



MENTOR'S NOTE



Turn on your flashlight for *Lit Kids Magazine's* third issue, THINGS IN THE NIGHT!

A quick introduction to our mission: this online literary magazine publishes writing, photography, and artwork from children ages 5 to 13 quarterly! Our team consists of creative volunteers who mentor the kids through a month-long revision process. Some children participate in the free mentorship, and others opt to use their original submitted work. Either way, *Lit Kids Magazine* gives kids a clue what it's like to publish their work professionally.

For Issue 3, we received some extraordinary work from talented kiddos all over the world. Within the following pages, you'll find a variety of interpretations of the word "NIGHT" which will no doubt make you pause and ponder. When we chose the theme, THINGS IN THE NIGHT, our mentors intended the issue to have a spooky spin. The children had their own plan in mind, much to our benefit. Adults tend to associate nighttime with horror and fear, but the same bias doesn't burden kids. Many of the pieces below feature an appreciation for nocturnal animals, capture just how alive the night can be, and teach that we don't always have to be afraid of the dark!

Congratulations to all the children who contributed to Issue 3. You are each a brilliant star lighting up the night! Stay creative, and keep shining!

Happy Reading,

Rebecca Weber

Lit Kids Magazine's Mentor-In-Chief

P.S. If you enjoy Issue 3, please check out *Lit Kids Magazine's* earlier issues, and subscribe to our website to receive notifications when we publish new material. And if you know a creative kid who enjoys writing, art, or photography, point them to our website or social media accounts. We open to submissions four times a year!





WRITING



Shreya is a 13-year-old poetry enthusiast who enjoys writing Haiku, Free Verse, and the occasional Limerick to express herself artistically. When she is not writing, her other hobbies include playing the piano, reading, and taking walks outside in nature.

The Bridge

by Shreya J. Singh

A cold
Winter night
Frosty stars
All invisible,
Outshone
By the light
Of the cities
On both sides,
Wind whips
Past cars
Over the water
Through the bridge
Shining,
Lit within

By bright white lights

Illuminating

Rusty orange

Against a black sky,

Suspended

Above

The icy

Pacific,

Bridging

The Bay.

Moonrise

by Shreya J. Singh

The sunset

In the valley

Peach,

Then lavender,

Stripes

Under the trees,

The buildings,

The flyovers,

As the moon

Rises

Shining white

In the darkening sky,

The amber glow

Of an urban sprawl

Not diminishing

Its silvery glow.

Natalie loves to draw and write. She is very creative and loves to express herself through her work. She lives in Florida with her parents and little sister, Lizbee. She loves her two black cats - Lulu and Lexie, who inspired her writing and artwork for this issue. When she is not in school, she loves to draw, roller skate and play Roblox with her friends.

Midnight the black cat

by Natalie Marker

Lurking in the night is a black cat, Midnight. She runs around hurting lizards, pouncing on the ground. Her tail wags back and forth as she sees her next prey. Once it hits midnight she runs back home till the next day. At her home she is given lots of love and looks back at the sky above. It's night again and she knows it's time to go back out into the night again.

Evie Cloes is 12 years old and lives near Bristol, England.

FOREST PREY

by Evie Cloes

Calm silence as the sun departs,

Shooting stars like flying darts,

The tiny sphere so far away,

Its only task to end the day,

Stars strung together like spider web,

Dwindling light beginning to ebb,

The lamps flicker and die,

Wind heaves with a sigh,

And all is silent.

The crimson foxes open their eyes

Sleepy badgers slowly arise,

Deafening bats shriek with glee,

Tawny owl soars off her tree,

The starry sky now dark ink,

The night animals start to slink,

For it is hunting time.

The nocturnal forest now awake,

The forest floor starts to shake,

As small paws thunder the ground,

The trees fill with sound.

Prey running, stumbling, tripping,

Predator jaws dripping,

And all is silent again.

Adaline is five years old (almost six!). She lives in Oregon with her family and three pups. Adaline loves to watch movies with her family and friends, play, go camping, watch the strawberry moon, and go on walks. Adaline is French-American and speaks both French and English.

A Mermaid Story: Treasure Chest Party During Christmas Night

by Adaline Turmaud

It's nighttime in the water at Christmas. Tonight it's the party! The mermaid queen and the mermaid princess were ready to have a party during the night. But the princess said "No, no, no, I'm a little scared to have a party at night because of sharks!"

