



# PV Kids News

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## Making Friends While Making Writing Fun

By PV Kids News

The Palos Verdes Library District and PressFriends held a successful writing workshop for third, fourth and fifth graders at the Library District's Teen Annex on January 29th. This was the third free newswriting workshop held by PressFriends and the Library District.

Thirty-five elementary students worked with nineteen middle and high school mentors from PressFriends, a community ser-

vice group of over 80 local students from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, Palos Verdes High School, Ridgecrest Intermediate School, and Miraleste Intermediate School. PressFriends work with seven elementary schools on their school newspapers, in addition to giving free newswriting workshops at the PV Library and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

The elementary students came from Cornerstone, Dapplegray, Mira-

Catalina, Lunada Bay, Point Vicente, Vista Grande, Soleado, Rancho Vista, Rolling Hills Country Day, Point Fermin, South Shores, South Bay Faith Academy, Eschelman, 7th Street, Taper Avenue, Hermosa Valley, and the Pacific Center for Creative Learning.

The articles from the writing workshop appear in this fourth issue of *PV Kids News*, with the generous sponsorship of the Dugel family. ❖



PVLD Librarian and PV Kids News Advisor, Michael Barb (second from left in the back row) with PressFriends mentors and PV Kids News reporters.

# PV Kids News Winter 2011 Reporters



Abby



Aimee



Alexis



Anthony



Carter



Chloe



Chris



Emma



Erik



Eunice



Gabriella



Holden



Imaan



Ishan



Jady



Jason



John



Julia



Kahea



Kaiya



Katherine



Loren



Marcus



Matthew



Naoya



Natalie



Nick



Nicole



Olivia



Sarah



Shaun



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PVLD Advisor  
Michael Barb

## PressFriends' Fashion on Parade

By Emma

Wow! The crazy gets crazier when Taylor, Anna and Ashley wore three crazy outfits in the *PV Kids News* fashion show. These outfits are great for girls of all ages.

Taylor's scruffy pink skirt, and her dark sparkly dress is great for the circus or a fashion show. Her beautiful dark pink shiny scarf and her exciting leopard belt is one-of-a-kind.

A black feathered headband makes you feel sad and lonely but Anna's cute yellow flowered top is so pretty. Wearing soft comfy sweats goes great with workout clothes.

Talking comfy, well Ashley's boots are black and white stripes that are comfier than the sweats. Her nerdy red glasses and her old fashion red poodle skirt made a statement. Her beauti-

ful black rose top is great for getting dressed up. But one more thing makes her unique outfit shine. That's her funky purple bonnet.

These outfits are all one-of-a-kind. How does it compare to your own fashion style? ❖



PressFriends Fashionistas Taylor, Ashley and Anna

## Crazy Clothes

By Gabriella

The *PV Kids News* fashion show was all about crazy clothes for girls of all ages. People would see this fashion in fashion shows, store displays, or at the circus!

Ashley's outfit included a pretty poodle skirt, funky polka dot top, and a purple puffy

bonnet. Taylor's outfit included a stylish dress, funky cheetah belt, and a groovy pink skirt. Anna had a blue boa, a black, crazy hat, and a funky flowered top.

I liked Anna's blue boa, because it made me feel like partying! I didn't like her shirt, because

it looked weird, and the colors were not very attractive.

Taylor's dress was awesome, because it had sparkles! Her belt was wild!

Ashley's red skirt made me want to dance! But her purple shower cap was crazy. ❖



## Fashion Fun

By Abby

Taylor, Ashley and Anna took to the *PV Kids News* runway to model some of their best outfits. I had likes and dislikes.

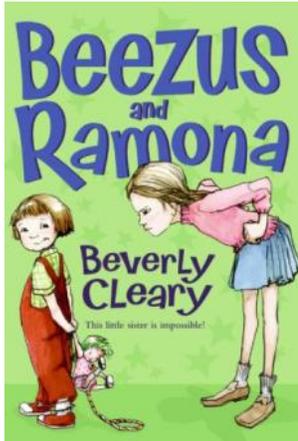
Let me start off with Anna. I liked her feathery

band, but didn't like her scarf. It made me a little itchy just looking at it.

Next came Ashley. She wore a cute shirt and fab pink glasses, but the purple shower cap was not my favorite.

Finally, Taylor came up sparkling with a cool black dress and pink scarf and socks—even though the socks didn't match. She looked the best overall, but would you wear it to school? ❖





## Beezus and Ramona

By Gabriella

**B**eezus and Ramona by Beverly Cleary is a great book! This book is about Ramona and Beezus, who are sisters. Ramona is only four years old, but she has a huge imagination. Beezus can't stand it.

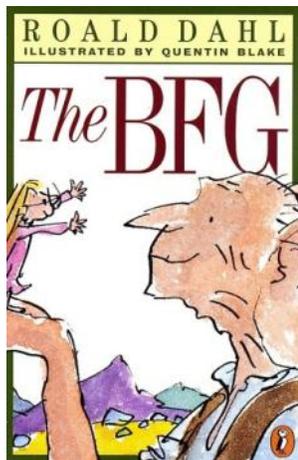
The story mostly takes place at their house. My

favorite character is Beezus, because she is about my age, and she has a little sister just like me.

I like this book, because Ramona does really funny things. Also, it really expresses what it's like to have a little sister. The book also shows that even if sisters

are mad at each other, they still love each other.

Girls between the ages of five through ten would like this book. However, boys might like reading Ramona books too, because they are funny, especially if they have sisters. ❖



## BFG

By Loren

**T**he book, *The BFG*, was written by Raold Dahl. It is about a little orphan girl who got kidnapped by a giant. The giant took the orphan, Sophia, to Giant Country. She soon finds out the giant is friendly. She also finds out his name too,

Big Friendly Giant, BFG.

Later, she also found out about his life. He is a dream catcher. Also, he is the smallest out of all the giants.

Sophia finds out that the giants eat "human beans." Their names

match most of the giants' personalities. Soon, the BFG and Sophia become great friends. They help each other out all the time. Together, they soon work together to save innocent people from all the other giants! ❖



## Bloodcurdling Giants vs. the BFG and Sophie

By Nicole

**T**he *BFG* by Roald Dahl is a fictional book about cruel giants who eat men, chew on their bones, drink their blood, and more. The BFG, the Big Friendly Giant, is different from the giants, because he does not eat men but gives dreams to children to put them to sleep.

With his trumpet to blow dreams to children, jars of sweet dreams, and Sophie (an orphan he meets), they march all around England, through the towns and villages and by the homes of good and kind children. One day, the two hear that the other giants will go and eat

children throughout England. The two cook up a menacing plan to stop the giants once and for all. First stop, the Queen of England's palace, but will their plan work? If you like books about revenge, giants, and fighting, this is the right book for you. Enjoy!! ❖

## Jewelry and Crooks equal a Mystery

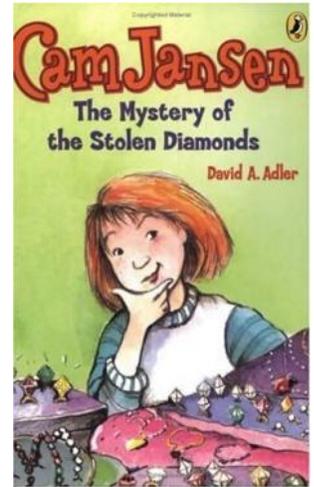
By Abby

Cam Jansen loves to solve mysteries. When she finds out there is a man who is stealing jewels from a jewelry store in the mall, she must find out what happened. People call the police. Cam knows she must find out what happened before the police are called in. Cam asked a woman if she knew

what happened. She gets some good answers.

