

LINDA HOYT

**ANTHOLOGY OF MAGAZINE ARTICLES  
AND STUDENT WRITING**

**CONVENTIONS**  
*and Craft*

KINDERGARTEN



SCHOLASTIC

# Dedication

Special thanks to members of the Scholastic Magazine Group for their contributions.

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# Slurp!

You wouldn't want this fly at your picnic. It landed on a watermelon, and it's drinking the juice. Find out how flies and other insects chow down!

## Incredible Insect Mouths

Some insects eat solid food, like leaves and grass! Others eat mushy food, like rotting garbage! Others drink liquid. They don't eat solid food at all.

It makes sense that different insects have different kinds of mouths. The form, or shape, of each mouth helps with its function, or what it does.



The ant eats a flower. It grabs the flower with its mouth and chews it up. What kind of insect mouth does the ant have?



### NEEDLE MOUTHS

A mosquito's mouth is long and sharp, like a needle. The mosquito sticks it into an animal. Then it sucks blood from the animal. The blood is the mosquito's food!



### SPONGE MOUTHS

A fly drinks liquids. But its mouth has a different shape from the mosquito's. The fly's mouth has sponges on the bottom. They soak up liquid.



### PLIERS MOUTHS

A beetle's mouth is shaped like pliers. Its jaws move from side to side, not up and down like our jaws. The jaws grab spiders and smaller insects to eat.



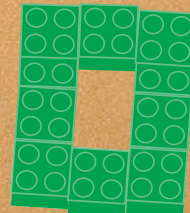
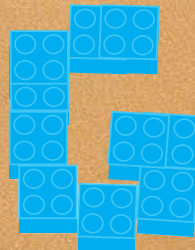
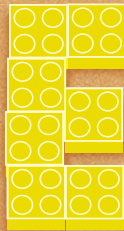
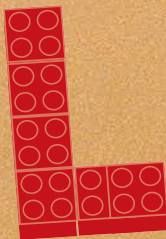
### STRAW MOUTHS

A butterfly's mouth has a proboscis (proh-BAH-sis). It has a long and hollow shape, like a straw. The butterfly puts its proboscis into a flower. It sips the sweet liquid inside.





A



Ocean

Mystery

Most people find shells, rocks, and seaweed on the beach. But some people are finding LEGO pieces! Where are these toys coming from?

by Blair Rainsford



## LEGO PIECES OVERBOARD!

**For years, LEGO pieces drifted in the ocean and washed up on beaches. Why are these bright plastic toys showing up on the sand? The whole story started many years ago.**



## A WAVE STRIKES

In 1997, a ship sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. It was loaded with dozens of big containers full of things to sell. Suddenly, a huge wave slammed into the ship and knocked 62 big containers into the water.

The ship didn't sink, but the containers were lost at sea. One of those containers was full of millions of LEGO pieces. The tiny toys have floated around the ocean ever since.

## WORLD TRAVELERS

The LEGO pieces didn't stay where the container fell.

They have traveled miles and miles since they fell overboard. How?



Ocean currents have carried them. Currents are like rivers that flow through the ocean. They flow through all the oceans in the world.

After the pieces fell off the ship, many of them were swept up by a current that carried them to the shores of England. Ever since, they've been washing up on the beaches there. But people say they have also found LEGO pieces on the beaches of Ireland, the Netherlands, Australia, and Texas!

What kinds of LEGO pieces have people found?

## LOST LEGO PIECES

This chart shows some of the kinds of LEGO pieces that were on the ship. Most of these still have not been found!

Type of Piece	Number of Pieces Lost
Octopuses	4,200
Flippers	418,000
Flowers	353,264
Dragons	33,941

They haven't found many LEGO bricks. Instead, they have found tiny LEGO flowers, hats, dragons, octopuses, and more.

A woman from England named Tracey Williams has been collecting washed-up LEGO pieces for years. She keeps track of all the pieces she finds. She has a website where people can send in photos of what they find, too.

Tracey says that people like to talk about the pieces that they've found. "If you

heard that your neighbor had found a green dragon, you'd want to go out and find one yourself," she says.