The mermaid queen said "Don't worry my darling, there are no sharks. You will only see fishes. They are not big and they don't have pointy teeth and they won't eat you because they are too tiny."

So, the eight mermaid friends arrive safely to the treasure chest night party at the castle where the queen and princess are. The mermaids are doing a treasure chest hunt party! They are going to find treasure. They are going to see who is first!

"It's just for having fun," the mermaid queen says. But the mermaid queen always has an eye on her sweet little mermaids. All of the mermaids will have fun. They are just a little shy and they are worried that they won't get the treasure. "But everyone is going to work together as a team," says the queen.

At the start of the party, the mermaids had a yummy dessert after their healthy dinner, before having their treasure hunt. After they ate, they went out of the castle. It was dark in the water as they swam, until they saw a seaweed maze! Everyone shouted happily because they saw a seaweed maze! Second, they saw the pretty flowers with the rocks. Behind the rocks, they saw a...tr-, tr-, tr-, treasure chest! And everyone got to have their money, pretty necklaces that shine, and bracelets. "Hip, hip hooray!"

They went back to the castle and the queen was so happy that everyone found the treasure! Everyone did a big squeeze hug and they opened their sweet presents from the mermaid Santa! Then all the mermaids went back to their houses. And the mermaid queen and mermaid princess sat snuggled up on a chair sipping hot cocoa. After, they went to bed and it's finally time for the princess mermaid and queen mermaid to go to sleep. It's the end!

Samantha is 11 years old, and a 6th grade student in Kings Park, New York. Some of her favorite hobbies are playing guitar, writing songs and poems, and reading.

Deep In The Night
by Samantha Scaduto

Deep in the night

By the eerie moonlight

I see what may be

A wind blown kite

Lost from its owner

Bullied by the breeze

Soaring the sky

Over rivers and trees

Sadness overtakes me

And in my mind's eye

I wonder then realize

The reason why

The child or grown-up

Or whoever it had been

Lost their great kite

To the blowing wind

They may not have noticed

But if they had

They watched their toy die

Which is really quite sad

I come back to Earth

And soon realize

The kite disappeared

Right in front of my eyes

I close my eyelids

And beg sleep to come

I want to cry

And scream and run

For mysterious reasons

Not one can explain

In the dead of night

Sleep finally came

You cannot know what time

You fall asleep

But the rest and dreams

Are soft and sweet

Unlike many others

When I wake

I remember my dreams

And make no mistake

I will remember

Each time I may weep

And though I may not share

Their secrets I keep

Like the books I read

And the stories I write

I remember my dreams

In the dead of night

No matter a kite

A book or the sky

We never know what

We never know why

But as the sun rises

And sheds it's light

We know we felt different

Deep in the night

Jamie is a ten-year-old homeschooler living in the mountains of North Carolina. He is a birdwatcher and loves all birds, especially Vultures. He also enjoys reading and gaming.

Owl of the Night

by Jamie Bartlett

On January 30th, 2024 fire trucks rolled by at the end of my road. Soon, I realized a house was on fire. When I saw what was happening, I stepped out the back door. I had been on the back step for at least ten seconds, when I noticed that a telephone pole close by looked taller than usual. I immediately grabbed my flashlight, aiming the beam up to the top of the telephone pole, revealing a beautiful owl. Not just any owl, but a Great Horned Owl. It felt like one of the best moments of my life. The feathers on his back were light grey, and he was about twenty inches tall. I couldn't believe I was looking at one of the most stunning animals in the world. I turned to reach for my binoculars, but when I turned back around he had disappeared into the dark.



PHOTOGRAPHY

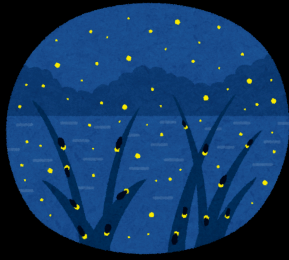


Adaline is five years old (almost six!). She lives in Oregon with her family and three pups. Adaline loves to watch movies with her family and friends, play, go camping, watch the strawberry moon, and go on walks. Adaline is French-American and speaks both French and English.