I couldn't put the book down, *Cam Jansen and The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds*, by David Adler. I was hooked on the book to find out what happened. She follows the man outside of town. Cam was so brave. I knew Cam would get the answer.

Cam knows that there is something fishy about this man going to an abandoned house outside of town. Two people are all ready there. Cam slips into the house and gets the truth. But I can't tell you what happens; you need to read the book yourself. My uncle read it, so why don't you? ❖



## Charlotte's Web

By Katherine

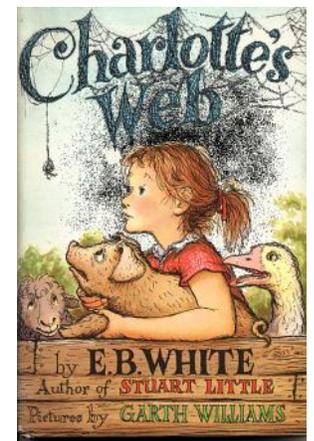
*Charlotte's Web* is a book about Charlotte, a spider who makes friends with a pig named Wilbur. She saves his life by tricking people into thinking that Wilbur is an extraordinary pig. She succeeds, and Wilbur

pays her back by taking care of her children.

*Charlotte's Web* is by E.B. White, and it happens over a full year at the Zuckerman's farm.

My favorite character happens to be Charlotte, because she is a true

friend and is very loyal. I like this book because it tells about two true friends and how they help each other. In my opinion, this book is about making true friends. Both girls and boys will like this book. ❖



## Fabulous Frindle

By Eunice

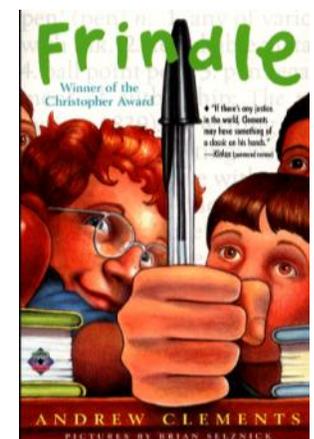
The book *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements is about a boy, Nick, who makes up a new word for "pen."

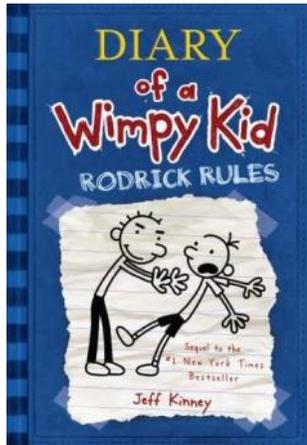
The story takes place at Nick's, school and at his house. My favorite character is Nick, because he is very creative and wants to be original.

I like the book because reading about Nick's creative ideas is fun. I also like the part when Nick and his teacher play a game like chess about the new word for "pen."

The coolest part of the book is when Nick makes up the word,

"frindle." I think the book is good because it uses a lot of imagination and a lot of descriptive images. When you read it, you will want to read more and more until you find out the ending. It is very funny too. I think that everyone will like this book. ❖





## Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

By John

The book, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*, by Jeff Kinney is about a boy named Greg who gets bossed around a lot by his older brother Roderick. It takes place at a middle school, and it is in every month of Greg's life.

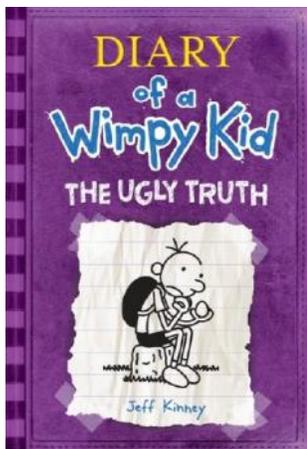
My favorite character is Rodrick because he-

bosses people around.

I liked this story because the book is funny. For example, Fregly touched the rotten cheese. Second, Rowley kept kicking a pillow, then Greg put a weight in the pillow, and Rowley broke his toe. Lastly, Rowley goes on a vacation and falls in love

with an Australian pop star, Joshie.

I liked how the author made the story funny. Also, I like that the author made the story from a child's point of view. Finally, I liked how the author made it look like a journal. Both boys and girls will like this book. ❖



## Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth

By Erik

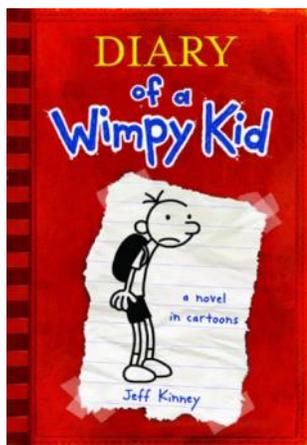
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* is an awesome book. The author of this book is Jeff Kinney. The book is about a kid named Greg Heffley and his diary. Greg is in middle school.

My favorite character is Greg because he gets in weird and very funny situations. One of the

funny situations that he gets himself in is trying to read one of his subject books, and he can't read it because there is a bunch of drawings in them. Another one is when Greg's mom gets a maid, and the family cleans the whole house before the maid gets there, so the maid just

watches TV. My last example is when Greg wants to try out for a Peachy Breeze commercial, and Greg spills his ice cream at the audition.

I think that the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is a really fun book to read for kids that are 7 to 12 years old. ❖



## Diary of a Wimpy Kid

By Matthew

The *Diary of Wimpy Kid* is about a kid named Greg Heffley. The story begins with Greg playing video games with the curtains closed. It takes place during summer vacation at Greg's neighborhood.

I like Gregory Heffley because he likes video games. I liked the book, because it was funny, stupendous, and complicated. There were a lot of hilarious and detail-filled situations that Greg gets into.

I think this is an awesome book that everyone of all ages will enjoy.

The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is written by Jeff Kinney, and there are a series of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books. ❖

## Chewy and Chica

By Sarah

Do you think you would like life as a puppy? The book *Chewy and Chica*, written by Ellen Miles, is just about that.

Puppies can have all different types of lives. Some stay in a shelter. Some have owners who are poor. Puppies can't help where they end up.

One day, this guy drives up to the puppy shelter in a black limo. The shelter owner Ms.

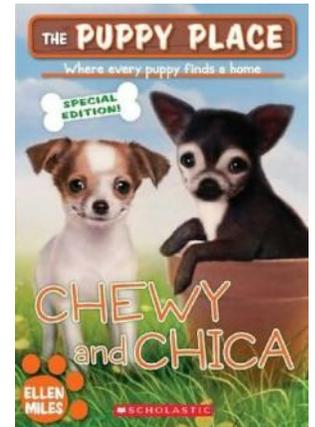
Dobbins came out the door with her assistant, Lizzie. She saw puppy snouts sticking out of the window. They had enough room at the shelter for all the puppies, except for two – Chewy and Chica. They were brother and sister Chihuahuas. They ended up at the Petersons home, a puppy foster family.

The next day, Lizzie Peterson went to Ms. Dobbins to find out more.

She found out about puppy mills, which are horrible and need to stop.