## LONG-LASTING LEGO PIECES

How have the LEGO pieces lasted so long? Some kinds of trash, like paper, biodegrade quickly. That means they break down. But LEGO pieces are made of plastic. Plastic takes hundreds of years to biodegrade. It drifts around the ocean for a long time.

The LEGO pieces fell into the sea many years ago, but people are still finding them on beaches today. The pieces aren't damaged much at all. They look like they just came out of the box!

It's fun to imagine finding a LEGO treasure on the beach. But this story shows that we must be careful what we put in our oceans. It may still be there years later!



**This ship may look like it's made of LEGO bricks, but it's not! It's a real container ship.**

# Beating the Heat

When it comes to surviving in the desert, it helps to know some cool tricks.

by Claire Miller

**O**n a hot summer day, you might chill out by jumping into a pool. But what can a plant or an animal that lives in the desert do when the temperature soars above 38°C (100°F) and there's no water in sight? Read on to discover the amazing survival tactics of some of the world's desert dwellers.





## Desert Dance

If you've ever visited a beach on a hot day, you know that the sun's rays can heat sand to feet-scorching temperatures. Luckily, the shovel-snouted lizard has some smooth moves to keep its sensitive feet from getting fried. The lizard props itself up on its tail. Then, it lifts its right front leg and left back leg to cool those feet in the air. After getting relief, it switches legs. The lizard repeats this dance over and over.

When the sand gets too hot for the dance moves to work, the lizard uses its strong toes and shovel-like snout to "swim" under the surface of the sand. Heat from the sun is slow to penetrate the sand. So it is much cooler under the surface.



## Shady character

Most desert animals stay out of sight during the day. That's because daytime temperatures can be as much as 27°C (80°F) hotter than the temperature at night. But the Cape ground squirrel goes out even when the sun is high in the sky.

The squirrel keeps cool by curling its tail over its body. Light-colored fur on the tail reflects the sun's hot rays. This umbrella gives the squirrel an advantage over other animals. "It can nibble plants in

the hottest part of the day when most of its predators are asleep," says Mark Dimmitt, a scientist who studies desert organisms.



## Water Savers

Cactus plants have special adaptations that enable them to hold on to precious water in the desert. Like all plants, cacti use photosynthesis to make their own food to grow. To do this, they have to open pores called stomata and gather carbon dioxide gas from the air. But as the stomata open, water evaporates from their cells—causing most plants to dry out.

To stay moist, a cactus opens its stomata at night and stores the carbon dioxide. “The plant finishes the photosynthesis process the next day,” says Dimmitt. By only opening their stomata at night when it’s cooler, cacti lose one-tenth as much water as they would during the day.



## In a Fog

Deserts receive an average of less than 25 centimeters (10 inches) of rain a year. So animals that live there use unusual methods to get the water they need. The fog-basking beetle does a handstand to snatch a drink right from the air.

In deserts where this beetle lives, the air at night is often foggy.

During those times, the little beetle climbs to the top of a sand dune.

It raises its back end in the damp breeze. Water in the fog condenses on the beetle's cool body. The water flows down the beetle's back and into its mouth.



## PETS STAY COOL, TOO

They may not live in the desert, but even pet dogs and cats need to keep from getting overheated. When they get too hot, dogs hang their drippy tongues out of their mouths and pant. Cats pant, too. This fast breathing causes water to evaporate from their tongues. As the water changes from a liquid to a gas, it removes heat from the surface of the tongue. That helps to cool the animals.

Still, dogs and cats don't like to exercise on hot, sunny days. They prefer to rest in a shady spot, where there's plenty of cool water to drink.



# Chilly, Silly Seal

Antarctica has freezing-cold winds, frosty water, and a lot of ice. It's not a very comfortable place for a human. But for a southern elephant seal, it's home, sweet home!



Look at this photo. What other animals live in the elephant seal's habitat?



Hundreds of seals lie on the beach together.

## Seals at Sea

For most of the year, elephant seals swim in the icy ocean and hunt for fish and squid. They eat and eat. Most of the time, they don't come out of the water at all, not even to rest.

The ocean water is very cold, but elephant seals don't freeze. A thick layer of fat called blubber keeps them warm.

The seals are great swimmers. Their big flippers and rocket-shaped bodies help them zoom through the water. They can dive deeper than 7,000 feet under the water and hold their breath for two hours!

