

Free Spirit



*A collection of our children's original writing
and art*

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Why you should never steal a squirrel's nuts.

by Alex Shaw-Young



The sun glistened through the trees and the birds sung in a chorus, as a small, grey face appeared out of an immense ash tree. The face belonged to a small squirrel called Ash. He climbed down the ash tree clinging to the rough, scratchy bark. Ash reached the bottom of the tree and started looking for some more nuts, but all he smelt was the musty smell of rotting vegetation and wet grass. He had already collected a small pile of nuts which he hoped would last through the winter because these were the last nuts. The wind started rustling through the trees blowing the vivid scarlet, rich orange and lifeless brown leaves into a mini leaf tornado.

Then he heard a peculiar noise, hollers, cheers, shouts of "fore!", thuds, taps and clunks. He lifted his head to see mysterious creatures hitting round, white, nut-shaped things with long, hard, shiny sticks. He started to cautiously scurry to one of the curious, white, nut-shaped things that one of the weird creatures had hit. He stepped on some crunchy, crispy leaves and tried to bite into the strange nut-shaped thing. It was a bad nut, so he left it where it was and started back to his tree. He started to dig a hole. His small paws dug through the moist, rich soil unearthing a frightened earthworm who quickly wriggled back underground. Ash was just about to put his precious nuts in the hole when he heard footsteps coming towards him. Crunch, crunch went the leaves as the mysterious creature stepped on them. Ash turned around to see one of the strange creatures looming over him.

"Shoo!" the ugly creature said, thrusting his long, shiny stick at Ash. Ash didn't need to be told twice, he scampered up his tree and watched as the ugly creature picked up his life-giving nuts and said, "I can give these nuts to my grandchildren to roast." Then the ugly creature walked off.

Slowly Ash climbed down the tree and ran into the safety of the woods. He came to a clearing surrounded by trees and there he started to cry. He heard a movement in the bushes and looked up. An older, grey squirrel with a big, bushy tail and warm, brown eyes emerged.

"What's the matter young 'un?" the older squirrel asked.

"If you please, sir," Ash began.

"Call me Elder, everyone else does. What's your name?" Elder said calmly.

"My name is Ash," sobbed Ash.

"All right Ash, but I repeat, what's the matter?" Elder asked again.

"An ugly creature stole all my nuts, so now I'll die of hunger because that was all my food for the winter," said Ash sadly.

"Relax, little Ash. You can have my nuts," Elder replied.

"Bbbbut, Elder, then you'll die," said Ash starting to cry again.

"Sometimes we have to make brave sacrifices. Anyway, I've had a long life, whereas yours has only just begun."

"Thank you so much," the little squirrel cried.

Epilogue

Ash lived happily for many years, had a lovely wife and lots of loud children, all because of Elder's sacrifice. Elder was buried in the heart of the woods, where Ash had first met him, with a small stone saying:

"Here lies Elder, a brave squirrel who saved a young squirrel's life by paying the ultimate price."

PS. This story is about my Granddad who actually did steal a squirrel's nuts.

The fate of the real squirrel is unknown.



The Magic Adventure

Once upon a time, there lived a girl and boy called Lucy and Jack and a mum and dad called Stef and Mary. They lived in the middle of Charmouth near a beach. One day, they all decided to go to the beach. So off they went. When they got there the kids wanted to play.

Their parents said "Yes, as long as you stay close".

First they ran around in circles, next they made sandcastles and finally they searched in rock pools.

But, before they could search another, Jack saw a cave that sparkled in the sunlight.

He wanted to go and explore it but Lucy remembered what their parents had said and turned around to tell him. Too late! He had already gone!

She decided to follow him. When they got there they saw a dog that was pointing to a sign that said

"If you want to go down the slide, you have to give me a stone or a golden leaf!"

Of course the children didn't have any of those things but the dog was nice and let them go down anyway.

So they went down. When they got in they were going very fast and were spinning round and round and the lower they got, the 'spinnier' they got. In the end they got to an ending and fell off.

It was very hard, so they said "Ouch!"

When they looked up, they could see they were in Candy Land and could see things like mint grass, lollipop trees, toffee apples in baskets and the most amazing thing of all was the chocolate fountain.

Then Jack said "What are you going to start on?"

and Lucy said "I'm starting on the lollipop trees"
and Jack said "I'm starting on the chocolate fountain".

After a few helpings of them, the children wanted to explore some more. So off they went.



Soon they came to a cottage that was made out of gingerbread and sweets and chocolate and the children called it a gingerbread house.