Lizzie and her brother Charles each take one of the Chihuahuas to train and to try to find a home. Lizzie and Charles are very competitive, so it's a fun book while also making you aware of how bad puppy mills are.

You can find this book at your library. ❖



## The Fire Within

By Jason

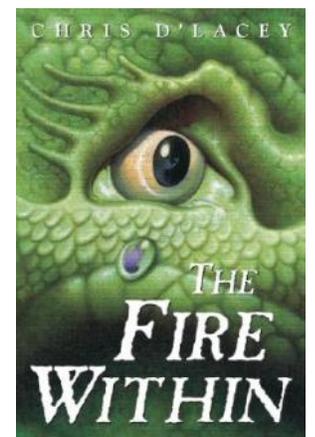
A good book to read is *The Fire Within*. The book is by Chris d'Lacy and is about clay dragons that come to life.

The main character is David who is going to college and rents a room

in the house on Wayward Crescent owned by Liz, who makes clay dragons. Liz has a daughter named Lucy, who is addicted to squirrels. My favorite character is Godzooks, which is

a clay dragon that Liz makes for David and then comes to life. This book is good, because it's about dragons, it has a mystery, and it's funny.

Nine and ten-year old boys will like this book. ❖



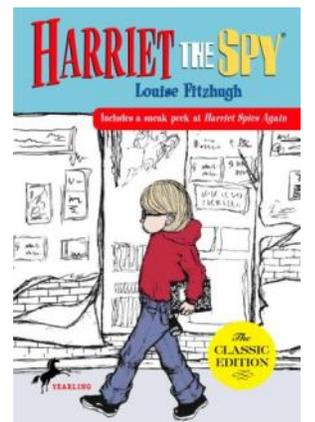
## Harriet the Spy

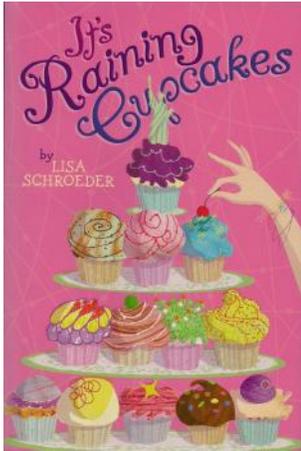
By Anthony

It all starts in Manhattan, on East Eighty-Seventh Street, which is where eleven-year old Harriet M. Welsh lives. She likes writing and wants to be a spy, so she spies on her friends and writes down information in her notebook. How-

ever, her life is about to change. The reason? Harriet loses her notebook, and her friends are hurt about what she wrote about them. Harriet loses all of her friends. They form a Spy Catcher Club to get back at Harriet the Spy.

Sometimes recording mean notes really doesn't help in life. Harriet must learn how to be kind, fix friendships, and fulfill her dream. The book *Harriet the Spy* was written by Louise Fitzhugh, and is a lot of fun to read. ❖





## It's Raining Cupcakes!

By Alexis

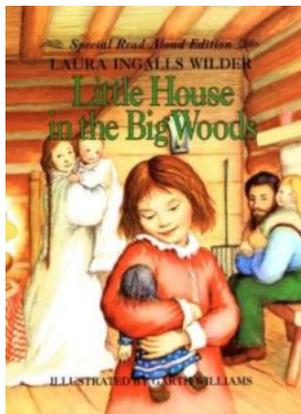
If you like cupcakes, *It's Raining Cupcakes* by Lisa Schroeder is the book for you! It's about a 12-year-old girl named Isabel Browning who loves baking cupcakes with her mom. One day, Isabel's mom decides to open a cupcake store, so Isabel will be spending her summer baking cupcakes.

However, what Isabel would really like to do is travel. She has never been outside of Oregon. In her free time, she goes to the public library to look at places she wants to visit.

Isabel's friend, Sophie, tells her that there's going to be a bake-off, and the final-

ists get to go to New York! Isabel wants to enter a jam-tart recipe, but her mom wants her to enter a cupcake recipe. Then, Sophie decides to enter the contest too.

To find out the ending, read the book! There also are cupcake recipes at the end. ❖



## Little House in the Big Woods

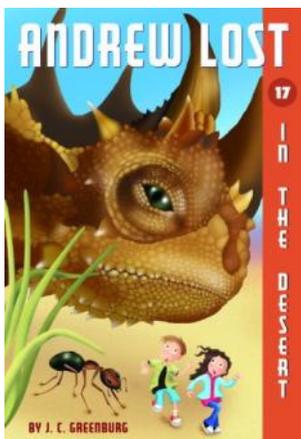
By Kaiya

The book, *Little House in the Big Woods*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder is about a little girl's life in the woods close to the 1870's with her mom, dad, and her two sisters, Mary and baby Carrie.

My favorite character is Laura, because she likes to play with her friends and family, and she likes to climb trees and go outside. I like the book, because it is funny and happy. I also like it

because I like things that happened in the past.

Girls would like to read this, because it's about a girl who lived long ago and how she lived her life. ❖



## Andrew Lost in the Desert

By Siddh

Andrew and Judy are lost in the desert, and they are the size of ants. There is a thorny devil, scorpion, spider, frog, and ants who get Andrew and Judy in trouble.

My favorite character is Anthony, who is ten years old, because he

comes up with new inventions and annoys his cousin Judy, who is 13-years old.

I like the story, because the story is interesting and you can learn something about the animals in an Australian desert. Mysteries are always fun, because you

never know what is going to happen.

People who like mysteries would like this book, especially for kids age 8-13. The book, *Andrew Lost #17 In the Desert* is written by J.C. Greenberg and part of the Andrew Lost book series. ❖

## Matilda

By Jadya

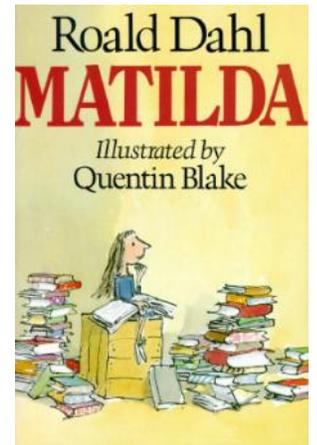
Have you ever heard of a 5-year-old who gets rid of her 200-pound, kid-hating, headmistress? If you haven't, you might like *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. The story is about a girl who is very smart. Her parents are not very nice, and her dad sells used cars and tricks customers into buying cars

that are going to break down. Everytime her parents do something mean or wrong, Matilda gets back at them, like making her mom tear out her hair and putting superglue on her dad's hat. She has a great time driving her parents crazy.

Matilda is my favor-

ite character. She is my favorite, because she gets rid of the evil headmistress.

Here are two reasons why I like this book. First, it is very exciting. Secondly, it has very good details. I would recommend this book to boys and girls ages six and up. ❖



## Miracle on 34th Street

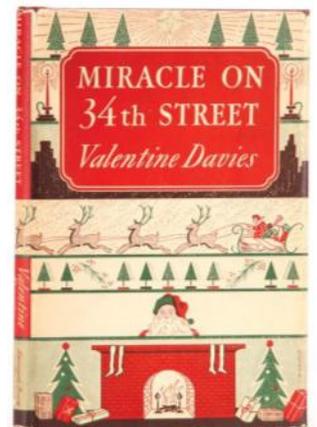
By Aimee

If you want to read a good book with some holiday spirit, read *Miracle on 34th Street* written by Valentine Davies. This book is about a man who thinks he is Santa Claus. He is hired by Macy's to play Santa Claus. Instead of trying to get the merchandise

the customer wants at Macy's, he sends the customers to other competing stores showing the true Christmas spirit.