## Seals on Land

In summer, elephant seals come on land to molt.

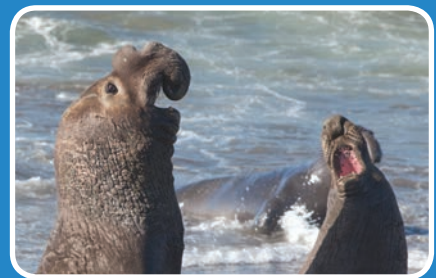
That means that they shed their skin and fur. Molting keeps the seals' skin clean and healthy.

In spring, the females have babies. They need to be on land to have babies, but their food is back in the ocean. So they don't eat at all. Their blubber helps them survive without food. They live off energy stored in their blubber.

The babies are born on the beach. They drink milk from their mothers' bodies. They grow bigger and bigger.

When the babies are about two-and-a-half months old, they leave the land and go into the ocean. They have grown big and strong enough to swim and hunt on their own!

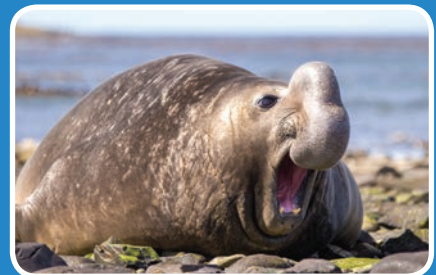
## Strange-Looking Seals



Male elephant seals roar to get attention. Their floppy noses puff up with air when they roar.



Adult males are the only ones with big floppy noses. Females and babies don't have floppy noses.



Elephant seals have four flippers instead of legs. They may not look fast, but elephant seals can walk as fast as people on land!

A person wearing a red jacket, black pants, a red helmet, and sunglasses is standing inside a large, translucent blue ice cave. The person is holding a climbing tool and has their arms raised. The cave is made of clear, blue ice with some snow on the floor. The background shows a snowy landscape under a blue sky.

# Inside the ice

You may know that most caves are dark and gloomy because they are made of rock. But when you find a cave made from ice, the sun shines through the walls and the interior glows bright blue. That's just one thing that's nice about ice!

## **Practice for Mars**

One day scientists hope to travel to Mars where there are ice caves. And it is exciting to know that when water on Earth freezes into ice caves, those caves become a great place for scientists to learn what they might be like on Mars!

To practice climbing in ice caves on Earth, scientists wear silver spacesuits that weigh 100 pounds each. That is like carrying two-and-a-half kindergarten children on their backs!

Someday, scientists may really go to Mars. They may find ice caves. They will know what to do because they practiced on Earth.



This scientist is inside an ice cave. The cave is in the country of Austria, in Europe.

## Frozen in Ice

Animals called mammoths lived long ago. They looked like furry elephants. The last mammoths died out thousands of years ago.

People just found a frozen mammoth. It had been frozen for more than 10,000 years! Usually things that old

break down. This mammoth did not. The ice kept it fresh the way a kitchen freezer keeps food fresh.

Scientists are excited. They will study the mammoth. Thanks to the ice, they will be able to learn a lot about this animal!

## It's a Car-sicle!

Winter weather turned this car into a car-sicle! Cars drove by and splashed water on it. The air was so cold that the water froze on the car!

In many places, winter brings wild weather. The temperature drops below zero. Ice forms on tree branches. Sometimes the ice is so heavy that it pulls trees down. Big snowstorms called blizzards may come, too. Many feet of snow may fall. It can take people days to dig their way out!



Scientists found the frozen mammoth in the country of Russia. This illustration helps us picture mammoths in their habitat thousands of years ago.



The frozen car was in New York.

Elephants put their trunks in other elephants' mouths to comfort them.



Elephants are big, strong, and tough. But even they get scared sometimes. Luckily for them, the other elephants in their group are good friends. They help one another!

### Big Buddies

A herd of elephants walks through tall grass. It's a calm, quiet day. Suddenly, a noisy helicopter flies by.

One elephant gets scared. She sticks out her trunk and tail. She makes a loud, frightened noise.

Another elephant comes over to help. She strokes her friend with her trunk. She makes a chirping noise.

Scientists have learned something new. Elephants comfort each other when they are upset! They touch each other with their trunks. The chirping noise they make might be their way of saying "Shhh, it's OK."