The children decided to knock, so they did, and out came a little old lady who said "Help yourself to any of the sweets, chocolate or gingerbread and when it is dinner time I will call you in".

So the children did what they were told and at dinner the little old lady started bossing them around and calling them names like stupid or horrid and after a few minutes of that she put them in her cooking pot.

 Suddenly they heard a sound coming exactly from the pot they were in and realised it was a fairy that said,
"I can help you if you help me".

"What do you need help with?" asked the children.

"Pushing up the lid so we can get out" said the Fairy.

"We can do that" the children said. So they did. But first the Fairy turned them into fairies too. Her plan was to turn them into really, really, strong fairies, so that they could push the lid up. And that's what she did and flew out past the mint grass, the lollipop trees, the toffee apples in baskets and straight back on the beach and the fairy turned them back into human and they ran back to their parents and told them all about it and their parents were impressed but they didn't believe about the fairy bit, which made the children quite sad. But they cheered up very quickly and went to their house and went to bed.

THE END
By Lucia Salvati

Matthew, Sarah and the Terminator Crystal.

Chapter 2 - The Cry of The Allez

They walked down the road. It was getting dark by now. They saw the sign for The Leaky Cauldron up ahead.

It was late, so only one or two lights were shining from the windows.

They stepped inside and the bell rang.

A peaky man with a long nose and black beard greeted them

"Good evening," he said, "even though it is getting dark out there!"

The man looked quite small for his age.

"We need to stay the night, please," Sarah said.

"Well that will be 30 galleons each!" the man told them.

They placed the correct money on the counter.

"Is Catherine around please?" they asked.

Their mum had been staying at The Leaky Cauldron by herself.

She had needed a break from her job at The Ministry of Magic, in the Department of Mysteries.

Michael had offered to take care of the children, while she was away.

"You'll find her on the fifth floor, room number 2013!" he said kindly.

"Galloping Gargoyles! You have that many rooms!" Michael exclaimed. "I think we'll have to take the lift kids!"

They stepped into the lift.

A hand appeared pointing to the number bar on the wall.

"Choose your floor and room number please," a voice called out.

They clicked level five and Matthew typed in the room number 2013.

They zoomed up and along.

Matthew thought he caught sight of a ghostly person, in the mirror hanging on the wall of the lift.

The lift stopped on level three, to pick up two nosy looking people. They were wearing polished, black top hats and they had strange looking green moustaches. They had squiggly and rather messy looking yellow hair. One of them appeared to be a girl.

They kept hiccupping and apologising.

They jumped out of the lift at level four, propelled along by their powerful hiccups. Matthew and Sarah watched them continuing to jump down the corridor, banging their heads against the walls and ceilings.

"This illness is really catching!" they moaned.

Astonishingly, their duffle coats caught in the chandeliers, when they made a particularly high leap. Smoke drifted down from the ceiling and the children were afraid they might have caught alight.

Sarah stopped the lift and they all got out to see whether they could help.
"Aargh!"

The two characters were by now, running around in circles, trying to put out the flames.

"Aguamenti!" shouted Michael, and a water dragon appeared from his wand. The two figures were frightened of the dragon and ran off. But the dragon was too fast for them and splattered them with a jet of cold water.

"Phew! We thought he would breathe out fire!" they sighed with relief.

"My name is Misty," said the woman.

"My name is Clothhorn," said the man.

Thanking their rescuers, they turned and ran off, whispering rather mysteriously to each other.

"That was strange!" said Matthew, as he pressed the button for the fifth floor.

The lift jolted to a halt and they stepped out in front of room 2013.

Their mum appeared shouting, "What on earth was that racket down below?"

"Nothing really," said Matthew. "It was only two natives, running around with their capes on fire..."

"Goodness gracious!" exclaimed Catherine. "Come inside and have a drink of lemonade."

They stepped inside her room. There were three beds, one king-size and two singles, a safe, a balcony, a hot chocolate making machine, a big fridge, an en-suite bathroom and a large TV on the chest of drawers. The ceiling lamp was hung with diamonds and the carpet was checked. The pillowcases and quilt covers were decorated with flowers. The pillows were plump and the sheets were soft.

There was a jug of lemonade with four glasses on the bedside table. Catherine poured the lemonade into the glasses. They raised their glasses, with cries of "Cheers!"

As they were drinking, Catherine asked them what had happened and why they weren't on the train to Hogwarts.

They explained the whole story, which seemed to take rather a long time. Feeling tired, they fell into their beds.

They drifted off to sleep, all except Matthew.

For, just as he was about to drop off, he heard a wail coming from the direction of the balcony. He opened the door to the balcony and a cape flew past him, up onto the roof.