This story mainly takes place in a New York Macy's store. My favorite character is the man whose name is Kris Kringle.

I liked this book, because of the story and the colorful pictures. This book is very good, and I could not put it down. This book made me happy, and it took me less than a day to read it. I recommend this book to boys and girls of all ages. ❖



## Mohammed Ali

By Imaan

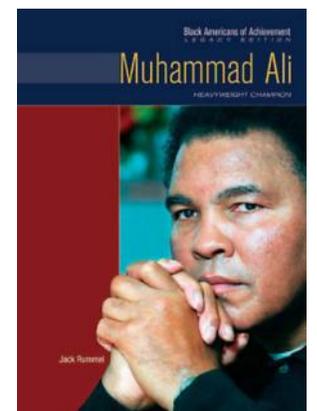
The book, *Mohammed Ali*, by Jack Rummel, is about a guy that was the three-time World Heavyweight Champion of boxing and sometimes said things that people didn't like. During his boxing matches, he was hit on his head many times and eventually

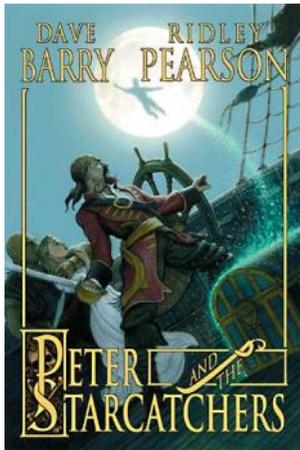
came down with Parkinson's disease.

The story begins in the 1960's, when Ali converts to Islam. Then, in 1964, he became a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, because he felt killing was immoral and contrary to his religious beliefs.

I like this story, because Mohammed Ali's life is really interesting. The book gives you a lot of info, and you might not want to put it down once you start reading it.

I think both boys and girls, even if they don't like boxing, will like this book. ❖





## Peter and The Starcatchers

By Chloe

The book, *Peter and the Starcatchers*, by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, is a book for all ages.

Everyone has heard of Peter Pan, but people may wonder and ask themselves, “Who taught him how to fly?” “Where did he come from?” Well then . . . this book may

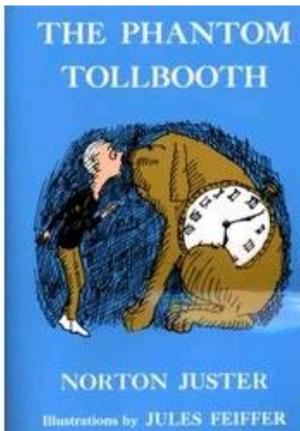
answer all of your questions.

This book is filled with secrets, background information, and, of course, ADVENTURE!

Peter gets shipwrecked along with the lost boys, Molly, a crew mate, the leader, and some evil and tricky pirates. Molly was a de-

scendant from a Starcatcher. On the ship was a large trunk that holds many secrets, and will hold the key to the secret of Peter’s flying talent.

Find out more by reading, *Peter and the Starcatchers!* It is a book that is hard to put down once you start reading it. ❖



## The Phantom Tollbooth

By Shaun

It was another gloomy day for a boy named Milo until he finds the phantom tollbooth. Curious, he drives through the tollbooth in his toy car and finds himself in another world called the Kingdom of Wisdom.

After talking to the Whether Man, he finds himself lost in the Doldrums where he finds a dog named Tock. He and Tock travel to Dictionopolis, where they are sent on a quest along with a bug-looking character named Humbug.

Milo finds out that there is discord in the Kingdom of Wisdom, because the rulers did not agree with the Princesses Rhyme and Reason who

said that numbers and letters were equally important. So they decide to rescue the princesses.

Along the way, they meet Alec Bings, a boy who can see through things. They also meet the Giant, Midget, Fat Man, and Thin Man.

They find Illusions and Reality, and then meet Chroma, the conductor of color. When Milo finishes his task for Chroma (along with a mistake), they travel to Digitopolis, which is the kingdom of the ruler, Mathemagician.

As Milo and his friends travel to the digital city, they jump to the Island of Conclusions and meet Canby. After

swimming back to land, they finally make it to Digitopolis, where they meet lots of people like in the other kingdom Dictionopolis.

There they meet Dr. Kakofonous A. Dischord who is a scientist who creates awful sounds, DYNNE who collects noises for Dr. Kakofonous Dischord, and the Soundkeeper who loves silence.

Milo and his friends have more adventures in Digitopolis and then travel to the Mountains of Ignorance and find some Demons along the way

Read *The Phantom Tollbooth* to find out what happens. ❖

## Spunky Ramona

By Kahea

Are you bright and spunky like Ramona? A great book is *Ramona's World* by Beverly Cleary.

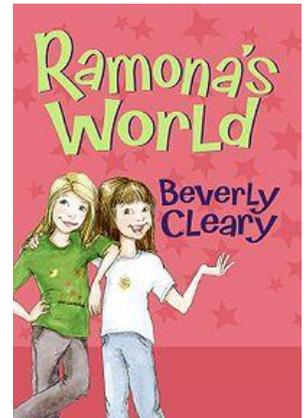
Ramona is in fourth grade, and her best friend is Daisy Kidd. She goes to school. The story takes place in her neighborhood, a normal neighborhood.

My favorite character is Ramona, because she does lots of funny things. She teach her younger sister lots of things and puts up with her older sister Beezus.

The book is fun to read because of the colorful descriptions, and the author's clear explanations.

This book is good for girls in second grade through fourth grade. It is the perfect book to read anywhere at night in the car. Just don't read it in the car if you get car sick.

After you read *Ramona's World*, it will be one of your favorite books. ❖



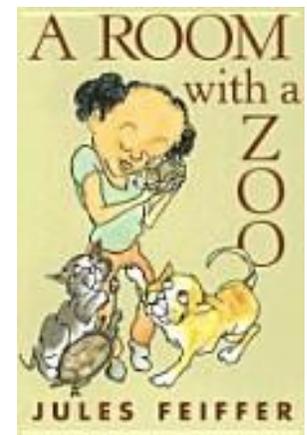
## Room with a Zoo

By Olivia

The book, *Room with a View*, is written by Jules Feiffer. It is a great book, because it's so funny. It's about a girl who loves animals and makes a zoo in her room

of her apartment. The girl's name is Julie, and I like her because she cares about her animals. It is a good story, and anybody who likes animals will love it!

You cannot put down a *Room with a Zoo* until you have finished it. It's very exciting, and the characters are super nice. I recommend this book to girls ages 7-12. ❖



## No Fear is Too Big for This School

By Chloe

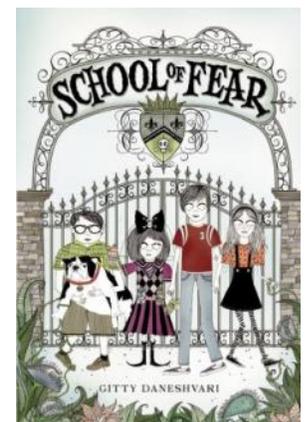
The *School of Fear* by Gitty Daneshvari is great for all ages and genders.

