

An artistic illustration of two young girls in white dresses standing in a garden. The girl on the left is taller and has a blue headband. The girl on the right is shorter and has a blue headband. They are surrounded by colorful flowers, including yellow daisies and purple flowers. In the background, there is a brick wall and a large tree with a thick trunk. The scene is set in a garden with a brick wall and a large tree.

# Under the Two Old Trees

*and other stories*

*Selected works by senior primary students of i-Learner Education Centre.*



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Special thanks to our illustrators, whose pictures help bring this book to life:

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# Sarah Skunk

By Yana Leung (P4)



*Illustrated by Iris Hung*

*Inspired by a poem from [www.superblinky.com](http://www.superblinky.com)*

Sarah Skunk was lonely,  
No friends or pals had she.  
She was a kind, caring skunk,  
Just as sweet as a skunk could be.

But her odour was so strong,  
It kept everyone away.  
Poor Sarah Skunk sulked and cried,  
She did this every day.

Sarah Skunk groaned and moaned,  
And groaned and moaned some more,  
The hare and the bear laughed and said,  
“What a smelly and silly skunk!”

The bear carried the hare,  
And the hare carried a pear,  
Off they went to find Sarah Skunk.

“Sarah Skunk, how do you do?”  
Bear and hare marched in there,  
Holding their breath in fear,  
Sarah Skunk groaned and moaned,  
“I’m simply fine, you hear?”

“You simply silly, smelly little skunk!”  
Bear and hare laughed and teased,  
Till Sarah Skunk screamed near and far,  
She was not very pleased.

Bear and hare screamed and ran with fear.  
Sarah Skunk cried and cried,  
“It wasn’t me! Please come back I beg!”

Sarah Skunk felt bad,  
She went to the Dead Forest,  
She lived there alone for years,  
She was bored,  
And her heart was sore,  
No friends or pals had she.

Then one day far in the future,  
Sarah Skunk had had enough.  
She went to find the others,  
She held her head up high.

The others laughed in tears,  
"What's that awful smell?"  
But then they smiled and decided  
They'd play with her anyway.  
They all got along really well.

And for Sarah Skunk,  
Finally,  
Now, all was well.



# The Butterflies and the Horrible Darkness

By Angel Yu (P5)

## Chapter 1: The Butterfly Garden

The wind blew softly. The butterflies danced gracefully. The birds sang sweetly over the Gold Lake. This was the Butterfly Garden.

One sunny morning, I went to the Butterfly Garden for a visit. The view from the garden was picturesque. I heard birds singing sweetly. I smelled flowers and grass. When I was drunk with the beautiful view, suddenly a butterfly spoke to me. I was shocked. I hadn't spoken to a butterfly before. It said, "We need your help. Come with me." The butterfly brought me to a beautiful castle in the sea.

I saw a vast castle. It was beautiful and colourful. But the door was closed. The butterflies called to me and said, "Behind that door is darkness. We keep it shut at all times. But yesterday, someone opened the door and some of the darkness and sadness came out. Many butterflies and humans have become evil and begun to destroy our homeland and property." After I heard the butterflies' story, I promised to help them.

"Don't be afraid," I said. "I will ask my friends to help you. Calm down, calm down."

I called my friends and had them come to the butterflies' garden. Then we all went to the



Illustrated by Alice Lam

secret meeting room and had a meeting with the head of the butterflies. We all had different ideas. At last, we put our ideas into one big, best idea.

First, we had to enter the castle and fight the people who were inside.

Then, we had to catch all the people who had been affected by the darkness. We would need to use magic to turn them back to normal.

Finally, we would get some new magic to lock up the door to the castle so that it could never be opened again.

## **Chapter 2: Sarah Skunk**

Sarah Skunk was a lonely animal. She had no friends and no pals. She was kind and caring.

Sarah Skunk had had many friends when she was young. But one day, when she was playing with her friends, she had lost her temper. She had wanted to be captain, but she was not chosen. She sprayed her smelly skunk odour everywhere. All the animals felt dizzy, and after that day, no one played with Sarah.

Sarah had been disappointed. She had broken down into tears and run into the forest. She had nowhere to go. Eventually, she found a place to stay with an old witch who lived in an old castle inside the dark forest. She lived there for many years, miserable and sad.

One day, the witch looked at Sarah Skunk and said, "You must say sorry to your friends and be kind to them." Then the witch gave Sarah Skunk a potion and said, "Drink it and you will be kind and caring from now on." So Sarah drank it.

The next day, Sarah left the forest. She found her friends and said sorry to them. They all became good friends again.

Near nightfall, Sarah and her friends heard the sound of the butterflies approaching. The butterflies told them what had happened. Sarah Skunk agreed to join the battle. "Go to Butterfly Bernice's house tomorrow," said the butterflies.

### Chapter 3: A Diary

27th October, 2070

Dear Diary,

*The war against the darkness continues. Today, I found a strange creature living under the sea in a dark castle. Before I went into the sea, I had to chew on a special type of bubble gum to be able to breathe underwater.*

*The creature was a seahorse who kept saying the opposite of what he meant. I soon realised that he had been brainwashed by the darkness. So I used my magic to turn him back to normal. He thanked me and I asked him, "Will you join our team? You could help us break into the castle from underneath since the castle is on the sea." The seahorse agreed.*

*After this, I went home and waited for Sarah Skunk. I knew she was near when I smelled a strong odour. I told her what we were going to do. "The seahorses will break into the castle from the sea. We will rush into the castle and fight the enemy. We will need your help to spray your odour at the enemy." She agreed and promised to help.*

Sincerely  
Butterfly Bernice

### Chapter 4: The Horrible Darkness

After a few days, more animals' minds had been brainwashed. "We have to get into the castle. There is no more time!" I said.

The plan went ahead perfectly. The seahorses made a hole in the bottom of the castle and we all swarmed in. A sound came out from the castle. "Come in and fight me!" It was the enemy.

We fought for a long time. At last everyone was injured. "We must retreat," I said. So

we went back to the Butterfly Garden and took a rest. We had a big argument.

“Why did you fight with him first? The plan was that I would fight with him first,” said a butterfly.

It got very noisy. The butterfly captain shouted, “Stop arguing! We need to recover and then try again.”