"There must be a person up there," he thought.

"Who's there?" he called.

There was no reply.

"Limbo!" he shouted, pointing his wand down at the ground. Immediately he flew up into the air. He landed on the roof and ran to catch up with the figure. The cape was making a 'zoinging' noise, as it flapped and jumped, zigzagging across the roof.

Matthew was convinced it was a person. The form leapt down into the car park below. Matthew flew down towards him, but the figure ran off and disappeared. Matthew dashed down a side street, thinking maybe that he had gone that way. He came across a policeman and tapped him on the shoulder.

"Have you seen...."

Before he could finish his sentence, the policeman fell to the ground, screaming and looking as though he was trying to strangle himself.

His arm turned a reddish colour and fell off his body. The policeman tried frantically to reattach it, but to their horror, it simply disintegrated into a pool of blood. A creature appeared out of his good hand.

It had the head of a unicorn, the body of a giant toad and hooves.

The policeman screamed.

"The Allez!" His terrifying cry pierced the air and sent shivers down Matthew's spine. The policeman dropped dead.

The Allez was moving stealthily towards him. In fright, Matthew ran for his life. A stream of blood was trickling down the street beside him.

Matthew skidded to a halt.

The head of a giant zombie, covered in blood, was towering in front of him. It shot a fiery skeleton towards Matthew

"O-plate!" Matthew shouted, and a burst of lightning fire hit the zombie between the eyes.

Screeching, the zombie fell towards the ground and evaporated.

Matthew dropped his wand in fright and fell backwards.

Two black streaks of darkness zoomed towards him.

Two familiar looking figures pointed their wands at the *Allez* and shouted 'Bombarda!'

Silver streaks shot out of their wands and struck the *Allez*' horn, which immediately exploded. The *Allez* staggered back.

With hand outstretched, one of the apparators told Matthew kindly to hold her hand.

"Her voice sounds familiar," he thought, as they disappeared.

/-- /-- /-- /--

They landed in the kitchen of a house that Matthew didn't recognise. Golden moons were floating just below the ceiling.

"I have just finished my new invention Matthew," Hugo exclaimed excitedly.

"I don't think he wants to know about that," Hermione objected. "He's just had a terrible fright!"

Matthew realised that she and Ron were the apparators, who had rescued him.

"Have we got any more batteries dad?" Hugo asked Ron. "I need seven hundred to make it work."

"I don't think we have that many. We only have one left!" Ron smiled. "I didn't think the instructions said you needed that many!"

"I didn't exactly follow the instructions," Hugo admitted. "Anyway, a giant spider has ruined the battery that's left!"

"A spider!" Ronald screeched, running into the toilet and blocking himself in with a mountain of toilet rolls.

"No, no, no! Mum captured it and took it to the Forbidden Forest a few days ago."

"Bombarda!" shouted Ronald, as he made his escape from the toilet.

"Really dad! We needed those toilet rolls!" Rose scolded.

"Anyway, how come Matthew is here?" Hugo asked.

"He's here, because an Allez has given him the fright of his life!"

Hermione told him.

"Oh dear!" said Rose. "I've read about the Allez. The Allez' cry is fatal to anyone!"

"Does he look as though he is dead?" said Ronald.

"Oh it looks as though his wand has been imperioused," Hugo observed.

"We need the anvil I got for Christmas, to undo the curse," he continued.

"What happens if a wand gets imperioused?" asked Ronald, intrigued.

"Honestly Dad! Don't you read?" Hugo scoffed. "The curse controls the wand and if the owner touches it, they will turn to the dark side..."

"How did you know I was in the alleyway, Hermione and Ron?" Matthew puzzled.

"And how come you are not at school?" He asked Hugo and Rose.

"And how come you are not at school?" They asked Matthew.

They were just about to answer, when a burst of light covered everything, except for Matthew, who suddenly disappeared from view.

Only Matthew could see the light and he found himself back on the balcony at *The Leaky Cauldron*.

"What on earth has happened?" Matthew thought in his brain.

To be continued in: *Chapter Three - Changes to the happenings of The Allez*



by
Timothy X.
Mallonee

By Timothy Mallonee

LND ADVENTURES:

The time has come!

Stick around until the end for some development facts!

PART 1

One day aboard **J-1**, Kate was randomly walking around in the kitchen. She had just put a cake in the oven and was waiting for it to finish. From the door, Mike and Dick were watching her. Kate was seemingly hypnotized by the wait. Dick and Mike just stared.