What happens to a kid who is afraid of something? Welcome to the School of Fear. Yikes! That thought hits Madeleine, Theo, Lulu, and Garrison, who are the only

students at the School of Fear. Madeleine is deathly afraid of bugs, especially spiders. Theo is scared of dying. Lulu is scared of confined spaces, and Garrison is terrified of deep water. Big Time! After spreading vasoline on teeth, sniffing disgusting aro-

mas, and more, the final test stumped them all!

Will they pass the test and overcome their fears? Will they conquer their fears in six weeks or find out just how frightening failing can be? Find out in *The School of Fear*. Read it if you dare! ❖





## Smile

By Julia

The name of the book is *Smile*. It is about a teenage girl who knocks out her two front teeth. If you have read any book by Raina Telegmier, you'll probably like this book.

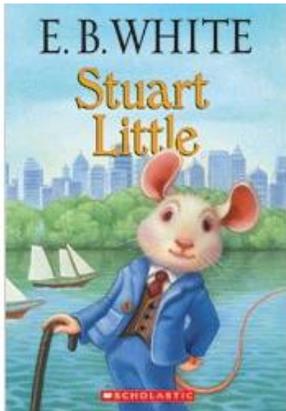
Raina knocks her teeth out in her front yard. She goes to the dentist like ten times a year. When she went to school

everyone started laughing. Raina looked like a vampire.

My favorite character is Raina, because she is extremely funny and a little weird. Others might like the book, because all of the characters are funny, and there are hard words to read, which makes the book challenging.

The book is written like a comic book, and the illustrations make it really fun. There also are very weird and disgusting things like spitting fights in the book. This book is for boys and girls but mostly girls.

If you like comics, a good story, funny situations, and colorful characters, read this book. ❖



## Stuart Little

By Sydney

Are you a mouse person? I know I'm not ... but if you are, you'll love *Stuart Little*! The book *Stuart Little* is by E.B. White. It is about a mouse who lives in New York City. Surprisingly, he lives with HUMANS!!

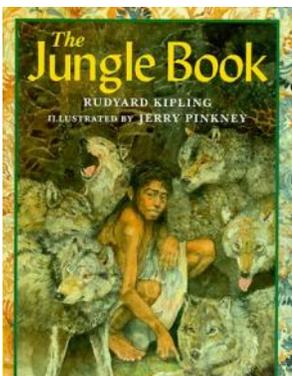
There are many characters in the story. For ex-

ample, George. George is a boy who is friends with Stuart. Also George's parents are characters too. My favorite character is Stuart, because he is funny and cute.

Do you like stories that are weird, have an adventure, and in which animals are friends with

people? If you do, you'll love this book!

I like this book, because I like books with animals that don't talk. I also think ages 8-10 will love this book. This book is really good, so you should borrow it from the library and read it. ❖



## The Jungle Book

By Marcus

The *Jungle Book* was written by Rudyard Kipling. The story is about a boy named Mowgli that was adopted by wolves. Baloo, the bear,

and Bagheera, the black panther, teach Mowgli the law of the jungle. But there is Shere Khan, the tiger, that wants to kill him.

It is a fun and exciting book to read. There is a lot of adventure in store for Mowgli.

This is a good book for kids ages 9-12. ❖

## The Saint of Dragons

By Jason

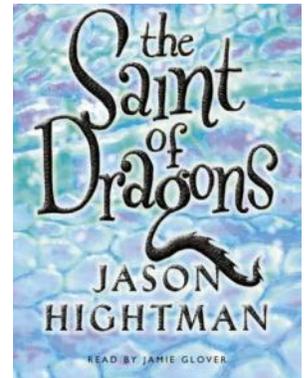
Simon Saint George has never met his parents. Then, a person comes and claims to be his father. The mysterious man says that he is a descendent of England's Saint George, a dragon fighter. Simon doesn't believe him. Simon

thought, "Why should I believe him." But what if the man is telling the truth? Then the man saves the Simon from a dragon trying to attack him, and in the process, the man gets killed.

Simon then goes all over the world trying to

find dragons, but it's hard to find them because the modern dragon looks like a human.

*The Saint of Dragons*, by Jason Hightman, is a good book that boys or girls will enjoy if they like stories about dragons. ❖



## The Schwa was Here

By Nick

If you are looking for a new book to read, *The Schwa was Here*, is the one. The book is by Neal Shusterman. It is about a boy named Antsy, noticing someone that nobody notices, Calvin Schwa. The Schwa can be invis-

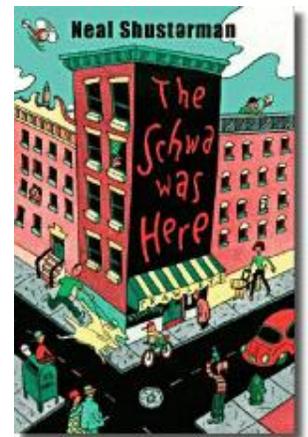
ble to everyone around him.

The local boys bet the Schwa to enter the home of the mean millionaire, Mr. Crawley, who owns the local restaurant. They are caught and Antsy and Calvin have to

do community service for Mr. Crawley.

Then, Antsy falls in love with someone. To find out the end, read *The Schwa was Here*.

I recommend this book for boys from 10 to 30 years old. ❖



## The Zombie Chasers

By Chris

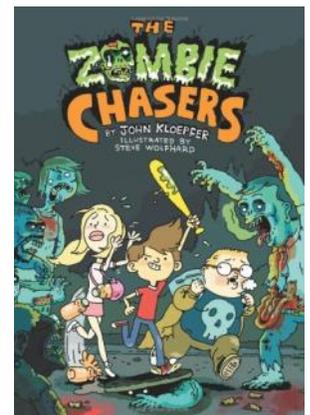
What would you do if your town was invaded by zombies? In *The Zombie Chasers*, by John Kloepfer and illustrated by Steve Wolfhard, that's what happens. The book is about Zack Clarke, his friend Rice, and his sister Zoe's

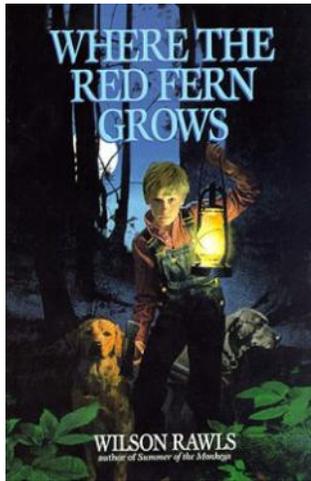
friend, Madison. Their town was invaded by Zombies, and everyone else has been turned into a zombie.

Zack tries to kill zombies with a plastic baseball bat. Madison kills zombies with a fire extinguisher. They went to

Rice's house and Rice read the *Zombie Guide* book.

The book is really funny but also gory. It is better for older kids to read. I like this book very much but check with your parents before you read it. ❖





## Boys and Dogs vs. Coons in the Wild

By Holden

**W**here the Red Fern Grows is very catchy and thrilling. In this exciting tale of love and friendship, a boy named Billy and his two dogs pass time together hunting for raccoons near and far.