The Night Adventure

by Adaline Turmaud





ART



Lyla loves drawing pictures, Irish step dancing, baking, gardening, and nature. This drawing is a mommy and daughter bat flying together at night. The bats are on their way to a nail salon to get their claws painted, per the artist!

Mommy and Daughter Bats

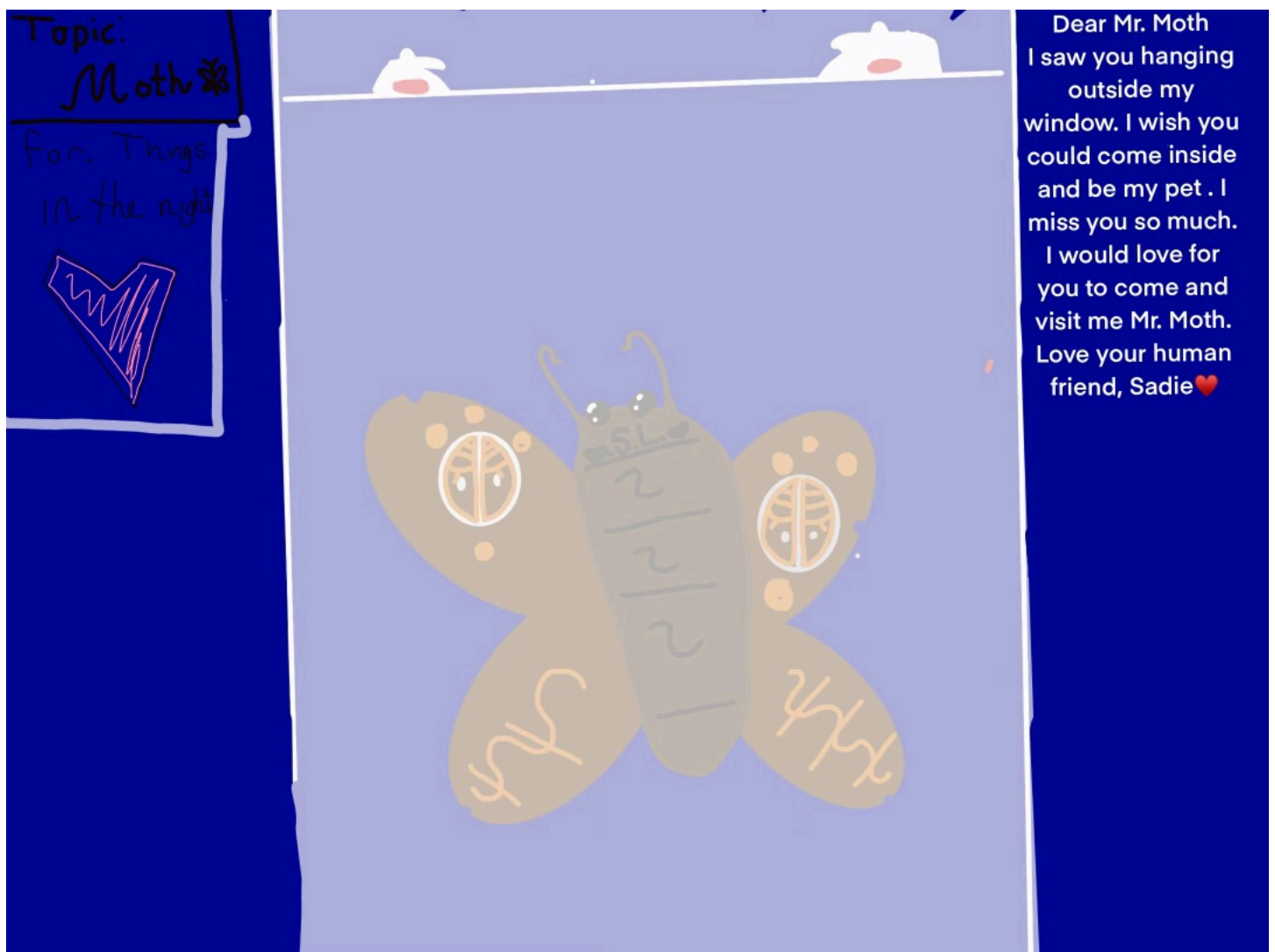
by Lyla Flanagan



Sadie is eight years old and loves writing her own music. She also enjoys drawing cute things on paper or her iPad. Her favorite animal is an elephant. When dreaming of the future, she could see herself as a teacher, singer/songwriter or a zoologist.