(While we're here, I'll just mention that all **LND** adventurers have blue suits, and button gear on their chest. They also have dark blue shoulder pads and the captain has two long capes on his back).

16 minutes later... Kate was starting to ice the cake and Dick was in **J-6**, AKA the speed ship, testing out the systems, when, unexpectedly, the wall exploded and **J-1** started to tilt and fall. “**A8** to control, do you copy?” said Dick into the speaker.

But unfortunately, “Control” was asleep.

“Control?” shouted Dick. “CONTROL, WAKE UP!”

Down in the kitchen, Kate’s poor cake was on the wall.

“Humph.” she groaned and marched off to the control room.

In there, Tom, or ‘Control’, had just woken up and let Dick out.

Then Kate said, “What happened?”

Harry answered, “Well, there’s been a wall breach. We’ve sent Dick out to fix it.”

Outside, Dick was already struggling against the wind. From nowhere, a missile shot at J-6. Now, Dick was speeding at **J-1**. He pulled up at the last minute, and the missile shot into **J-1**, which was sinking fast. Now Kate went to ruthless mode and jumped out. Using the button gear on her uniform, she activated the power wings. Flapping out of **J-1**, she chased after the next missile that came and landed on top of it.

“Woo-hoo!” she screamed.

Using the wings to direct it in the way it came, the robot/missile launcher thingy that sent the missiles now had only one simple description: “Boom!”

Kate fell unconscious.

As she fell, a blue flapping figure crashed into her.

Next time she woke, she was in **J-1**. Joshi, the captain, was there with Tom, Dick and Harry. While the ship was falling, it hit the ground and a blue shield formed around J-1. It healed the ship and threw in two strange looking rectangles. Harry went off to examine these, while everyone else stood still, wondering if this is what death looks like.

Then a blue figure came to the adventurers.

It spoke. “I cannot let you all die. You have been chosen.”

“By whom?” asked Rachel from close by.

“There is no time to explain. Find Asaghul. Stop the end.” The figure disappeared.

From a shady place far away, there stood Asaghul, a shady, pirate-like figure. A dark holographic figure sat in front.

"We have destroyed the chosen." said Asaghul.

"How can that be," hissed the hologram. "if they are floating around now?"

Asaghul looked shocked. "What? Master, please, I will not let you down again."

The hologram seemed to consider this offer.

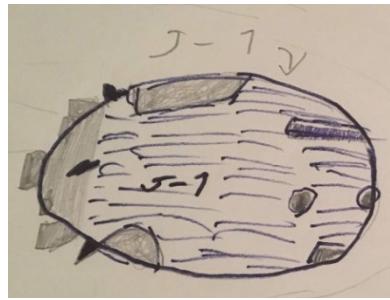
"You better not let me down." It hissed.

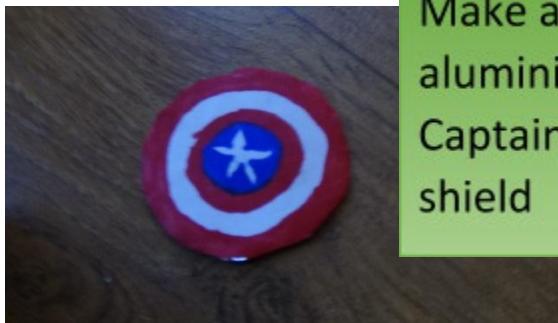
As the hologram disappeared, Asaghul sighed. "This may be harder than I thought..."

LND adventures Facts:

1. The button gear activates a selection of "power tools." This is based on the click-ons system on the TV programme "Go jetters."
2. LND Adventures were originally made by me, Joshi, trying to design a robot.
3. LND adventures has been through a lot of development. The current version is stage 3, LND adventures rebooted.
4. LND stands for Landmarks and natural disasters. Even though that isn't the theme any more, I still use the abbreviation LND.
5. I generally draw a lot of these then use some pictures as guides.
6. This was written on notes by apple.
7. I sometimes call LND adventures LNG adventures!

See you in part 2...