Elephants are very caring. They take care of sick and hurt elephants. They can teach us how to be good friends, too!



Scared or excited elephants stick out their trunks and ears like this.

# Elephant Friends



### Kind Kids

Here are some ways you can be a good friend.

**Say hello.** Ask a new person to play with you. You might make a new friend.

**Share.** Sometimes two people want to use the same thing. You can share it!

**Be caring.** A good friend takes care of others.





# Bath Time *for* Baby

by Blair Rainsford

This giraffe mom doesn't use a washcloth to keep her baby clean. She licks her baby with her long black tongue! This is just one of the unusual ways animal parents care for their babies.

## Animal parents nurture, or care for, their babies in some wild ways.

### Wild Ways to Keep Clean

Big cats, like lions and tigers, have a pretty strange way to keep their cubs clean. They use their tongues!

These cats have spikes on their tongues. They use their spiky tongues as hairbrushes. Just a few licks and a cub's fur is neat and tidy.

That's not the only weird way animal parents keep their kids clean. A mom or dad monkey combs through its baby's fur with its fingers. The adult picks out dirt, dead skin, and insects—and sometimes it eats the bugs it finds! That may seem gross to us, but it's how monkeys nurture their babies.



When monkeys clean their babies' fur, it doesn't just keep the babies neat and tidy. Scientists say it calms them down, too.



### Wild Ways to Feed

It's dinnertime for baby wolf pups. But wolf parents don't serve their babies food on a plate. They throw it up from their stomachs!

Wolves eat meat. But wolf pups aren't big enough to go out and hunt on their own. So their older relatives help. They hunt animals, such as deer.

They swallow the meat and trot back home, where the pups are waiting. Then the older wolves regurgitate (ree-GUR-juh-tayt) the meat into the pups' mouths. That means the older wolves spit it up. The babies get all the nutrients they need. Dinner is served!

Some bird parents do this, too. They store the food for their chicks in a body part called a crop. Then they regurgitate the food from their crops into the chicks' beaks.

A snowy egret feeds its young.

## Wild Ways to Carry

A piggyback ride seems like a normal way for a parent to carry a child. But some animals take this ride to the extreme!

A lemur mom takes her baby pretty much everywhere she goes. That means mom carries her baby around as she runs, climbs up tall trees, and even as she leaps from treetop to treetop! A lemur baby holds on for dear life as its mom bops around the rainforest.

Some fish carry their young ones, too—but not on their backs. They carry them in their mouths.



Jawfish eggs stay safe inside their dad's mouth.

A jawfish dad scoops the mom's eggs up in his mouth. He holds them there for almost a week. He keeps the eggs safe until they are ready to hatch into little fish. Then he spits them out!

The ways animal parents clean, feed, and carry their babies may look strange to us. But animal parents nurture their wild babies. They keep them healthy and safe.



A lemur mom and her baby



Lion moms carry their cubs in their teeth! They grab the loose skin around the cub's neck.



At the hospital, workers wrap the bats in blankets to keep them warm and safe.

# Bats in Blankets

**Right now, some bats are in trouble.  
But a hospital just for bats is helping them out!**

In rainforests in Australia, bats called flying foxes soar in the sky. They eat fruit. They hang from tree branches by their feet and wrap their babies in their wings.

## Sick Bats

Some of these bats are in trouble. Ticks bite the mother bats and make them sick. The mother bats can't hold on to the trees anymore. They fall down to the ground. Their babies fall, too.

A woman named Jenny Maclean helps the bats. She started a hospital for them! How does the hospital help?

## Helping the Bats

First, workers go out into the rainforest. They find the sick bats and their babies on the ground. They take them to the hospital. The workers give the mother bats medicine to make them better. They care for the babies, too!

## Caring for Bats

**Workers feed the bats. The littlest bats drink milk.**

**Workers weigh the bats to make sure the bats are getting big enough.**

**Sometimes the bats are moved to other bat hospitals. The bats travel in boxes.**

## Back in the Rainforest

When the bats are healthy enough, the workers take them back to the rainforest. The bats stay in a cage for a few days. They get used to the forest again.

Then the workers open the cage. The bats fly out. They join the other bats in the sky. The workers leave food for the bats for a few months. The bats must learn to feed themselves again.