Moth

by Sadie Loveland



Levi is an 11-year-old who loves creating art and playing video games. He enjoys being silly and making others smile and laugh. When dreaming about the future, he could see himself as an animator or video

game designer.

Midnight Cat

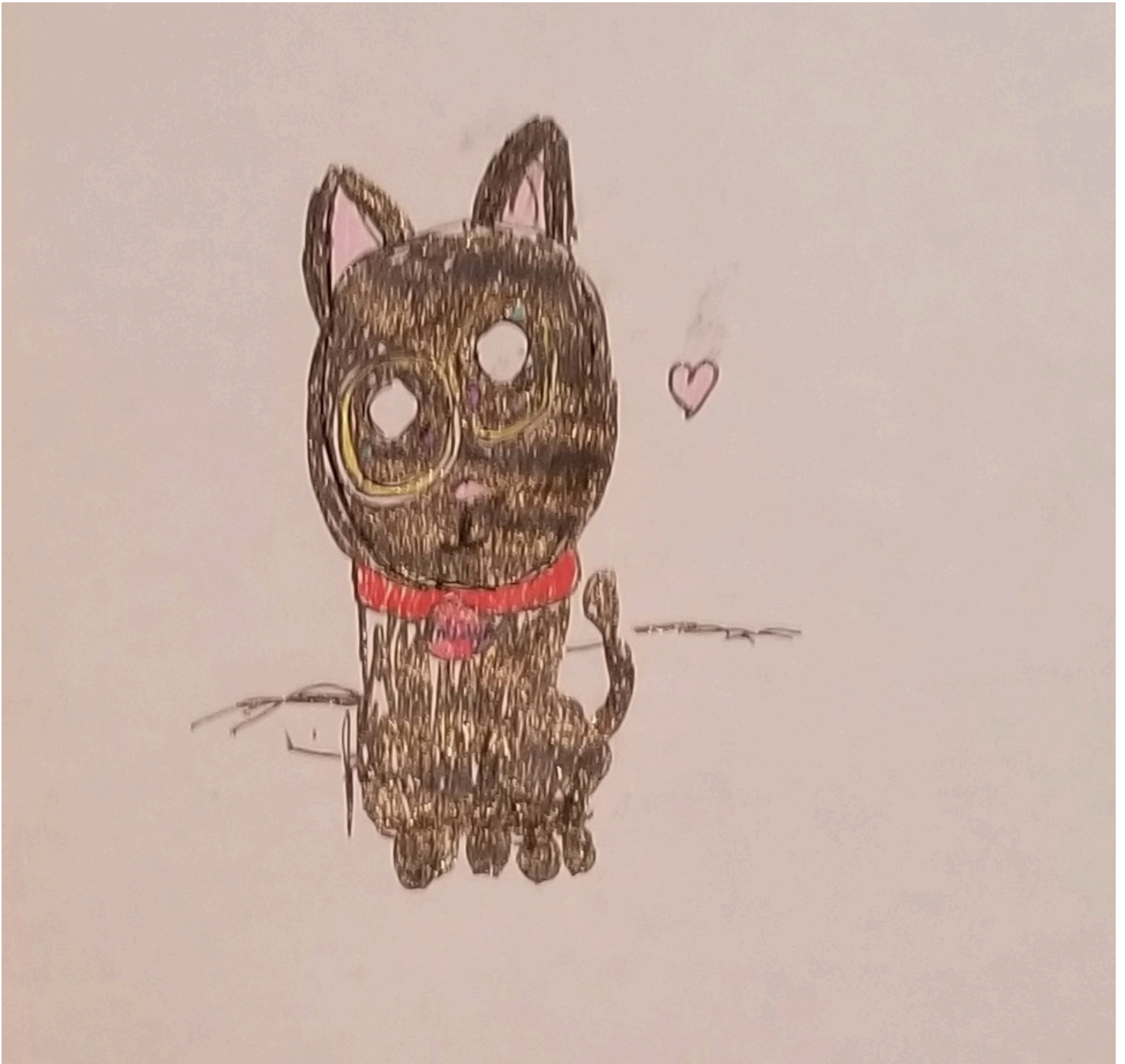
by Levi Loveland



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Midnight the black cat

by Natalie Marker



Summer Palmer is 9 years old. She likes drawing and has been drawing since she was 3 years old. Summer likes wolves a lot and has seen them in person in Washington state. She looks forward to seeing them again.