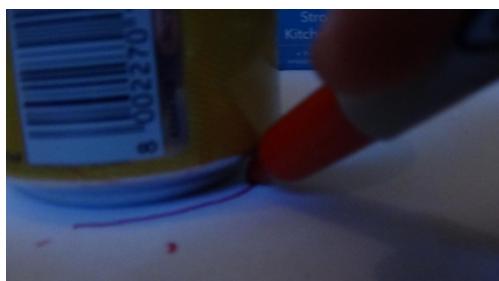
Make a mini
aluminium foil
Captain America
shield



You will need:

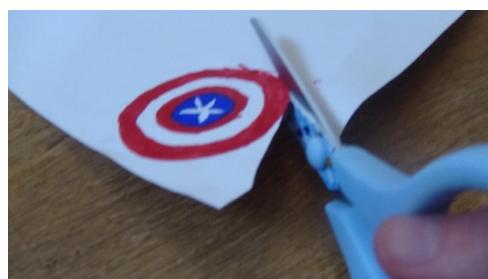
A pritt-stick,
a can,
aluminium foil,
red and blue sharpies.

scissors,
a rolling pin,
paper,

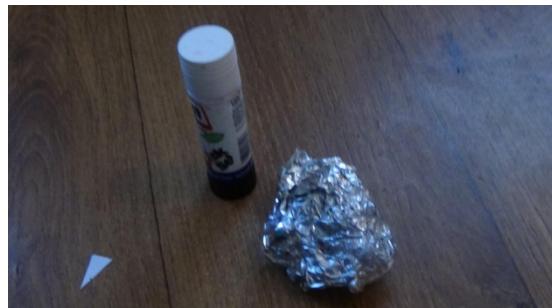


1: With red sharpie, trace around your can.

2: Draw your Captain America design.



3: Cut your design out.



5: Roll your foil into a ball.



7: Glue the **back** of your design.



9: Cut out the foil.

4: Get some foil, about the length on an adults arm.



6: Bash it with your rolling pin until flat.



8: Stick your design onto the foil.



10: Enjoy your foil Captain America shield.

You can throw your shield amazing distances and play catch with a friend.



Painting by Ellis' (Milton), based on the work of Friedrich Stowasser

Friedrich Stowasser, better known by his pseudonym Friedensreich Regentag Dunkelbunt Hundertwasser, was an Austrian-born New Zealand artist and architect.

The Dark River

Anna and her brother were sailing on an airboat, when suddenly they came to a dark river. Then they stopped at a boat. It was night-time. A little boost came along and took Anna. Anna's brother looked and no Anna!

Anna is in a laser cage, and a yellow ball came around her last night. It came around her this morning.

She got out of the laser cage, and then the ghost came open and there was just a wrapped up person!

They sailed along together. And in three days, they came to the campsite.

by Andrew Mallonee, age 5

Crafting a Flower



By Cameron Smith

The Magic Show by Ben Shaw-Young

The Magician is wearing a long, black cloak,
As the audience appear from the smoke.
First the card trick where he shows
The exact same card that I chose.
Then the Magician takes off his hat
And pulls out a rabbit, white and fat.

Next, the cute bunny disappears
And we hold our breath until he reappears.
Last, his Assistant in half he saws,
The Assistant climbs out to a round of applause.
The Audience bursts into cheers and "wows",
And the magician smiles as he bows.



By Ethan Mallonee

Cannington 14-16 Programme for Home Educated Young People

Reflections by Felix Amos, age 14



Cannington College offers a great opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and to find out new things about yourself.

Although you only go in on two separate days, they still manage to teach you valuable, but short lessons. All they'll ask of you is to be respectful and listen.

It will help if you have a good sense of humour, as the teachers aren't afraid to poke fun at the students in good taste.

As well as telling you about the good parts about College Life, I feel I also need to tell you about the shortcomings.

There are two negative aspects, which may impact on your college experience:

Firstly, the college lacks a quiet or calm place where students who suffer from anxiety can go to feel safe;

Secondly, the students who are sent from the schools aren't put in check as much as I feel they ought to be. They can make some of the students who have anxiety issues feel quite uncomfortable, as no proper boundaries are put in place.

Other than my previous points, the teachers are phenomenal! As long as you treat them with respect, they are all very friendly and understanding.

There are various experiences on offer:

As well as Maths, English and Biology, the College offers students the opportunity to learn Farming, Woodwork and Cookery skills.

- The Maths and English will be at a comfortable level;
- The Biology is interesting
- The Farming will prove to be difficult but enjoyable;
- The Woodwork will be rewarding and
- The Cookery will be tasty...hopefully.

There are breaks between each lesson and also one long lunch break.

In summary Cannington will be a character enriching experience.

You need to be aware that it won't be perfect and in fact it will be testing at times.

But this can make you a more resilient person.

To sum up, work hard, be respectful and last but certainly not least enjoy yourself and don't take everything people say so seriously.

Cannington is a branch of Bridgwater and Taunton College
The 14-16 Centre provides a part-time programme for students who are Electively Home Educated.

Students on this programme take part in GCSE and vocational subjects that help prepare them for the next stage of their education or training.

By Rio Welsh