Soon, the bats are strong. They can survive on their own!





# One Big Bird

Meet the  
**cassowary.**

It can grow to  
be six feet tall.  
That's taller  
than many adult  
people. It can  
run almost as  
fast as a horse!

But this big bird  
does something  
even more  
incredible.  
It helps the  
rainforest  
habitat where  
it lives.

# CASSOWARY FACTS



Cassowary eggs are green!  
They are bigger than chicken eggs.



A cassowary has a body part on top of its head called a casque (cask). The casque is spongy. Some scientists think it protects a cassowary's head from vines.



Cassowaries can't fly! They walk and run. Sometimes they run on the beaches near their rainforest home.

## Habitat Helpers

A cassowary strolls through the rainforest. It eats fruits and berries. It drops dung on the ground. That's poop, and it helps the rainforest!

## Seed Spreaders

The fruits and berries the birds eat have seeds in them. The seeds go through the birds' bodies and end up in the dung.

New plants grow from the seeds in the dung.

Many animals help spread seeds this way. But these birds help more than most animals. One cassowary eats hundreds of fruits and berries in a day. The big birds can travel a long way. They carry the seeds to new places.

All kinds of trees and plants sprout up from where the cassowaries drop dung. That keeps the rainforest healthy.

## Birds in Trouble

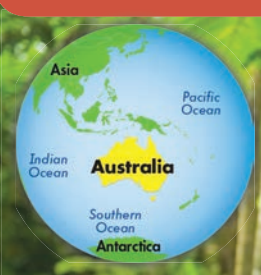
Now some cassowaries are in trouble. People are building roads through the rainforest where the birds live. The cassowaries can walk on the roads. Cars can hit them.

So people are putting up signs to warn drivers to slow down. People want to help the cassowaries. And helping these beautiful birds will help the rainforest, too.

This cassowary is eating a fruit.



Cassowaries live in Australia and the islands near Australia.



# Dynamic Dogs

These clever canines do more than just fetch.



## Allergy Dog



Allergy dogs sniff out dangerous allergens for their owners.





## Police Dog

A dog sniffs for harmful drugs in a suitcase.



by **Laura Egodigwe**

**N**ine-year-old Riley Mers, of Monument, Colorado, is extremely allergic to peanuts.

Last year she had a severe reaction after she touched her parents' new seat covers. Apparently, someone who had eaten or touched peanuts had come into contact with the covers. Riley's lips swelled. She struggled to breathe. She had to be taken to the hospital. Riley remembers being scared. "I kept asking my mom, 'Am I going to die?'"

Enter Rock'O, Riley's allergy dog. Rock'O helps to protect Riley from future attacks. Rock'O has special training to sniff out and warn Riley if peanuts are anywhere near her. Rock'O is a service dog, one of thousands of special canines that help people live their lives and do important jobs. Service dogs like Rock'O do many amazing things. They even go to children's hospitals to cheer up sick patients. They are the eyes and ears of people who can't see or hear. Some even help police officers solve crimes.

Rock'O is a 2-year-old Portuguese water dog. When Rock'O smells peanuts, he alerts Riley and her parents. He sits down and looks at

the object or place where he picked up the scent. Riley says if Rock'O had been around the day the seat covers were purchased, she would have been safe. "He would have alerted [us] to them, and we would never have bought those seat covers," she says.

## Dog Detective

Rock'O sniffs out allergens; another service dog named Robin sniffs out crime. Robin is a golden retriever that helps his partner do her job. Robin's partner is K-9 police officer Mary MacQueen of the Salamanca, New York, police department. MacQueen raised and trained Robin to detect things and people. When police try to find illegal



## Therapy Dog



Therapy dogs often help sick and special-needs kids.

drugs or a missing person, they call on Robin. Once, Robin found a large amount of drugs that had been hidden inside concrete. MacQueen can't imagine having a better partner. "I have a job where I get to go to work every day and play with my dog. How much better can it get?"

## Doctor Dogs

Other service dogs help sick kids. Elliot, a border terrier, is a therapy dog. Electra, a standard poodle, is a companion dog.