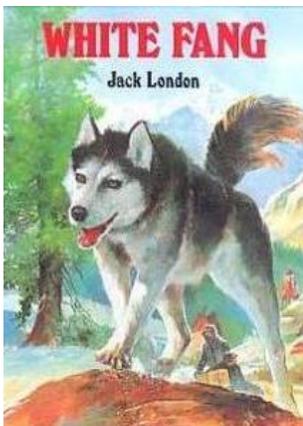
Back in the old days of the 1910s-1920s, he and his dogs were the best hunting team in the country. He trained his dogs by using an old coon-skin he caught to help them know all of a coon's

tricks. One of his dogs was very brawny and always went into a fight first. His other dog was way smarter and waited for the other dog to go in before coming herself.

One day, they were invited to a championship coon hunt. One contest was for best-looking dog. He entered his girl dog. After many dogs were disqualified, his dog won. Then, there was an elimination which each set of dogs

had to tie or beat last night's catches. The top two sets of dogs qualify for the championship runoff.

Billy's dogs caught three coons to tie. Then, in the championship, they caught three coons in one tree and one more to win the championship. This book, written by Wilson Rawls, is for all genders and ages 9 and up. Reading this five-star book is sensational and thrilling. ❖



## Wondrous White Fang

By Emma

**W**hite Fang pulled the sled with a few other dogs in Antarctica but he was different. White Fang was born and raised in the wild. He was a different color than all the puppies in the litter. He was gray and also he was half dog, half wolf. One day, he got captured by Indians and only one was nice to him. Then White Fang lost to a fight and got

sold to another Indian who was very mean. White Fang wanted to escape but could not.

But he finally did escape, and he was back in the wild. He was free, but he also knew he had to be more aggressive to get his own water and food. Will White Fang survive? Will he get captured again? Will he learn how to live in the wild again?

I think this is a good book for all ages. You always want to read more, and it gets sad, but then happy.

*White Fang*, written by Jack London, is a great classic, and it has lots of adventure and action. This is an excellent book to read, especially if you like animals and nature. It is an outstanding, awesome, and interesting novel. ❖



### LEARN HOW TO PLAY CHESS

This program is open to kids ages 8-16. Instruction (with time for free play) is provided by library volunteer Frank Duane. For more information call 310-377-9584 x551. The program is held on Saturdays from 2-5 p.m. at the Malaga Cove Library, 2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates.



## The Ranger's Apprentice

By Ishan

Will is an orphan who lives in Castle Redmont in the Kingdom of Aurlean. He and his wardmates are of age to be chosen as apprentices. He always dreamed of going to Battleschool, so he could become "a mighty warrior" like his father. But, on the choosing day, he is denied from every craftsman except one, the mysterious ranger, Halt, and even he might deny Will.

Within one day, Halt decides that Will would make the perfect apprentice ranger. The Rangers Corp. is a highly trained stealth corps in the Aurleanian military and finding a suitable ranger is exceedingly rare.

Later, Will is taken to

live in Halt's cottage on the edge of the forest. During his training, Halt always said, with a little bit more practice you can actually achieve mediocrity with already being a natural.

Soon Will excelled at his training and was going to be tested for being able to start the second stage of his training at the annual ranger meet.

Strangely, the leader of the kingdom's calvary died by a heart attack a little bit before they left. Therefore, at the meet Will couldn't be tested, because Will was sent to investigate with Halt and Halt's former apprentice, Gillian. They also quickly form a bond on their travels through the howling plains. They also re-

veal the culprits, the twin Kalkara who used to be part of a triplet. They have a waxed interwoven hair armor, stand over eight feet tall, have a gaze that can kill, and only one fear, fire.

Most of the Castle Redmont's warriors—including the Baron and the three rangers—are engaged in the fearsome battle to kill the Kalkara in the Ruins of Gorlan.

Who will prevail when Will is their last hope? Read *The Ranger's Apprentice—Book One: The Ruins of Gorlan* by John Flanagan to find out. This is the first book in a series that follows Will's adventures to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe. ❖



## Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

By Carter

The name of the book is *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, and it is the fourth book in the *Harry Potter* series written by J.K. Rowling.

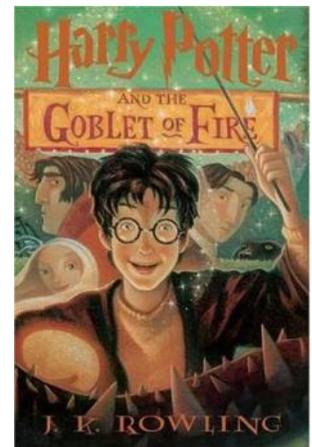
The main characters are Harry, Ron and Hermione. They are best friends and students at Hogwarts School of

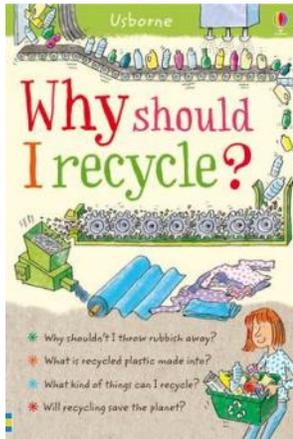
Witchcraft and Wizardry. They are trying to protect the school and the world from the evil Lord Voldemort.

The book is about the Ministry turning against Harry. There is a competition where contestants use magic to win an awesome trophy.

I like this story because there are a lot of explosions, magic, action, and mystery. The book was also made into a movie.

This book is very awesome. I think 9-year old boys will like this story. Girls will probably like it too. ❖





## Learn to Recycle

By Naoya

Learn to recycle with tips from *Why Should I Recycle*, written by Susan Meredith. Her well-written book talks about the pros and cons of waste, talks about methods of recycling, and talks about burying and incinerating garbage.

This rich reference book is very precise. If you get this book, I'm

sure your questions about recycling will be answered.

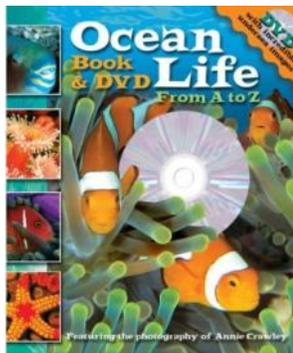
When you read it, you do not need to read it in any particular order. That means, if you read it, you can skim through the book to find the answers to your questions.

*Why Should I Recycle?* is quite decent with easy vocabulary. It is neatly

organized so it's easy to find the information you need.

You will probably like this book if you are seven to ten years old.

If you read this amazing book, you will be aware of all the latest trends in recycling. The only requirements are a productive mind and open imagination. ❖



## Ocean Life

By Julia

The ocean is very interesting. It has many different animals. The ocean is very big and covers nearly seven-tenths of the earth's surface. All of the animals are protected by their special qualities.

Interesting things in the tidepools are starfish,

sea urchins, hermit crabs, and sometimes you can find abalone. There are all different kinds of crabs like sand crabs, shore crabs, hermit crabs, and sea crabs. One of my favorite sea animals are sea turtles, but my most favorite are dolphins.

Did you know that jellyfish are 98% water? Interesting, isn't it? An octopus has three hearts. I couldn't believe it when I read it in *Ocean Life from A to Z* by Cynthia Stierle and Annie Crawley. It is a great book to read if you like learning about the ocean. ❖



## Language Learning with Instant Immersion

By Naoya

Instant Immersion, Levels 1, 2 and 3, is a language learning program published by TOPICS Entertainment. It is software compatible with Microsoft Windows XP/Vista/7 and Mac OS X 10.3.9 or higher. It is

very well-priced at just \$49.95. The software comes in a set of 9 discs (or 8 discs if it is a Chinese or Japanese version). Instant Immersion uses natural image association to teach you a new language. The method is

very effective. The software doesn't show native speakers, but instead shows an English person. Compared to Rosetta Stone, the price is \$500.00 less. Instant Immersion has 9 discs while Rosetta Stone has 3 discs. ❖

## Karate Kid

By Eunice

The movie, *Karate Kid*, is rated PG-13 and is an action drama movie that is better for kids thirteen and older.