## **Chapter 5: The Worst Thing Happened**

It took us more than a week to recover. Then it was time to fight again.

On the day of the battle, we woke up early in the morning. “Fight!” shouted a butterfly. We all ran into the castle.

There was a lot of thunder and lightning. The sea sprang at us and scratched at us like a beast with white teeth. The butterfly captain thought, “This is the worst thing that has ever happened to me.”

We lost again. We were all hurt and had to be admitted to Butterfly Hospital to get treated.

A kind fairy appeared in the hospital. “Are you alright? Are you alright?” asked the kind fairy. She waved her magic wand and gave each of us some magic powers. And then the fairy went away.

After the fairy visited the hospital, she used her magic to turn the animals that had been brainwashed back to normal.

## **Chapter 6: The Last Fight**

The next day, we went back to the Butterfly Garden and started planning again. Suddenly, a letter dropped near the door. It was from the kind fairy.

*Dear all,*

*I'm the fairy from the hospital. I have helped restore everyone who was brainwashed back to normal. But the darkness monster will try to*

*brainwash them again. You must fight the Darkness Monster soon.*

*Here is a tip: he is afraid of light!*

*Yours,  
The fairy*

After reading the letter, we decided to use a lightning potion to light our bodies up during the battle. Sarah Skunk was given the job of spraying her odour around the castle. While the enemy was running from the smell, we would all rush in and hide in the bathroom. We would turn on all the lights so that the enemy wouldn't be able to move. Then we would use a powerful spell to freeze the enemy.

It was time to fight. This time we prepared even more tools, armour and magic spells. And this time, we won.

### **Chapter 7: A new magic spell and reward**

The Darkness Monster became a Good Monster. He decided to help people in need. Everyone in the world noticed that the Darkness Monster had turned into a good monster. He became popular and happy.

The butterfly captain and the other butterflies were allowed to become humans.

My best friend and I were given some magic, too. My best friend decided to turn into a fairy. I decided to stay human, but I did learn some magic spells.

Time passed quickly and it was Christmas. I went to the Butterfly Garden and played with the butterflies. We played and danced until midnight. Suddenly someone came down from the roof. It



*Illustrated by Angie Poon*

was Santa! We received presents and Christmas cards.

I suddenly had an idea! I wanted to have a different adventure. I wrote a letter to Santa.

*Dear Santa,*

*I have been very good this year. I helped the butterflies to fight the Darkness Monster. Can I come to your house and stay for 3-4 weeks?*

*I could help to wrap presents and help Mrs. Claus to make clothes. I will also bring your favourite snacks.*

*Yours,*

*Angel*

I quickly gave my letter to Santa. He told me to wait. He promised that someone would bring his reply to my house.

One day, when I was eating my breakfast, someone dropped a letter down my chimney. I was very excited and I opened it as fast as I could.

*Dear Angel,*

*I'm very busy this year. Mrs Claus and I would love to have some help. I think you are the best person for the work.*

*I will pick you up on Sunday at your door. Be prepared!*

*Yours,*

*Santa*

# Under the Two Old Trees

By Ashlyn Tam (P5)

## Chapter 1

Under the two old trees in the huge forest, there lived two worm sisters. They lived happily with the beetle, Mr and Mrs Ant, and a young caterpillar.

The young sisters went out to play in a beautiful and quiet clearing together every day. Everyone lived in peace with each other.

However, one day, while the worm sisters were dozing and sipping tea in their tiny, dark living room, they heard a loud, pounding noise above. Bits of rock and dirt began falling onto them.

“What’s happening?” cried the younger worm, her voice full of terror.

“I don’t know!” muttered the older worm shakily. “Wait here and I shall go up and have a look! Remember, stay here!” With that, she slithered away.

The older worm couldn’t believe her eyes. Bulldozers, cranes, and other noisy machines rattled and clanked around her. She had to dodge and weave around them to avoid being killed. She slithered back into



*Illustrated by Angie Poon*



her hole as fast as she could.

“There are many machines around here. I think they want to make buildings here,” the older worm panted.

“What shall we do now?” the younger worm sobbed. “We’ll have to move away!”

“I think we can still live here,” the older worm said slowly. “But I need to tell the others now.”

Everyone was shocked by the horrible news, but they all decided to continue to live in their homes. No one wanted to move away.

A few weeks passed. One busy day, the sisters saw everyone fleeing with their luggage.

“Why are you all leaving?” the older worm called out to them.

“The trees are all cleared away and a storm is coming. We will be washed away! Go quickly!” Mr Ant yelled. Mrs Ant was sobbing.

The sisters turned and ran back to their home.

“Pack some clothes into a bag and take some food,” the older worm shouted. “Be quick!”

“Why do we need to go? You said we could continue living here!” asked the younger worm once they were safe.

“I didn’t know they would clear away the trees. The roots hold the soil and if some rain washes down when there are no roots, everything will be washed away!” the older worm replied.

Soon, they had settled down in a new home.

## **Chapter 2: New Wings**

In their new home in the forest, the worm sisters were happily settling down. The neighbours asked them to think of names for themselves. Now, the older sister was called Digger and the younger sister was called Pinky.



One day, while Digger and Pinky were playing in a beautiful, sunlit clearing with their friends, a pretty, magnificent butterfly flew above them. Her wings were like a peacock's feathers, shimmering blue and green. Everyone's eyes were on her as she swooped out of the clearing.

"Wow!" Flutter, their friend, whispered in awe, breaking the silence. Flutter was a butterfly. "That's a Peacock Butterfly! I'm just an Orange Tip," she added sadly.

"I wish I was a fantastic butterfly," sighed Pinky. Digger nodded. Little did they know their dreams were about to come true.

Soon, while the sisters were sleeping, they suddenly got up together and began to sleep-crawl. They sleep-climbed up a tree and sleep-crawled onto a branch. Still sleeping, they wove themselves into cocoons made with saliva. They weren't worms! Actually, they were caterpillars!

After a long time, they woke up from a long, long sleep and crawled out from their small and uncomfortable cocoons. They were butterflies! But they couldn't fly well yet so they fell to the ground. Luckily, their soft wings weren't torn or damaged, because they fell onto bushes which cushioned their fall.