Elliot cheers up patients at Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon. Elliot is part of a therapy-dog

program at the hospital. Experts say therapy dogs can help lessen patients' pain and stress and shorten healing time. Elliot visits kids who have cancer or head injuries, or who are hurt in other ways. He recently worked with a girl whose brain injury prevented her from speaking or moving her right hand. She worked very hard to be able to move her hand so that she could pet Elliot. His owner, Miriam Couto, says Elliot has the perfect temperament for the work he does. "Elliot is a unique creature," she says. "If a dog can be cheerful, that would be Elliot. He even smiles when he is visiting the kids."

Sometimes service dogs help patients one-on-one. That's the story of Electra and her owner, Mandy Willis. Mandy was having a tough time two years ago when she underwent treatment for a serious illness. She had trouble sleeping and eating. Then a family friend gave her Electra. Mandy and Electra bonded immediately. Her companionship helped Mandy, now 9, get through what was a very tough and scary time. Electra "was able to boost Mandy's spirits," says Mandy's mom. "I think that went a long way toward helping her heal her body."

Dear Mr. Wilson,

What has soft skin and  
a fat tail? a Leopard Gecko!

May G-2 have one?

1. They are friendly

2. They don't bite.

3. They are small.

4. They eat bugs.

So may G-2  
have one?  
sincerely  
Lily





Carmen

## Bat

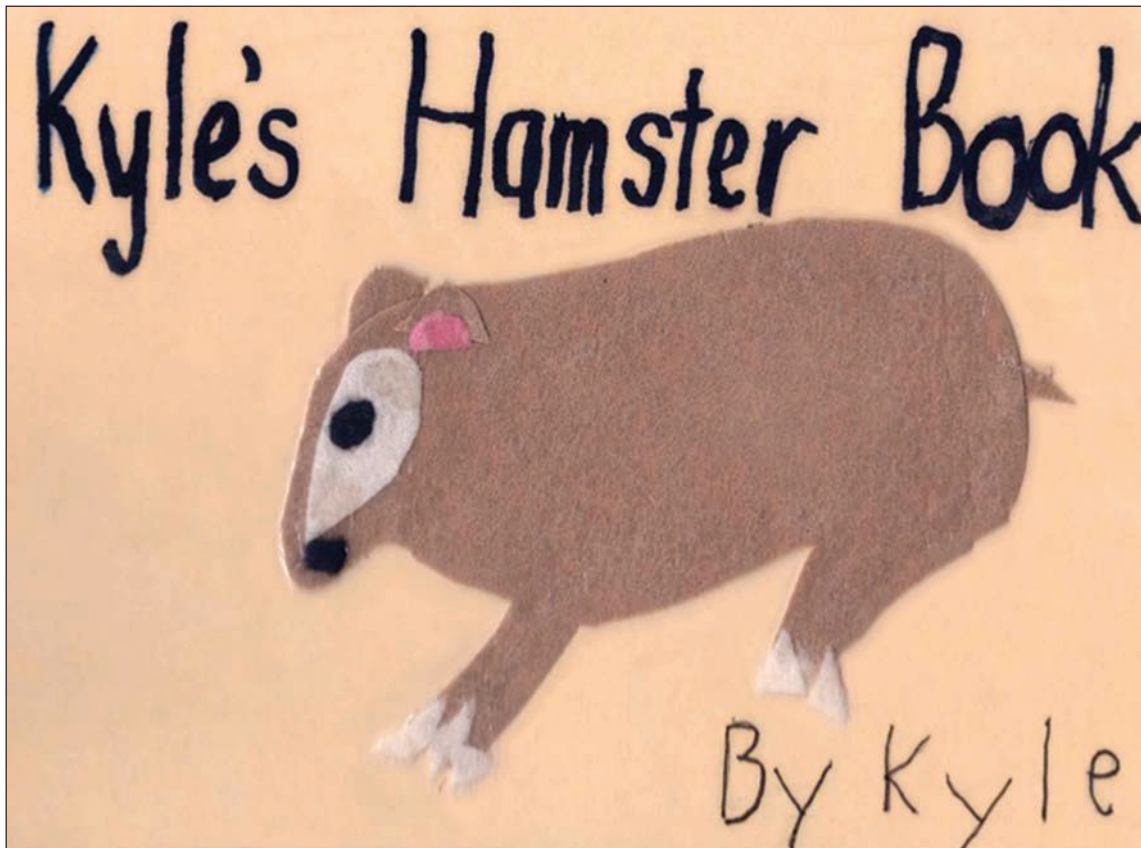
Bats fly around at night.  
If they are a microbat  
they will eat bugs. If  
they are a megabat  
they will eat fruit. All  
bats have five fingers. They  
have four long fingers and  
a thumb.



