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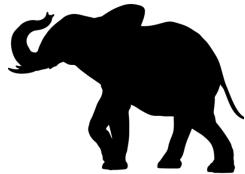
**WRITING THROUGH DIFFERENT
LENSES**
ANIMAL EDITION

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~SPOTLIGHT STORIES BEGIN HERE~

THE LOST TREASURE

BY OVIYA OLINILAVAN

It was a nice sunny day. You could feel the sun on you. A breeze coming every now and then to keep you refreshed from the sun. Hmm? What's that? You could feel something dark coming. Something cold. You could feel an energy, something that used to be happy but it had changed. It was a human! His name was Mr. Smith. Why was he sad? Well, it all happened one hour ago.

Mr. Smith was a happy man who could lift someone's spirit faster than a cheetah. His job was to cut down trees. He was not happy about cutting down a bird's and squirrel's home, but people need wood for many things, like to make paper and fire. For every tree he cuts down, he plants a new sapling. He would never ever cut down a whole forest... until now. You might be thinking, *well he could just plant more trees*. But a terrible man wanted to build a spa so he couldn't plant more trees. And he needed that money very badly. He did not need to cut down one forest; he needed to cut a forest, a jungle, and a grassland which had a few plants and trees. All for a spa. A terrible bad spa.

He was going to cut down the trees in two weeks. Maybe this was enough time for the animals to evacuate. Or maybe save their homes. Animals have a magical place called Harmonia. Whenever there is danger animals have to press their paws, claws, or necks (for animals that can't reach their paws) to jump there. But it is up to seven animals or birds to keep their home.

Fuzzy the Sneaky Fox

Hi my name is Fuzzy the fox. I heard a rumor or I should say snuck around to find something. No one will think I found out about it, especially *Captain Tiny*. She can't do anything. She is sooooooo tiny. She can't climb a tree. She will never become a real fox. I will prove them wrong someday. Maybe today. I will save our homes. They said we have to stay in Harmonia. Harmonia is good and all, but my home is better. I found a book about some treasure. I think it's worth the risk trying to find it. It's only past the river of currents and the log tower. Now that I think of it, that's a lot of work for me. I think I have to call for backup.

Stella the Graceful Swan

Bonjour! My name is Stella the Swan. I have been smiling since Fuzzy called me. So for five minutes. This might be the time to show that I am not just a pretty cute princess. I can fight hard. I searched about the treasure and it was called Pearl Treasure. It might just be enough to help Mr. Smith (he always gave me bread crumbs). The river is going to be hard. I have gone there on a trip but the currents were too hard. I ended up in the vine..... This could be a good

idea, I will think about later. The treasure is full of traps. I probably will pack some things to be safe. I wonder who else Fuzzy called to this adventure.

Mason the Mischievous Monkey

Howdy! My name is Mason the Monkey. It's a surprise, Fuzzy called me to come. Every animal knows that I don't take things seriously. Maybe it was because I am a close friend to Fuzzy. I could prove I can take things seriously sometimes. The treasure might be dangerous ... so I am in. This could be a fun time. I once heard the log tower is covered with water so no skilled monkey could even climb it. The rain that came today should make it very hard. We will be leaving tomorrow. So I will train. Who knows what is out there? I hope there are more animals so they could help because we will need a lot of help.

Brady the Giant Bear

Welcome, my name is Brady the Bear. I will be going to Fuzzy's adventure. Wait, am I crazy? That adventure is too dangerous. Why did I agree? Why why? There is no backing out now. I already gave my word to Fuzzy. Maybe it will be canceled? Due to rain? Oh please rain. But that probably won't happen. We just had rain today. Why can't some animal who flies just go? No, the wind is too strong over there. Perhaps I will become brave and not the weakling they think I am. Well I have to go to the path to meet our team. I have to leave now to get there in time. Wish me luck.

Claire the Speedy Cheetah

Hello, I am Claire the Cheetah. I can't wait to go to the adventure. *Ok slow down Claire.* Here was the plan. Brady, Stella, Mason, Fuzzy and I said we were going on a class trip for a week. That way no one would know what we are up to. Now to the adventure! I will prove I can go slow sometimes. You could feel the cold air making your fur stick up. *CRAAAK.*

"What was that?" Brady cried. You could hear her echo in the air. Fuzzy calmed her down. It felt like someone was watching us. Finally we made it to the river.

"Squeak," some animal called. None of us made a noise that high pitched.

"You are not supposed to be making noise," some animal whispered. Who was talking in a high pitched voice? IT WAS.....