At that moment, Flutter flew by and saw Digger and Pinky lying on the ground. She cried out, "Digger, Pinky! Thank goodness I've found you! I've been looking for you!"

Then Flutter looked at them closely. "Wow!" she cried. "You're butterflies now! Why didn't you tell me you were caterpillars, not worms?"

"We didn't even know we were caterpillars," explained Digger to the large crowd.

"And now, we're butterflies!" exclaimed Pinky.

"Cool! You guys are Peacock Butterflies!" whooped Flutter cheerfully. "Right, we'll talk more later. Right now, I need to teach you how to fly with your new wings!"

### **Chapter 3: Learning to Fly**

"Now," declared Flutter. "You are butterflies, so you need to learn to fly!" Digger, Pinky and Flutter were in the beautiful, sunlit clearing. Flutter was teaching them how

to fly.

“First, let’s decide on new names for you,” Flutter grinned. “Digger and Pinky are not good enough names for you now! Hmm...” Flutter murmured thoughtfully. “Ah ha! I know! Digger will be called Shimmer and Pinky will be called Glitter.” She looked very pleased with herself. Shimmer and Glitter nodded slowly.

Flutter first taught them to spread their shining wings. She told them to try flapping. Shimmer and Glitter were very frustrated. They couldn’t lift themselves up from the mossy ground no matter how hard they flapped their blue and green wings. But Flutter was very firm with the sisters, and she wouldn’t let them go back home.

“I can do it! I can do it!” Suddenly, Shimmer shot up into the sky before gliding gracefully back to the ground. Moments later, Glitter could do it too! The sisters were very happy. It was sunset, and the sky was streaked with pink, orange and gold. The sun was travelling slowly down the sky, like a graceful egg yolk, hidden partly between the mountains. Flutter finally allowed Shimmer and Glitter to go home.

After many weeks of effort, Shimmer and Glitter could finally fly. Flutter was a good teacher, and she corrected their mistakes and never scolded them.

Now Shimmer and Glitter swooped and soared across the forest with Flutter.

#### **Chapter 4: Chased by Wasps**

Shimmer, Glitter and Flutter were having a race. Shimmer was in the lead when she saw tons of yellow wasps collecting food. In a flash, Glitter and Flutter were at her side. They hovered there nervously.

“Fly away quietly; try not to make big movements,” Flutter whispered shakily. “These are wasps; they are very vicious and short-tempered.”

They started to fly backwards slowly and cautiously, hoping that the wasps wouldn’t notice them.

But they had no such luck; a ray of sunshine filtered through the trees, and Shimmer and Glitter’s wings shone for a moment. It was just for a moment, but it caught the

wasps' eyes.

All their heads turned to stare at the butterflies greedily. The wasps began to smile wickedly.

"Slaves!" the wasps crowed gleefully, and raced forward as one.

"Fly for your lives!" screeched Glitter, but the others didn't need telling; they were already flapping their graceful wings as fast as they could.

It was a strange procession - three pretty butterflies in the lead with a buzzing, yellow cloud following them.

The wasps soon had them surrounded. They started to creep closer and closer. Flutter, Shimmer and Glitter backed closer to each other and felt each other's bodies quivering with fright.

"On my count of three, fly upwards and then follow me," Shimmer hissed to Flutter and Glitter. They nodded bravely and drew closer to each other. When the wasps were within two inches of them, Shimmer cried, "One, two, three!" before flying upwards. The others followed suit.

Suddenly, Shimmer changed direction and started to spiral downwards. Glitter and Flutter were puzzled but followed. After a while, Shimmer changed direction again and headed upwards. Everyone flew like this for a bit, and soon the wasps stopped following the butterflies. The butterflies flew happily back home.

"I shall need to teach you how to camouflage yourselves," Flutter muttered thoughtfully. "But that lesson will be for next week!" Shimmer and Glitter sighed in relief.

## **Chapter 5: Camouflage Mystery**

"You must need to learn how to camouflage yourselves, or your enemies will see you easily," Flutter said sternly to Shimmer and Glitter. They sighed.

"It's really too hard," Shimmer moaned. Glitter nodded vigorously in agreement.

"Our wings keep shining, we can't help that, can we?" Glitter groaned indignantly.

“Well, you’re right. I don’t know how to help you camouflage yourselves,” Flutter admitted. “You can go home now while I think.” Shimmer and Glitter sighed in relief.

One sunny day, the sisters were basking in the sun, their beautiful wings fluttering mildly in the gentle wind. Flutter flew above them. By chance, she glanced down and got a fright, for there were two pairs of horrible eyes staring at her! But as she continued to look, she realised that the ‘eyes’ were just the pattern on Shimmer and Glitter’s wings. At once, she dived down and skittered to a stop before Shimmer and Glitter.

“Listen!” she began excitedly. “Go to the clearing right now. We’re continuing our lesson!” Then she sped off.

The sisters glanced at each other and sighed before flying towards the clearing.

“Now!” Flutter declared. “I’ve found out how you can camouflage yourselves. Your wings have fake eyes on them. You can use them to scare your enemies away!”

Soon, the sisters learnt how to fly to a nearby tree branch and extend their wings whenever they were in danger. Now they were safe, and they lived happily ever after.

# Mr. Colossus

By Charisse Lo (P5)

## Chapter 1: In the Coliseum, Rome

Mary was shivering. Winter had come. Rome was suffering. There was no food and no warm clothing. Everyone was going to die.

One night, the moon shone in the sky. The Coliseum was empty except for a stone Colossus. The wind blew on the Colossus. Suddenly, there was a loud noise. The Colossus moved!

The Colossus came to life. He was a giant. When he walked, he created a path of destruction. Everyone was worried about their houses.

Mr. Colossus became the new king of Italy. Everyone got to eat delicious food and wear beautiful clothes. But they were sad. They also needed to feed all the animals.

One human approached Mr. Colossus and asked, "Can you help us to build our houses and plant trees? Also, we need look after our animals. Please?" The giant nodded and turned everything back to normal.

Seeing how happy the people were, Mr. Colossus went back to sleep. All the people lived happily.



*Illustrated by Angie Poon*

## **Chapter 2: The Little Village**

The giant, Mr. Colossus, was asleep. He looked like a giant stone.