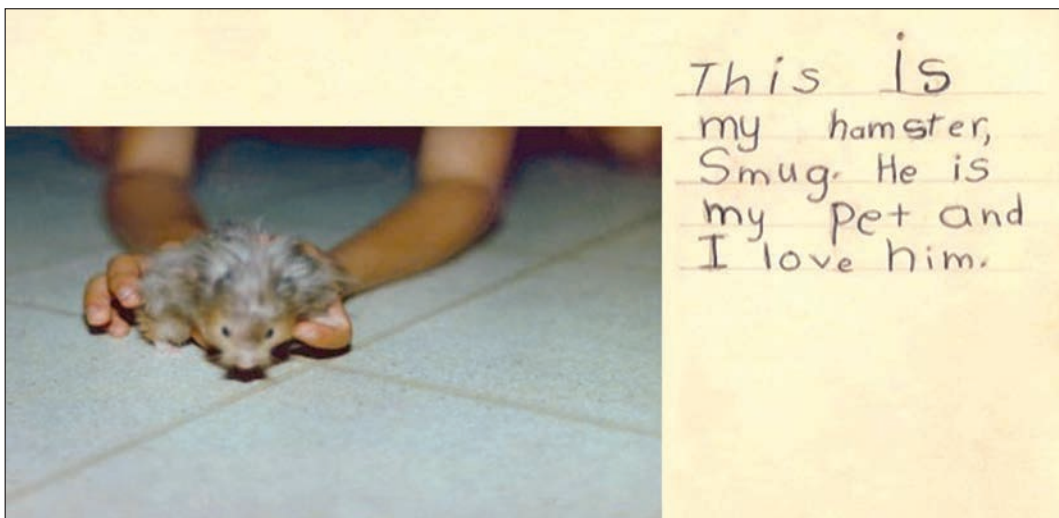
Heleh



Pumpkins are orange and yellow  
Pumpkins need water to grow.  
You can cut them. There are seeds  
inside!!!!



Front cover with title, illustration, and author/illustrator



Page 1



Smug eats carrots, apples and hamster food.

Page 2



Here is Smug's cage. I clean it every week.

He plays on his wheel.

Page 3

Sometimes I read to Smug.



His favorite book is The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Page 4



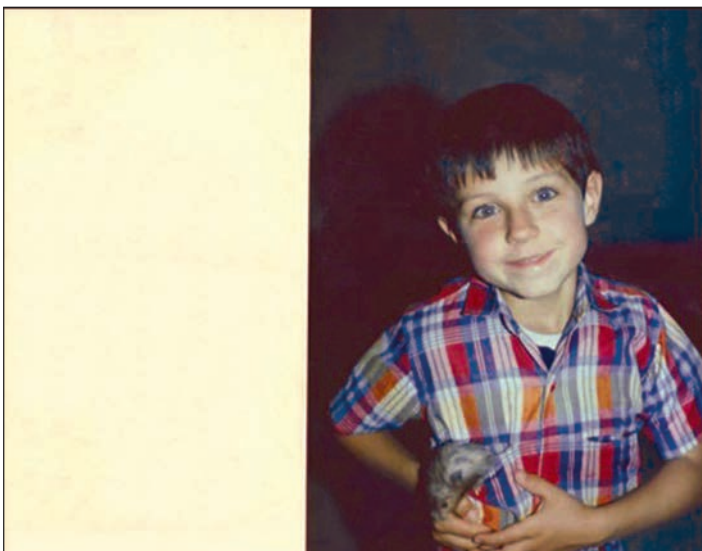
Some times Smug plays in my bed  
with me.

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About the Author  
Kyle is in first  
grade. He likes to  
play goalie on  
his soccer  
team.

Page 6/About the Author



I dedicate This  
book to my  
Grandma.

Back cover/Dedication