Melody the Miny Mouse

Greetings, my name is Melody the Mouse. I want to show that I am not a tiny weak mouse. I did not sneak out. Fuzzy Invited me. Whoa that is a fast river. How will we cross?

"I will go test the water," Stella declared. There was no stopping her. She would not hear us. "No no stop I WILL go," she argued. She dipped her wings in and she crashed into the current. She struggled so much. Holding her own against the river for a long time was the most

unlike princess thing ever. Then she did a trick when she was about to crash. She jumped and did a flip. You could see a rainbow when the water on her hit the sun.

She landed and then “THAT WAS THE MOST FOOLISH THING EVER!” Fuzzy yelled furiously.

Stella just kept her beak up. ”We could use those vines which were up” she exclaimed.

”Mason could go up and get them” I mumbled. Mason’s eye’s shone with determination. He would probably mess it up like all the other times. But I could sense something different. He climbed up. We all cheered. He clung on to a vine but then the vine was falling. Mason jumped and he caught a vine. It looked stable on the tree . Mason came down with the vine. We cheered for him. We swang like monkeys. Fuzzy, Claire, and Mason Screamed “WHEEEEEE” It was more like “AHHHHHHH” for Brady, Stella, and me. Oops I forgot about.....

Holly the Fast Hummingbird

Hola, my name is Holly the Hummingbird. I came to this trip to show that I am *stron*. I mean *strong*, I guess that vine made me soo dizzy. It would take us a week to find the log tower. Waaay too long. We won’t be able to make it back in time.

“Holly and Claire could find a faster path,” Mason suggested.

Claire said, “Yes. I said that too.” Claire is a bit fast at times. But you could sense her earnesty. Wait, why did I agree?NOOO. This could only end badly. We went down a path and did not look back. Soon there were two paths we could take. Claire took her time before she declared, “This way makes more sense.”

Then a few minutes a miracle happened. We were there. ”How?” I asked as she just shrugged. We rushed back and arrived at the log tower. How were we going to make it?

“Brady could knock it over,” Fuzzy exclaimed.

At first Brady was saying “No never in a million years” but he slowly said, “I will do it.”

Then the tower crumbled to pieces. The treasure box glowed. We were about to take it when Claire yelled “THE TRAPS!” We froze. There was a gap from every box small enough to fit a mouse.

“Can the melody do it?” I asked. ”Y-y-yes” she stuttered. One box at a time. She almost stepped on a box. She scurried to the treasure. There was a lever to stop the traps. It was too heavy for her. She went on it and tried to make it go down. We cheered for her. Suddenly she got a burst of strength. She pulled it down.

All the animals

We gave Mr. Smith the treasure and he did not cut anything. We got awarded. Nobody called us any names and we proved our selves. We did it. Till the next adventure!



The Legend of the Fiercest Wolf

By Meghna Srivarshini

Once upon a time, there was a pack of wolves. In the pack, there was a wolf named Gund and while everyone in the pack went hunting, Gund was sitting in the cave. His father was the leader of the pack so he would get food for the people, he also trained the wolves how to hunt, but he would make time to spend time with Gund.

One day, Gund's dad had some free time so he thought he would use his free time teaching Gund how to hunt, so he brought Gund to a place where a herd of deer were, but they were hidden, out of sight.

His dad told him, "The best way to sneak up on your prey is to make sure you blend in with the ground. Usually we don't really blend in which is why you have to run to them, then we bite them and we take them down!"

Then Gund asked, "Can we do this later I am not really in the mood to learn how to hunt and besides you should enjoy your free time?"

Gund's dad agreed so when they got back to the cave Gund's dad told him a story, "Once upon a time there lived a pack of wolves and they wanted to be fierce. They wanted all the animals in the jungle to fear them so they went to a magical lake far away from the jungle and went swimming in it. Soon, they started to realize that they were fierce and all the animals in the whole jungle feared them. But one day, legend says that the fiercest of that pack of wolves had some kind of venom in its teeth! That one bite of the wolf would kill an animal immediately!"

"Do you think that wolf in the story is real?" wondered Gund

"Well, it is a legend."

"I wonder if someone in our pack could be that wolf," said Gund

"Well if we did have someone like that, we would know by now," responded his dad.

"I should go to sleep now. Good night."

"Good night, Gund," smiled Gund's dad.

The next day, Gund's dad woke him so he could train him how to hunt. This time his dad went slow. He got an animal who was already hurt a little, so the animal couldn't escape easily. Then, his dad told him to beat the animal. Gund thought that this could be his chance to finally learn how to hunt so he bit the animal. The animal suddenly stopped moving, his father was amazed. He told him that he did well for the day and they headed back to the cave.