Near Rome, there was a little village on a tall mountain. Behind this village, a river curled around the base of the mountain. The people in this village were very poor. They needed to pay one hundred dollars to the town of Rome. This village was called Assisi.

Suddenly, in the dark of night, a magician came to the Coliseum in Rome. The Colossus came back to life.

## **Chapter 3: Friends with Mr. Colossus**

It was a dark, quiet night in Assisi. Mary was a little girl who lived in Assisi. Someone came knocking at Mary's door. She listened, and opened the door, but there was nobody there. "Oh! It must have been the wind," she thought.

After a while, Mary heard a car coming. Both sides of the road were covered with trees. The Colossus was standing behind the trees. Why had he come to this poor village?

Mary was very nervous. She locked all the doors and the windows. She used my phone to tell her neighbours. But they all said, "It cannot be true. I don't believe you."

Mary decided to be Mr. Colossus' friend. She believed that Mr. Colossus would want to have more friends. She also wanted everyone in the village to stop being afraid of Mr. Colossus. So, she wrote a letter to Mr. Colossus.

Soon, Mr. Colossus wrote a letter back to Mary. They became good friends.

## **Chapter 4: Jenny and Sally died**

Soon after, Mr. Colossus found another giant. She was called Jenny. She was kinder and more polite than Mr. Colossus. After a month, they got married.

They gave birth to a son called Billy. He was silly and naughty. No teachers or

students liked him, so he felt sad. One day, Billy got hurt by his classmate, Sam. Billy was very, very angry.

He told his teacher and classmates, but nobody believed him. He was very unhappy and upset. Finally, he told his parents. Suddenly, his mum died from being so angry, and then Billy was left with only one parent.

After winter, spring came along, and Mr. Colossus got married again. His second wife was called Sally. She was rude and strict.

Mr. Colossus spent so much money on his second marriage that after a week, Rome became very poor. Mr. Colossus suggested, "Let's go to Assisi to ask for money." But it was too late. Sally was so shocked and angry at Mr. Colossus's foolish spending habits that she died of a broken heart.

## **Chapter 5: Mr. Colossus in Assisi**

The next morning, Mr. Colossus went to Assisi to ask for money.

When he arrived in Assisi, the people were rude to him. He was very angry.

Mr. Colossus commanded the people of Assisi to build a palace. He wanted to give the people a beautiful place to live in. But the people did not know this. They thought that Mr. Colossus wanted the palace for himself.

The people of Assisi did not like building the palace. Mary and her friend Paul were involved in the building of the palace too. They were exhausted.

Finally, one day, Paul said, "Mary, let's run away together to France tomorrow."

But Mary shouted, "No, I cannot go to France with you tomorrow. I have to stay here to help our king build a palace." Paul went to France alone, and Mary stayed to help build the palace.

Soon the palace was finished, and Mr. Colossus allowed everyone to live inside it. Everyone was happy.

## Chapter 6: A letter

7th April, 2013

Dear Mr. Colossus,

Hello! How are you? I really want to talk to you about your son, Billy. I didn't do anything to him but he was angry with me. He was impolite to me. While I was resting, he said, "You should be working." Please help me talk to your son about his manners.

Also, I saw your notice about a writing competition. I want to take part, please.

Lastly, I want to ask about the computers in the library. Are we allowed to use them? I need to find some information about the palace. Thanks.

Best wishes,

Mary

## Chapter 7: Mr. Colossus and Mary

Not long after Mary wrote the letter, she became very ill. She could not join the writing competition. Mr. Colossus took care of her.

Mr. Colossus suggested that Mary stay in a cottage in the forest while she got better. Mr. Colossus took Mary to the cottage. Every morning, the trees near the cottage were wonderful. The leaves were green and the branches were brown. But in the evening, the trees turned dark purple. This made Mary scared.

Many weeks passed, and Mary still did not get better. So, Mary decided to move to Australia. But she didn't know where the airport was. So she took a ship to Australia.

A few years later, Mary was still ill. But she missed her home, Assisi. She had promised Mr. Colossus she would not go back until she was well again. Finally, she decided to go back to Assisi secretly, and visit the cottage in the woods. She wanted to take a photo and take it with her to Australia.



While she was at the cottage taking a photo, she suddenly saw Mr. Colossus come out of the cottage. He yelled, "I told you not to come back until you are well again!" Mary was not frightened of Mr. Colossus. She knew that Mr. Colossus was not really upset with her.

To try to please Mr. Colossus, Mary started to sing a song with the trees. When the trees heard the song, they moved and danced, just like humans. Mr. Colossus was shocked. He ran away as fast as he could. But he was very unfit, and he suddenly died.

### **Chapter 8: Colossus' Heart**

Mary was heartbroken at the death of her good friend. She put Mr Colossus' heart into a big, gold box. The box was kept in the ground underneath the cottage. Then she went back to Assisi.

Rome and Assisi were at peace. There were no more fights for many years.

One day, a greedy family decided to try to find the box that held Mr. Colossus' heart. The heart was worth a lot of money. The family wanted to be rich.

When Mary found out what the family were trying to do, she was very, very angry. She ran to the forest and opened the box. Strange magic floated over the box. Mr. Colossus came back to life! He thanked Mary for bringing him to life again.

After a few years, Mary married Mr. Colossus. They lived happily ever after in the little cottage in the woods.

# The Troubles

By Hitomi Shiu (P5)

## Chapter 1 – The light

I was a cute little swan. I loved to play with other friendly swans.

One day, I was playing with my best friend. Her name was Musette.

While we were playing in the lake, a flash of light shimmered near the lake. When we saw that, I suggested, 'Musette, let's see who can swim faster to that flash of light!'

'Good suggestion,' cried Musette. 'Then off we go, three, two, one!'

We swam and swam. We were nearly at the flash of light. At last, we got to the light at the same time!

When we saw the flash of light at the end, we gasped. It was very bright and we couldn't open our eyes. Then I touched the light to try to stop it from shining. Unfortunately, it didn't stop shining. It shone brighter and brighter. After that, a lot of shimmering dust flew towards us.

Then, the shimmery dust brought me and Musette to a dark forest. It was very weird. This dark forest had a lot of tree trunks.

I shouted, 'Hello? Is there anyone here?'