The main actor is Jaden Smith, and the movie is about Jaden Smith, who moves with his mom from Detroit to China. There he gets beaten up by bullies and

meets the manager of his apartment building, played by Jackie Chan. Jackie Chan teaches him karate and helps him prepare for a tournament.

The story takes place in present day. It has a lot of drama but also is fun. There is a lot of fighting, so it might not

be good for younger children. Since it is rated PG-13, you should be thirteen and older to see the movie unless your parents let you watch it.

The ending song is sung by Jaden Smith and Justin Bieber. I think families and older kids will enjoy watching *Karate Kid*. ❖



## Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

By Nicole

The PG movie, *Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, is a fantasy movie when Lucy, Edmund, and Eustace are sucked up into Narnia. They are stuck in the middle of the ocean when Caspian's ship, the "Dawn Treader," and his crew sail by. Luckily,

they spot Lucy, Edmund, and Eustace, and the three are saved.

On board, they learn that the ship is headed to find the seven lost lords. While sailing, they see land and step on islands where they find out about green fog that swallows up people as a

sacrifice for others. They learn that the fog can only be stopped by the seven swords of the seven lost lords.

To find out whether they find the seven swords and defeat the dangerous green fog, watch the movie. It is out on DVD. ❖



## Legend of the Mystical Ninja

By Aimee

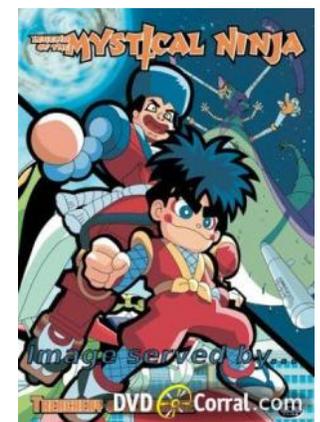
*Legend of the Mystical Ninja* is a PG-rated action anime, recommended for boys and girls who are eight to twenty years old.

In Japan, a bad video game character who

wants to take over the world gets out of the video game into the human world. Ninjas from the same video game come and stop the bad guy with the help of a human boy.

I liked watching this anime. It is fun to watch, had a good story, and was animated well.

Just like a good book, this good anime makes you want to keep watching. ❖





## SpongeBob SquarePants

By Steven

**S**ponge Bob SquarePants is an awesome cartoon. The TV series became so popular that it was made into a PG movie.

SpongeBob is a sea sponge who lives in a pineapple, and the series and movies takes place in Bikini Bottom. SpongeBob works at The Krusty Krab as a cook. Patrick Star is a seastar who is SpongeBob's best friend, and gets SpongeBob into

trouble. Squidward is a squid who is SpongeBob and Patrick's neighbor and also works at the Krusty Krab. Eugene Krabs is the owner of The Krusty Krab, whose daughter is Pearl Krabs. Mr. Krab's enemy is Sheldon J. Plankton.

Gary SquarePants is a sea snail, and SpongeBob's pet. Larry the Lobster is a lifeguard, and Poppy Puff teachings

boating. The Flying Dutchman is a pirate ghost.

The SpongeBob SquarePants movie is about a bunch of fish doing fun things together. I think it is a funny movie and everybody is a little weird. You can watch the series on the Nickelodeon channel, or watch the movie on DVD. This is a fun show to watch. Go SpongeBob! ❖



## Star Wars

By Tucker

**O**ne of my favorite movie series is *Star Wars*. There were six movies, and all of them are rated PG except for *Revenge of the Sith*, which is rated PG-13. There is a lot of action

and a lot of great characters.

The story is about Darth Vader and the Sith, and their fight with those who want to restore the Jedi. A lot of the action is fights between the

Jedi and the Sith. They are cool movies and a lot of fun – but not funny. The *Star Wars* movies are available on DVD. Boys, girls, and families will like watching the *Star Wars* movies. ❖



## Star Wars: The Clone Wars

By Siddh

**S**tar Wars: *The Clone Wars* is rated PG. The movie involves a lot of action and drama. The main characters are Mace Windu, Anakin Skywalker, General Grievous, Jabba the Hut, Asajj Ventress, Count Dooku, and R2D2.

The movie is about the Clone wars, and how the light sabers deflect bullets. In a desert, Jabba the Hutt's son Rotta is kidnapped by Separatists. Anakin Skywalker and Ahsoka Tano set out to rescue Rotta.

*Star Wars: The Clone Wars* is an awesome animated movie. The movie is available on DVD and here is a series on Cartoon Network. Boys will like this movie, because of the fighting, action and drama. ❖

## Have a Laugh with Despicable Me

By Olivia

This movie is super funny! It's rated PG. If you like comedy, you'll love it. You'll like it if you're a boy, girl, or even an adult of any age. It's

about a villain that adopts three girls.

Just to let you know, it has a little bit of romance. Also, there's another villain named Vec-

tor trying to mess things up.

*Despicable Me* is now out on DVD, and if you watch it, I'm sure you'll enjoy it. ❖



## Despicable Me is not so Despicable

By Chloe

All villains are evil, but what about Gru? Gru wants to outsmart Vector, because he was the topmost evil villain so far. Gru plans to steal the moon by using a shrink ray, but Vector steals the shrink ray. Gru tries to steal it back, but every attempt he makes for breaking into Vector's lab fails. Then, one day, he sees three orphan sisters selling

cookies to Vector . . . and in they went. How simple! All Gru had to do was adopt those three girls and while they sell Vector cookies, he will sneak in with his two sidekicks, the "minions."

Gru, with the help of his minions and thousands of "cookie-bots," gets the shrink ray and the girls. Being evil, doesn't mean that you always have to act evil, right?

After some carnival fun, shopping, and bedtime stories, Gru becomes a father of his own family and slowly learns what family and love really means.

Will Gru face the challenge of being a father of three or will he send them back to the orphanage and continue being a villain? Find out more by watching this touching movie! ❖



## Soccer is a Sensational Sport

By Jady

Soccer is very fun. It is a team sport. *Forwards* are the team's offense. Forwards try to score goals. *Middlefielders* are midway between the forwards and defense.

They are perhaps the hardest working players on the team. *Middlefielders* work as both forwards and defenders. *Defenders* work near the goal. They defend the

goal, stopping other opponents from scoring.

A soccer game starts with a coin toss. Players wear shorts, jerseys, cleats, and shin guards. ❖





## How to Be a Good Owner

*By Alexis*

If you want to be a good owner, dogs need a lot of exercise, so take them on walks often. There are lots of places in Palos Verdes where you can walk your dog. You can

play games with your dog too, like catch with a ball, to keep it healthy.

To keep your dog clean, brush every part of it to keep its fur from being tangled. You also

might want to wash it, and be sure to have your parents get a license for the dog.

Dogs can be your best friend, so make sure you treat them like one!❖



## Dogs

*By Kahea*

Most people say that their favorite animal is a dog. This is because dogs are helpful to humans. For example, guide dogs help blind people get around. Also, dogs are great companions, and easy to care for.