Gund's dad started think that maybe Gund was the legend of the fiercest wolf because Gund just bit the animal and it died. He thought he should maybe see again.

The next day when they woke up, he brought Gund to the herd of deer and he told Gund to go to the deer and bite one of them. Gund did as his dad said. He was a little bit nervous, but he knew that if he kept making excuses he would never learn how to hunt. He walked up to the deer and the deer didn't move because Gund was so small the deer didn't notice him. So, Gund bit the deer and the deer fell down and died! Gund was astonished and ran back to his dad while the herd ran away. His father told him that he was the legend!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

His father thought that he should keep this between the two and Gund was the happiest wolf that lived in the pack.

The End.

~SPOTLIGHT STORIES END HERE~



The Fox and the Chipmunks

By Ashvin Kumar

One day, Chippy the chipmunk was inside his tree hole relaxing on his couch. Chippy was a small, athletic, cute, lovable chipmunk. He lived in a tree hole with his brother, mom, and dad. The tree was located in the Amazon rainforest on the Northern side. It was near a few caves and a burrow owl's burrow.

Chippy wanted to go and play outside so he asked his brother if he wanted to as well. He agreed and both chipmunks went outside to play tag. Suddenly, Chippy and his brother came upon a big red fox.

He told them, "What a yummy treat for me to eat, two small, chubby chipmunks!" Chippy trembled a lot. He had never seen a monster like this. His heart pounded quickly, he had no idea what to do.

Chippy thought of what most foxes hated and thought quickly.

"Aha! Foxes hate owls, let me lead this monster to it!" Once Chippy told his brother the plan, he also agreed to it. So both chipmunks scurried to an owl's burrow. Inside, there was a burrow owl coming out to eat the chipmunks, but once it saw the fox, it ran back inside its burrow. Their plan failed, the owl didn't cause the fox to run away.

Then, Chippy's brother thought of another plan, "Hey Chippy, how about we make the fox go to the little cave near our house? Mom and dad told me that there is a scorpion in there."

Chippy agreed and both chipmunks ran to the cave. They saw the scorpion. And also behind them was the fox. The chipmunks moved aside and then the scorpion detected the fox as a threat and prepared to use its tail on the fox, but the fox grabbed the scorpion by its tail and cut

it off. Now, the scorpion had no way to protect itself. Then, the fox bit its body, which killed it. They failed again.

Then, Chippy thought of one more idea and this was his very last one.

“What if we go inside a small hole where we can fit through, but only the foxes head can fit?” His brother was not hopeful it would work, but he agreed anyway. So they made the fox follow them to a tunnel that had two ways. Both chipmunks went to the first hole and since the fox followed them, his head got trapped.

“Please help me little chipmunks. I will do anything for you.” They didn’t agree and went out the second hole, then went back to their house and left the fox. After A few months, the fox died, but the chipmunks lived happily ever after.

The End.



The Tropical Birthday Party

By Kareena Patel

It was finally summer and everyone could smell the nice fragrance of ice cream. All the animals: Toucan, Flamingo, and parrot gathered at Sunday School and went to Cherry Berry Ice

The parrot named Oreo said, “I can’t wait until it is tomorrow because it is going to be my BIRTHDAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” A toucan named Stacey and a flamingo named Rose were jumping up and down.

Stacey pulled Rose to the corner of the ice cream shop and said, “We need to do something for Oreo’s birthday but what would we do?”

“How about a pool party and we surprise her?” asked Rose.

“Ok, I think that will be fun, but we need to plan it,” replied Stacey.

“Hey Oreo, I have to go to my art class. Maybe I can catch up with you later,” called Rose.

Rose and Stacy walked away and went to the park to think about Oreo’s surprise birthday party. Rose and Stacey drove to the pool party and started to add decoration to all of the pool. They added banners and stickers all over the pool and hung it on the trees, too.

“Why do I feel Rose and Stacey are hiding something?” Whispered Oreo silently.

“I have to follow them,” said Oreo. Oreo followed them until Rose and Stacey started to run and then she couldn’t catch up. Oreo was sad that they were doing something without her. She thought they left her out and never wanted her to be her friend. The next morning, Rose and Stacey had finished setting up the pool party. Stacey invited Oreo to come to her birthday party.

“3 2 1... Happy Birthday Oreo,” everyone said.

“Thank you,” said Oreo who was so happy and she can’t wait until next year.



The Squirrel That Would Never Wake Up

By Likhita Muppidi

“Hey give my back my nut” I yelled while trying to snatch it from his hands. You're probably wondering what's happening at the moment.

I am just gonna say 3 words, “IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!” He stole my nut and claimed it was his. I was doing perfectly fine picking nuts for the winter until he came along. Then, when I was about to take one of the nuts, he snatched it from my hands. I started yelling at him to give the nut back and he said, “No.”