*Illustrated by Angie Poon*

After a while, a little owl flew towards us. It said, 'Hello! My name is Molly. How can I help you?'

'We are lost in this dark forest,' said Musette. 'I'm wondering how we could get out of here.'

Molly said, 'Maybe I can give you directions. Where do you want to go?'

'We want to go back to the lake,' we said together.

Molly started, 'Then, let's go!'

We flew and flew. We felt very tired. Then Musette burst out, 'I feel very tired! I want to take a rest first.'

'Me too, I feel very tired. I feel very hungry too,' I said.

Then, Musette asked Molly, 'Where can we take a rest and have something to eat?'

'Hmm, maybe you can come to my home,' answered Molly. 'You can eat something and take a rest if you guys would like to.'

## Chapter 2 – At Molly's tree house

We went to Molly's little tree house to take a rest. We ate something delicious and had a chat too!

Molly asked, 'How did you get into this spooky dark forest by yourself?'

'When we were playing in the lake, we saw a flash of light which was blinking near the lake. Then we touched it. That's how we got in here,' we replied.

Molly's eyes flashed, and she said, 'You mean after touching the light, you came here? I touched that light too and that's why I'm here in this forest.'

'Then what shall we do?' I asked.

Molly said, 'I have read a book about special lights. It said a light which shimmers will bring you to a dark spooky forest. You should wait until the next time it appears again. If it appears again, you should touch it and it will bring you to the place where

you touched it before.'

'Then that means we still have hope!' Musette said brightly. 'Let's find the light!'

### **Chapter 3 – Looking for the light**

We flew and flew, but there wasn't anything that was shimmering. Then, Molly found something shimmering. She cried, 'Hey, look what I found!'

Musette shouted happily, 'Here it is! The flash of light!'

However, it wasn't the colour we touched before.

'I think it is hopeless now,' I said sadly. Suddenly there was a very bright light in front of us. 'I found it! We found it! Hurry up, guys! Or it will disappear soon!' I cried out happily.

Although I cried out extremely loudly, Molly and Musette could not hear what I was saying. When I blinked my eyes, the light just disappeared. What would I do now?

When I began to cry, a little voice in my head said, 'Don't cry, little swan. Another chance is coming. This time, you must act with your friends together, or else you will lose your chance again.'

After that, I stopped crying.

### **Chapter 4 – A strange seahorse**

I met a little strange seahorse this afternoon. His name was Opposite. At first, I thought the seahorse knew his way through the dark forest, and could bring me and my friend to the lake.

Very soon, I came to know why his name was Opposite. It was because he would just say the opposite of what we said.

When we were almost out of the dark forest, we saw two roads. One was on the right, another was on the left.

Seahorse Opposite asked, 'Which side should we take? The left or the right? Does anyone know?'

Then I suggested, 'Let's take the one on the left.'

'No! Let's walk on the right side,' Opposite shouted.

'So, left or right?' asked Molly.

'The right!' shouted the seahorse.

'No!' I shouted. 'We should go left!'

'The right!'

'The left!'

Musette stopped us. 'Don't argue anymore! Maybe we should walk on the right side.'

We walked and walked. Suddenly, I realized we were going in the wrong direction!

I stopped walking. Everyone stopped walking except Opposite. Why on earth did Opposite do things that were opposite to others?

I shouted with all my might, 'Opposite! Stop walking!' But the answer from Opposite was, 'No! I won't stop, you can't stop me!' We waited a long time until Opposite decided to join us again.

## Chapter 5 – Finding a light

Musette, Molly, Opposite and I carried on looking for the light. We walked and walked, but there wasn't any sign of the light. Then, I saw something shimmering. I thought it might be the light that we were looking for. So I walked towards it. When I was about to touch it, I fell into a trap!

The trap was very deep, dark and wet, and I couldn't even fly out. It wasn't wide enough for my wings to flap. At that moment, I really wanted to cry!

Suddenly, I realised that my friends were still outside. Then, I cried out very loudly,

'Help! I am trapped inside the hole! Can someone help me?'

It was lucky that my voice was loud enough. Soon, a familiar face peeked in. It was Musette!

'Musette, I am trapped! Please save me and tell the others I'm in trouble.'

After a while, Musette poked a string into the hole. However, it was too short. I couldn't climb out of the trap.

'Any other choices except for the string?' I asked.

I heard the smart Molly suggest, 'Maybe we can use some strong wood to make a ladder.'

'No! It might not help her,' said Opposite.

'Yes! It might help her!'

'No! It won't'

'Yes!'

'No!'

'Yes!'

'No!'

'They are arguing again!' I thought.

At last, they made a ladder for me. When they put the ladder in from the top to the bottom of the deep hole, I immediately climbed up.

I climbed and climbed towards the top of the hole. Then, 'Crack!' The bottom of the ladder broke and I lost my balance.

Musette shouted, 'Hold tight. We are pulling you up!'

After a minute, I finally came out of the deep trap. I thanked my friends.

'We must continue to search for the magical light!' I said.

## Chapter 7 – A cyclone

We flew and flew. Although we were very tired, we knew that we must find the light so we could return to the place where we first touched the light. Suddenly, there was a cyclone coming towards us.

When I saw it, I shouted, 'Everyone, fly faster! Fly faster! The cyclone is coming! Use all your energy to fly!'

We flew extremely fast. But it didn't work. The cyclone had blown us up to the black sky.

The cyclone blew and blew, and it made us very dizzy. When I saw Musette and the others, I cried, 'Hold each others' hands tightly, or else we will be blown to different places!'

Although we held each others' hands very tightly, the cyclone still blew us to different places.

'Ouch!' I shouted. It hurt me very much when the cyclone suddenly dropped me down.

'Musette! Molly! Sarah! Opposite!' I shouted.

But there weren't any answers.

I asked myself, 'Where am I? It is very hot here.'

There was nothing around me but sand. Then, I shouted, 'I know where I am! I'm in the desert. That's why there is sand and it's very hot here.'

I flew and flew, but there wasn't even a drop of water. Suddenly, the whole desert shivered. 'Oh no! An earthquake!' I gasped.

But it wasn't an earthquake. It was a big monster that looked like a camel. It was very soft, just like an ordinary little camel.

'Help! A monster wants to attack me, help!' I shouted. It was very big.