To take care of your dog, you have to feed,

comb, and love it. My favorite type of dog is a Golden Retriever. I like Golden Retrievers because when my neighbors were in the hospital, they let me walk their Golden Retrievers. They are beautiful dogs with a yellow-gold coat, and very friendly and lovable.

I also like Beagles. They have short hair and are smaller than Golden Retrievers. Beagles are especially fun to play with, and they can suck up spills like a vacuum.

In conclusion, dogs are playful, protective friends that will always be there for you.❖



## Guard Dogs and Gun Dogs

*By Sarah*

I have always loved my dog and that's why I have a passion for dogs. There are many different types of dogs, and we cover just a few of them in this article.

Guard dogs are Kees-hond from the Netherlands that were originally used to guard barges. A Boxer is also a type of guard dog. Other guard dogs are Bull Mastiffs,

Schipperkes, Rottweilers, Bulldogs, Great Danes, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Karabash dogs, Leonberger Dogs, Estrela Mountain Dogs, and Dalmations. A Newfoundland giant Schnauzer, a standard Schnauzer, a miniature Schnauzer, a Bernese Mountain Dog, and a St. Bernard are guard dogs too, so watch out!

Gun dogs help hunters find and retrieve game. Spaniels are good gun dogs, including the Welsh Springer Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel, American Cocker Spaniel, Field Spaniel, Sussex Spaniel, and the Irish Spaniel.

If you don't like dogs yet, I hope you will soon. I was attacked by a dog when I was three, but I still love dogs!❖

## Dogs that Help

By Kaiya

Even though dogs can be fun friends, they can also be helper dogs. Some dogs help blind people. Some dogs are guard dogs. Dogs do many other

things to help people. Dogs can go to the hospital and cheer up sick kids. Dogs can also take messages to people. Dogs can herd sheep and cows.

Dogs are very brave animals. If you are going to get a pet, think about getting a dog. I think that dogs are the best animals ever! ❖



## Fun and Cuddly Hamsters

By Loren

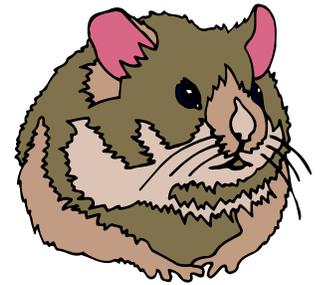
What animal has round eyes, ears for hearing, and soft fur for warmth? A hamster! A hamster also has a tiny tail for communicating, and whiskers for sensors. Their front paws help them groom, walk and hold food, and their paws have sharp claws for grip-

ping. In the hamster's mouth, are long, front teeth.

Just like other animals, baby hamsters are called cubs. When they are born, their eyes are closed, and they have no fur. In a litter, a mother hamster has about five to nine cubs.

When cubs are about four weeks old, they are old enough to live without their mother and become a pet. Even though hamsters are easy to take care of, you have to take care of them properly.

If you want a fun, cuddly pet, you might think about a hamster! ❖



## Cute Kittens

By Katherine

Kittens are cute and interesting to learn about. If you decide to get one, getting ready is important. Prepare a bed, a pet carrier, food, bowls, and a litter box. Additional things like toys, grooming tools, and nail

clippers may be needed too.

When your kitten comes home, let the kitten take its time to settle in. Show the kitten where the water and food bowls and the litter box are. If your friends want to see

your kitten, let your kitten get used to your home first. Remember, your kitten will need love, so don't leave it alone! Having a kitten may be fun, but remember all the hard work you will need to do. ❖



## Diary of a Pencil



*By Holden*

**May 6, 2010:** Hi. I am a pencil. I am unsharpened inside a twelve-pack box. Life is great. We play tag all day.

**May 7, 2010:** I was taking a long nap when suddenly, our box was being lifted up. We fell this way and that, and then there was sharp and swift fall as we were dropped into a bag.

At that time, I didn't realize we were being bought until I heard a car engine. Then, I felt a sudden lurch as the car stopped and a bang as the car door closed. I wonder what comes next?

**May 8, 2010:** I felt something rather slimy take me out of the box and peered into the eye of a rather filthy young human. He stuck me into a pencil sharpener, which tickled, but I thought my sharp point looked quite good.

**May 8, 2010:** After getting my sharp point, the young human began running me all over a piece of paper, and I left dark grey marks all over it.

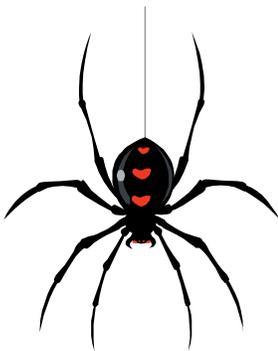
**May 9, 2010:** More of the same again. It gave me a tickly sensation, and I felt myself getting duller.

My nice sharp point is looking really dull. The person using me finally left. I scribbled over his words. Ha! I thought I will get my revenge.

**May 10, 2010:** I found my way back to my friends! We plotted together on how to break out. We decided that we would make a fake pencil as a distraction out of broken lead and wood. Then, we'd climb out through the window.

**May 11, 2010:** It worked! I am here right now, because a big, friendly dog carried us to safety. ❖

## Diary of a Spider



*By Erik*

**June 7, 2002:** Today, I am going to the doctor.

**June 8, 2002:** The doctor said I had too many legs, because I have 23.

**June 9, 2002:** Tomorrow I start school. I'm nervous. What if everybody else does not eat bugs?

**June 10, 2002:** Everybody eats bugs.

**June 11, 2002:** Today, I

got my own room. It is made out of a web.

**June 14, 2002:** Today, somebody destroyed my room. My dad made me a new one.

**June 15, 2002:** I almost got killed by a human, when the human tried to destroy my web.

**June 13, 2002:** I think my brother is spying on me right now. I tried to

run away from him, but he is almost as fast as me.

**June 23, 2002:** Today, I got in huge trouble at school, they thought I used my web to cheat on my test! I had to spin "I will not cheat" 100 times.

**June 25, 2002:** Summer vacation! Time for web surfing! ❖

PressFriends January 2011 PV Kids News Workshop



## Are you interested in saving our planet?

### **EARTH DAY AT THE PROMENADE**—April 16, from 12-4 p.m.

Hosted by the City of Rolling Hills Estates, Promenade of the Peninsula, South Bay Environmental Services Center, and Waste Management, come visit **PressFriends** and the PV Library District, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Carrot Project, Mothers Advocating Prevention, and many more exhibits. Entertainment will be provided by our local school groups, so join us for a fun day of music and community while finding out ways that we can preserve our environment.

### **EARTH DAY AT THE LIBRARY**—April 22 from 4-5 p.m.

The Palos Verdes Library District is offering a free Young Readers program in the Community Room of Peninsula Center library for the whole family, featuring crafts, displays, community information, face painting, and games.

### **EARTH DAY AT THE CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM**—April 23 from 10am-4 pm

Start with a beach cleanup from 8-10am. Then from 10am-4pm in the main aquarium, the festivities begin with live music, eco-conscious exhibitors, eco-crafts, movie screenings and so much more!

**PV KIDS NEWS CONTEST!!!** Submit an article to *PV Kids' News* on ways that kids can help save our planet, and the winners will be published in the Spring 2011 issue. Your submission should be 150-250 words long, typed and sent by your parent by email to [info@pressfriends.org](mailto:info@pressfriends.org).

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