I started going crazy and then he was so confused that he ran away with my nut and then I ran after him and when I caught up to him I made him regret what he did. Then I collected ten more nuts, well not exactly ten, more like a 150 more.

I happily went back home with my enormous suitcase filled up with delicious nuts for winter. I made myself cozy and then I went into a slumber. I recalled how I woke up everyday in the winter to eat and sleep, but when spring and summer came I just couldn't wake up some days. My friends got so confused about where I was so they came to my house and saw me sleeping and tried to wake me up.

At first, all they said was “Wake up.” And then, softly, they tried to move me before they realized it was no use. So instead they started screaming at me, pinching me, tickling me, and it worked. I woke up and fell asleep again. They were so annoyed that they left there and started playing and talking again.

The next day, they came back to my burrow and when they saw that I was asleep they were furious and this time, they tried to wake me up again with a loud roar or something scary. I don't remember exactly because I was so sleepy. When I woke up I stared at them so creepily, I could see fear in their eyes.

Then, one of my friends screamed, “RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!” Everyone ran as fast as they could. I got up like I was gonna chase them so they would go away and never bother me again.

Days passed and soon months. My friends were so nervous about calling me so they started thinking of a plan to wake me up and they finally remembered that I loved cookies.

Just then, they saw a person eating a cookie and when the crumbs fell they collected it. They came to my burrow and with the smell of the cookies, I instantly woke up. I ate the cookies in enjoyment and didn't get sleepy.

My friends were so happy they started cheering and then I asked what had happened and then they shouted, “You slept 5 extra months after winter was over!”

I was so shocked and screamed, "Why didn't you wake me up then!" They said that they tried and whenever they tried, I would get so furious.

This is the story about how I overslept A LOT!



THE INSULTING BARK

BY MALAY GUPTA

One day, a dog named Fifi woke up and discovered that he had a terrible bark. Fifi went to dog school and during bark class, when he barked, he made a cat-like bark instead. The sound was so embarrassing and everyone was laughing at him.

Fifi went home after school was over and was really sad and when he got home, his mom said, "Do you want to go bike riding?" Instead, Fifi gave a loud groan. He went up to his room, slammed his backpack on the ground, and lay on his bed crying.

Two hours later, his mom found out what happened and went to Fifi's room, but his room's door was locked. His mother used the master key to get in. She explained that it was just a little funny and that it was no big deal. Fifi understood.

The next day, Fifi started to ignore his other classmates and all was nice, but he still wanted to fix his bark. Fifi went to the doctor to get a checkup, but the medicine the doctor gave him made his bark sound worse. Fifi started to overreact and threw his laptop out the window. He got grounded from his iPad, TV, and smartwatch for one year because his mom and dad were angry. He went to school the very next day.

His friend asked what happened and upon hearing what Fifi said, his friend said, "Why would you break a laptop?" But Fifi did not have an answer.

Later that day, Fifi went on a walk and found a fruit on the ground. He ate it and went back home.

The next day at dog school, to his surprise, his bark was louder than any other dog. Fifi was so happy because his bark became better.

The End.

***Fifi is part of Greg Heffly Detectives.



Free Birds Trap

By Krishna Siddharth Rayachoti

One day, my friends, family, and I were climbing a mountain, and a bunch of humans were trapping turkeys. They tried to trap us so I took my son, Morocco, and went underneath a big rock. Everybody else didn't get this idea so the humans spotted them and took them.

Morocco and I wanted to help our trapped friends. We climbed the mountain, jumped down, and tried to drag the cage. My friends were trapped and it didn't work.

Meanwhile, the humans pushed a button, and the top of the cage opened and Morocco fell in and the top was closed after him.

I flew back up the mountain and tried to shove a big rock down the mountain and it fell. Humans are smart. They pushed another button. The same thing came in front of the rock and threw it away. I followed my trapped friends and Morocco. They went to an airport in Newark, NJ that sends them to India on an airplane. I went on the airplane. When it was almost gone in the air, I found out how to open the door. I opened the door then I pushed the cage down.

I shouted, "Guys try to fly." I Jumped down. When we landed, the cage broke and they became free.

We saw a boat saying, "Welcome to Bangluar!"

They all screamed, "Where are we in India?"

I said, "Guys calm down, let's just get in another airplane and go back to Texas." We flew to the border of Karnataka and went to Andhra Pradesh as fast as a train. We found an airplane, which headed straight to Texas. We paid for it and went inside it. We went back to Texas and we're as happy as a team that won a world cup.

The End.