It walked towards me, so I flew faster than usual. When I was flying, I had a vague idea. I thought, 'This monster is very soft, so if a cactus pricks it, it might die.' Then, I shouted, 'Hey, monster, come and chase me!'

Finally, I found a cactus. I flew very fast towards it. Then the monster stepped on the cactus. With an 'Argh!!!' the monster disappeared slowly. Then, this monster became the flash of light. I touched the bright light.

After touching it, it became brighter and brighter. Then, there was a lot of shimmering dust flying towards me.

## Chapter 8 – Home

I closed my eyes tight. After a while, I opened my eyes with hope. I was back at the lake! 'Where were you, Musette and Molly?' I shouted.

'We are here!' their voices answered back delightedly.

Then, Molly and Musette flew towards me. When Musette and Molly saw me, a dim bemused expression grew on their faces. We hugged each other. 'It's so good to see you guys again,' I said brightly.

'But where are our parents?' Musette asked. I gasped, 'Oh yes! How could I forget them? Let's go home and see if our parents are still there. Ten minutes later we will meet here.'

When I got back home, I said, 'Mum! Dad! I'm back!' But there was no answer. The house was full of a strange, unfamiliar silence. I thought, 'Where are they now?'

Ten minutes later, we met each other at the lake. 'Are your parents home?' I asked.

'No.'

'Mine neither! Then what shall we do?' I asked.

A week was over, but my parents still weren't back. I visited Musette because I felt very bored.



'Let's invite Molly to play with us,' Musette suggested.

Soon after, Molly came out, and we played and played until sunset.

'Although my parents are not here, I still have two good friends who will take care of me,' I thought to myself.

# Escape

By Keith Kwok (P5)

Author's note:

This work is about two important historical figures. It is completely fictional. History can't repeat itself and we can't change it, so why not have fun and play around with it...just for once in fantasy?

## Shakespeare

I was bored. Living in this box was terrible. Everything was controlled by them. My actions, my thoughts...

## My life.

I wanted to be free! I didn't want to be stuck! Could anyone help me?

I am William Shakespeare. Yes, the guy you call a famous "poet", whatever that means. Although life was great, I was treated like a nobody in a cage. Literally! My everything was now lost. Curse you, Mum and Dad! Why did you put me in this place? Why did you let them treat me like this?

In this place, coaches and teachers trained me. They taught English, music, sports, arts... the list goes on. I had to take lessons every day and spend all of the night training. I took a course on English poetry. At first, I was truly confused by the "thou" and



Illustrated by Angie Poon

“thy” and “thee” and all that gibberish. Why wouldn’t they use something else? But I soon got the hang of it.

Once, a friend by the name of Jackson was running towards a prohibited area in the clubhouse. I saw him from my room and so I was curious. Why was he running? I questioned him and all I got was a “Shhh...” in reply.

“Where are you going?” I asked.

“Whisper!” he said in a soft voice. “They’re coming for me! I...I’m going to escape from this place. It’s like a dungeon! And so, William... Good bye!”

I was surprised. A talented man like Jackson was leaving?

The agency itself was a place founded by the Bobos. They were one strange and mysterious family. They were very clever and very talented. At first, they just wanted to help ordinary people become talented. But after five or six decades, their real purpose changed. Now all they wanted was to control their students and exploit their fame for money.

The agency taught archery, fighting, music and many more subjects. The lessons were really tough. Students had to work hard and learn for at least 8 hours a day, which would (I promise) drive anyone mad.

To make sure nobody from the outside world knew about the agency, they controlled the students’ every move. And as for the others, let’s see what happened to their heads.

## Kennedy

The smell of the noodles wasn’t that good. The food had started to stink yesterday. It had that rotten smell, rather like a mouse. That was totally inedible. In fact, everything was totally unbearable. What kind of place was this?

The agency was starting to feel a little strange. The boss had been acting in a rather (shall I say) silly way. He was beginning to wear underpants on his head. “Silly old fellow,” we called him.

And many students in the agency had started disappearing. There were rumours that the boss had gone crazy and killed anyone who came close to him. But others said that they had escaped. I didn't want to be inquisitive, but that's life. I had to know what had happened.

"John, what are you doing here?" I jumped up, startled. It was the boss.

"Uh...yeah...hi! Why am I here? Goodbye!" I smacked myself in the face. Ow. Bad move.

"Are you ok?" His fiery eyes seemed to burn with sinister delight, shining into my eyes. Blinded, I toppled over.

"Whoa, whoa, whoa. Let me come and help you." He got out of his seat and smirked at me. In the blink of an eye, he was beside me. At least I felt that he was beside me. The freaky idiot had blinded me! Me! The future American President, the Oracle had said. He had said that I would join the ranks of George Washington. But I couldn't be a president if I was dead, right?

I mustered all my remaining strength (that wasn't drained out by the "boss" when he was standing next to me) and slowly, quietly started to crawl away. Just when the boss started to shout at me, I jumped up and ran off in the other direction.

As I was running, my photographic memory kicked in, showing me the way back to the information counter, where I could easily get out of this horrible place. Goodbye, I thought.

## Shakespeare

I walked past the staff room with a sword in hand. Although they called me a "poet", my martial arts weren't that bad. I had taken a few years' classes in sword-fighting, and I had passed every test with flying colors. I could be a coach!

Back to the subject. I wandered deeper into the agency, following a security guard at a distance. I had found out that on their identity cards was a large blue "S" while ours were marked with "I". The security guard led me deeper to a dead end. There was a snack machine there, marked with an "S". Oh my.

I sneezed.

Come on!

I flattened myself against the wall, holding my sword tightly. The security guard hadn't noticed anything. Creeping along, I arrived at a room. An arsenal. What a stroke of good luck!

Shoving knives into my self-made tool belt, I got distracted by other weapons. A shield with a monster-face on it, attached to a mirror. A very handsome sword with blue light shining out of it was hooked on the wall. Ropes with huge marbles at the end and a vial were on a shelf. I grabbed them all and backed out, hearing footsteps. Was it the guards?

Peeking out, I heard a bleeping sound, and I was, fortunately, quick enough to see the security guard disappear behind the snack machine. I quickly slid through the closing hole, curiosity bringing me forward. I had entered a tunnel.

