the area where she was found. They worked all night to treat her wound. They also soothed her with gentle strokes and calm voices.

Elephants need affection just as humans do. At the orphanage, human "keepers" stay with the baby elephants to keep them

company. They even sleep beside them.

Ishanga finally drank a bottle of milk. Then she passed out and started shivering. The keepers covered her with blankets. They feared the worst. Was it too late?

A New Home

Hours later, Ishanga woke up. She slowly got to her feet.

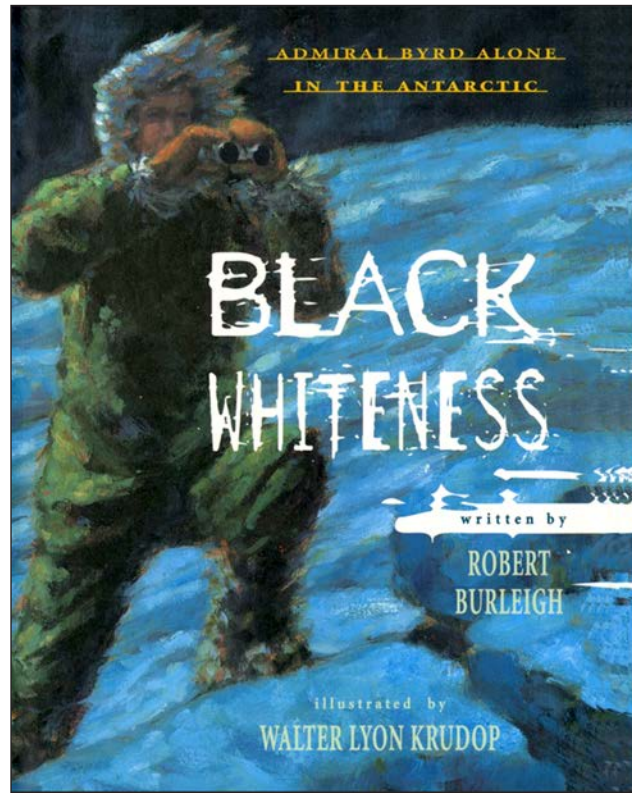
The next day, the keepers introduced Ishanga to some of the 14 other young elephants at the orphanage. The other elephants held out their trunks. This is how elephants shake hands.

The older elephants led Ishanga around her new home. They showed her the field where they play soccer and the dining area where they drink from giant bottles.

Since then, Ishanga has become healthier. Sometimes she still has nightmares. But she likes to play, and she has made many friends.

On August 18, 2012, Ishanga and two other elephants moved to a new home. There, they will get ready to go back to living in the wild. Ishanga has a long, happy life ahead of her.





Black Whiteness

Book Review

by **Tori**

Imagine: Icy tunnels that shine with a naked blue radiance and air so cold that your lungs burn with invisible fire when you try to breathe. That was the reality in 1934 when Admiral Byrd stayed on the continent of Antarctica—all alone. In *Black Whiteness*, Robert Burleigh captures the enormous courage and fortitude of a real-life explorer braving extreme conditions and continual danger. When you start this book, be sure you have some time. You won't be able to put it down! Read *Black Whiteness* by Robert Burleigh. You won't be sorry!

Black Whiteness: Admiral Byrd Alone in the Antarctic by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Walter Lyon Krudop. Text copyright © 1998 by Robert Burleigh. Illustrations copyright © 1998 by Walter Lyon Krudop. Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division. All rights reserved.

BAN CIRCUSES

by Bella

Circuses are horrible for animals! I hope you will agree with me.
Boo Circuses

Enjoy the circuse?
Animals don't!

circuses are bad news for animals. Heer are some reasons why.

- Animals are chained up to the floor or wall. The chains are tyte.
- When the Circuse travels, the cars that the animals are in are super tiny. The animals need lots of space.
- When the animals don't listen they get whipped.

Helping!

Animals are being torched in circuses. Heers how you can help the animals.

- Put out posters that say circuses are bad.
- Set the animals free. Let the animals into the wild. Let them fun free.



Let the animals Loose and Let them be free!!
Ban the circus!





What's Good for Wolves Is Good for US!

by **Marcus**

I believe that if we keep wolf numbers healthy, it can help us keep everything healthy, including ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are essential to healthy human societies and economies.

Consider these things: Wolves live in packs. They hunt all year long in order to feed their big families. They often take the weak and sick, and leave behind the strong and healthy. They feed others because there are often lots of leftovers from their feasts. They control the numbers of their prey, so huge population explosions don't happen, and that means there is enough food energy to go around—or the “carrying capacity” of the land.

My argument is that by protecting wolves, we protect other living things. We can, in fact, protect all ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems on a healthy planet!

February 7

Dear Mom,

Did you know that there's an easy way to recycle? All you need to do is buy a recycling bin so that you can recycle bottles, cans, paper, and plastic. You should know that recycling is a lot better for Earth's land and oceans than throwing away bottles, cans, paper, and plastic. Therefore, please start recycling. Okay?! Recycling is more fun than ever and can help keep the environment CLEAN.

—Grace

Peer Editing Checklist

Author Grace Peer Editor Latoya Date 2/16

We have reviewed this work for:

SPELLING

Words we corrected:

- We checked the Spelling Reference: Tricky Words.
- We checked to be sure there is a vowel in every syllable.

Resources we used to check spelling: word wall, online dictionary

CAPITALIZATION

- First word of each sentence
- Names and proper nouns (English muEn)
- Titles NA
- A word all in caps for emphasis

PUNCTUATION

- A period (.), question mark (?), or exclamation point (!) at the end of each sentence
- Apostrophe for contractions (she's, can't, I'll)
- Commas (,) in a series (Jason plays soccer, baseball, and basketball.)
- Apostrophe for possessives (Anna's bike)
- Sentence opener followed by a comma
- Exclamation point for interjection
- Quotation marks (") in dialogue NA

SENTENCES

- This piece is free of fragments, unless used for style.
- This piece has no run-on sentences. The word *and* is used with caution.

SOME INTERESTING SENTENCES

The most interesting sentence in this piece is _____

We think this sentence is strong because _____

Gran's Melty Cheese Surprise

by Katie

Ingredients:

Brie cheese
dried cranberries
brown sugar
nuts



Steps:

1. Slice one round or large wedge of Brie cheese in half horizontally.
2. Open it up.
3. Fill the inside with dried cranberries, brown sugar, and any favorite nut. (I like almonds or hazelnuts.)
4. Replace the top of the cheese and press down firmly to seal.
5. Sprinkle with a few more cranberries and a bit of brown sugar.
6. Warm in the oven at 350°F (176°C) until cheese is soft and beginning to melt. (10 minutes or so.)
7. Serve with crackers or sliced French bread slices.