It was pitch black inside the tunnel, and it was impossible to see anything without a torch. I could barely hear the guard's footsteps, so it was fairly difficult to follow him. He seemed to glide at a great pace, flying as fast as a bird. How did he do that? According to what I learnt in science class, a human could not walk, or even run, at such a quick speed. As I was thinking, I felt thirsty. I remembered the vial I had taken from the arsenal room and gulped it down.

Having gulped the potion, I was a lot lighter and more active. I felt like punching and kicking and tripping over things. Seriously!

What?

Tripping over things?

The alarm sounded loudly, making me deaf. I was truly dead.

Guards swarmed around me.

## Kennedy

Guess what? I'm still here. So much for escaping.

I ran for a long time, but I never found the exit. But I did find out that Boss was a mental, idiotic, freaky, psychotic lunatic.

What a joke. Not much time to speak now. More later.

## Shakespeare

"Hey! What's going on? Why the devil are you here?" shouted the guards.

I took out my new blue sword, fighting with my newfound strength. Right kick! Uppercut! Punch, punch, reverse kick!

Four down, infinity to go.

Hill-cut! Snake's escape! Soul catcher! I thanked my lucky stars that I had paid attention during the Chinese history class on sword-fighting. It was really coming in useful.

By the look on the guards' faces, there were two questions burning in their heads:

How on earth did you get that sword?

Since when were you so good at martial arts?

Ten more down. Way to go, William!

Dozens more guards swarmed in.

I was undeterred. Kick, dodge, back-kick! Ha! Throw a knife, triple reverse kick, and hook. Jumping onto the wall, I ran until I saw daylight. That was when I sort of invented this word: 'Faith'.

But my excitement didn't last very long. A huge guy stepped in front me. "William, what are you doing here?"

I was feeling elated and sarcastic. "I don't know. Mucking around? Killing people?"

It was Boss. He eyed me suspiciously. "Or rather, escaping? You know that's prohibited."

I backed away.

"There's no escaping. You just have two choices at this stage. You can fight me, or let me kill you. You have five minutes to decide."

I didn't really think that I could win, but why not try?

The clock was ticking. Two minutes left.

I exhaled hard, ready to say good bye to the world. Believe me, it wasn't hard.

One minute left.

Boss eyed me up. "You want to chicken out? I knew that you were going to be like a little stupid baby. Poor little baby. Wa ha ha!" Boss doubled over, laughing at me.

Furiously, I took out my glowing sword and kicked my boss. Hard. He could fight me, trap me, or do whatever he wanted to do to me. But, nobody, nobody could ever insult me. Fire glowed from my eyes, and my body felt full of flames. Boiling steam puffed out of my eyes, and electricity flowed through my body.

"You want to fight? Bring it on, idiot! Come on!" I snarled at him, and my face would have given you a nightmare. (I think it would be illegal to describe it, because I'd have to use too many bad words. But in other words, it was worse than a mad Minotaur and three hundred devil spirits together.)

Boss turned red all over, embarrassed and angry at my comments. So what? I didn't care at all.

"You're afraid, big guy? Then I'll go first!" I clenched my teeth, ready to fight.

I paused for a second, and then sprinted across the room, jumping onto the wall. Holding my sword tight, I faked a left and brought the sword down onto Boss' head while taking two punches on the shoulder. With my legs free, I yanked myself onto

Boss' back. My sword looked like three swords, flashing and clanging, making it impossibly hard to focus. Taking my shield out, I whipped my string (from my tool belt) like a laser and hit Boss on his Adam's apple.

Boss flinched and fell onto the ground. And then he turned into a roaring lion.

## Kennedy

Dark, cold, hungry, sleepless. That was my life here. What a paradise.

Ever since Boss had caught me and stuck me into this place, some sort of power had drained my strength out and the discomfort was totally killing me.

Rats, rats! All of them running around the sewer and – seriously – on my face. Tell me that was not disgusting enough. But I was lucky enough to have someone to be with me – a brown mouse who kept me company.

Then the company slipped away, disappearing into the darkness, leaving me alone – again. The doomed feeling returned to me as quickly as the mouse left, filling me with horror.

Water dripped from the sewer above.

## Shakespeare

Boss was now a lion. It was over.

So what? At least I had tried to escape. Now, I would die, of course. But if I was going to die, then I was going to die as a hero.

"Bring it on, loser!" I growled.

He roared. I growled. He roared. I growled.

He roared again, so loudly that it shook the wall, and started charging at me. I jumped up, hung onto the ceiling, swung around and threw myself onto him. Jabbing him with my sword, I used the spirit-taker technique that I had learnt in sword fighting. Intense kicking, with roundhouses and back-kicks, ensued. Then with one last hard hit, I swung my sword like a baseball bat and got him in the stomach. Blood oozed out from his wound.

"You'll be sorry," he moaned as I left.



## Kennedy

I paced across the room, trying to get myself some exercise. The sound of metal clashing and shouting woke me up from my sleep, and I didn't want to lie down on this wet, dirty, floor full of bugs.

Hello, cockroach.

The cockroach crawled away.

Goodbye, cockroach.

Drip, drip, drip.

Finally, the fighting and growling stopped, leaving me in this patch of silence and darkness. A vomiting sound could barely be heard, then chaos all around.

I sat upright. Had Boss just lost a fight?

I was totally over the moon! At last I could be free. But first, I had to get out.

Right when I was thinking of the best, perfect, no-one-would-see-me, brilliant, excellent, good, well-thought, clever, genius plan, a black, round, furry, squishy, cute, fat, little, puffy cat like a pufferfish-echidna with big eyes, sharp, pointy ears and no legs at all, rolled in. It transformed into Boss.

"That William Shakespeare nearly killed me!"

What? Him? The guy from 300 years ago?

"I need you, Kennedy, to hunt him down. Then you will be my king. You will be my Almighty President!"

He brought me to a room.

"Do not let me down!"

And without any warning or intention, unexpectedly, I nodded. Oh my.

# School Days

By Yana Leung (P5)



*Illustrated by Iris Hung*

## Chapter 1: An Advertisement

Zookie is my friend. I saw her wandering around in the market. I saw her wearing a black t-shirt. There were some white words on her clothes – Just Do It.

The words were getting bigger and bigger, and then I bumped into something very hard. It was Zookie. I was in the classroom now. I was so interested in the words that I followed them all the way into the classroom.

I saw a lot of people laughing at me and I felt very embarrassed. I quickly sat down on my chair and looked at Zookie. She was talking to her friends, Dan and May. They had been friends for a long time. But if they played together for too long they would

start with a joke and would end up with a fight.

Zookie turned around and looked at me. I tried to apologise to her, but she didn't forgive me. She was mad now. Everyone knew that when Zookie was mad, she would never forgive anyone.

## Chapter 2: Treasure Hunt Day

It was a beautiful day today. The headmaster planned to have a picnic in the park. Everyone was permitted to go to the picnic as long as they had a partner to go with. I wanted to go with Zookie, but she was angry with me, so I went with Sam. We were having the picnic happily.

Suddenly, I stepped on Zookie's feet and spilled all of my orange juice on her. I told Zookie it was an accident because I was looking at an advertisement. Zookie was mad again.

The next day was Treasure Hunt Day. Every class in the school had to find a hidden object. After an hour I found the hidden object and Zookie found the same hidden object too. We fought for the hidden object.

Inside the hidden object was £50, and we were fighting for it. After a few minutes another student saw Zookie and me fighting. Zookie accidentally threw the object in the air and the student watching the fight jumped up and got it. Zookie was super mad.

## Chapter 3: Me in the conversation

Lilly:

*I WANT REVENGE! Go to the Music Room at break. I WANT to see you! Or else you'll be in big trouble!*

*Zookie*

I saw the little strip of paper in my Chinese book and said to myself, "I'm not afraid of you. If you want to see me, you have to find me yourself, Zookie." Then I laughed

loudly and walked out of the classroom.

Two days later, Zookie walked out of the classroom and laughed like a witch. I wanted to find out what Zookie was up to, so I pretended to be a detective and used some ways to follow Zookie. After a few minutes, Zookie stopped in front of a room. I was shocked because it was the principal's room. I heard a little bit of the conversation. It went like this: "...step...treasure...mad."

I couldn't hear clearly but I knew she was talking about me.

#### **Chapter 4: Dictation Trouble**

The next day, we were going to have dictation. I like dictation very much but Zookie does not. Zookie's dictation marks are always low. She always plays in the playground and says she has a lot of homework, so she always forgets to revise her dictation.

It was time for dictation. Zookie was very worried. When I was writing, Zookie peeked at my dictation. I noticed and I told the teacher, but Zookie said, "How dare you say that I peeked at your paper! You peeked at my paper and said that I peeked at your paper. You are trying to tell lies." After that, the teacher punished me and told the whole world. Zookie was very happy.

The next day, Zookie put a piece of paper in my desk again.

*Lilly:*

*I know are you angry with me, but I don't care. You can tell the whole school I lied to the teacher, but nobody will trust you because I talked to the headmaster.*

*Zookie*

I was very angry. My two eyes became fireballs. I whispered to myself, "Zookie, you will be very surprised."

## Chapter 5: A fight

“Oh, I hate Zookie so much!” I shouted loudly to the headmaster. “Zookie is so annoying! She made a deal with you and told the whole world that I should not be trusted!” I screamed.

The headmaster looked at me. He put his legs on the table and sighed. “Oh Lilly, why are you so stupid? I am Zookie’s father. Didn’t you know that? I promised to do all the things that Zookie wanted to do.”

He laughed loudly and told me to go. I was about to kick him when Zookie appeared. We began an argument that attracted a lot of students and teachers. They were whispering about who was going to win the argument. We argued for ten minutes and began to fight. When Dan and May saw me using my leg to kick Zookie, they screamed, “Zookie, look out!” But Zookie was already screaming in pain. Zookie did not give up and continued to fight. She used her head to try to bump me in the stomach. But I moved away and Zookie bumped her head on the wall. I laughed and laughed until my tears came out. I ran back to the classroom and warned Zookie not to follow or else she would be in big trouble.

## Chapter 6: A Misunderstanding

I remembered the day that I caused trouble. I thought about it the whole day. I was dreaming in all my lessons and bumping into people at school. I wanted to make things right, but the chance never came.

The day before the swimming contest, terrible things happened again. Zookie wanted to win the swimming contest. She knew I was good at swimming, so she thought of a plan. At recess, Dan went to the playground to play on the swing. Zookie followed him to the playground and saw me too.

Zookie muttered, “Lilly is never going to enter the swimming contest tomorrow.” Zookie ran to the swing that Dan was sitting on and pushed him to the ground. Dan screamed as he fell off and broke his arm.

Zookie yelled, “Everybody saw that right? Lilly pushed Dan off the swing and Dan

broke his arm! Do you see how evil she is?" The headmaster came as fast as he could and proclaimed that I couldn't go to the swimming contest and had to clean the classroom for four months.

I was shocked. I ran quickly to the toilet and screamed as loudly as I could. I whispered to myself, "I have to make Zookie tell the truth or else I'll be caught by the police and they will kill me for sure."

## Chapter 7: Revenge

The day that I'd been waiting for finally came. I jumped up and clapped my hands. "I'm going to have a lot of fun today." I laughed like an evil witch and walked into the classroom. "Who should I pick? Maybe May will do since Dan has broken his arm. My plan will be a great success today."

The next day, I started my plan as I had planned. I followed Zookie and May to the playground and heard what May was saying. She was whispering, "Why would Lilly do such a dreadful thing? I've known since I came here that she likes swimming. Is it true that nothing will stop her from swimming? I wonder why she pushed Dan off the swing."

"Who knows, May? Maybe she doesn't like Dan very much," Zookie giggled.

I made a deep pit near the benches and tried to trick May into stepping into it. May was now walking to the swings. She saw me. She was very angry. She chased after me and was running straight towards the trap when Zookie accidentally pushed May into the trap. It was as I had planned! May yelled as loudly as a fire alarm and everyone was looking at Zookie.

Everyone looked down into the deep pit and found May dead. The news quickly spread all over the world and when the prime minister heard about it, he banned Zookie from England and told her to never come back. As for her father, he was brought to prison and killed.

I was happy. But Dan, the kindest one of the three friends, felt sorry for them.

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7. School Days

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