Series: "*A Trio of Wolves*"

The Dark Night

by Summer Palmer



Yellow Moon Sky

by Summer Palmer



The Blue Wolf

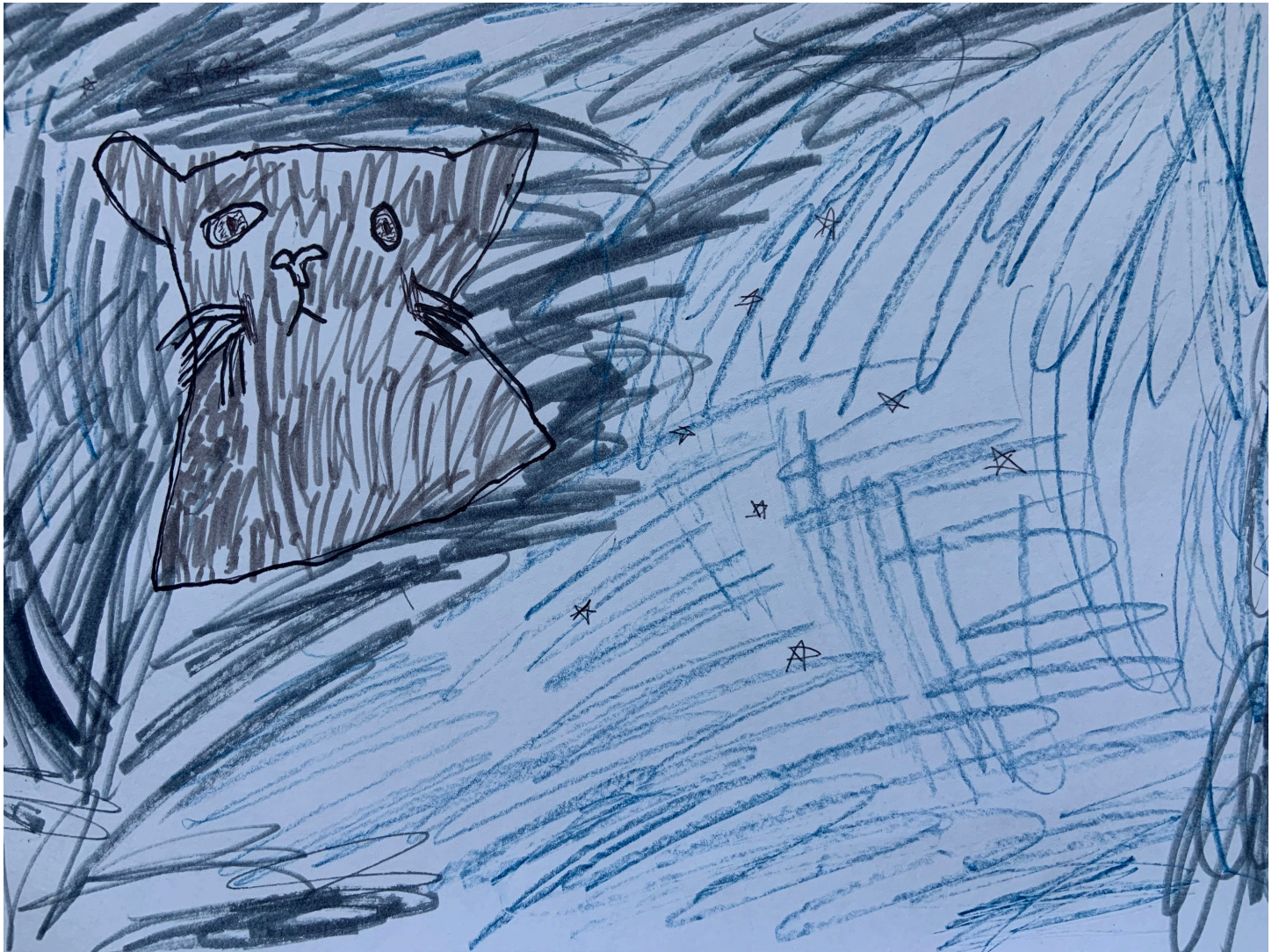
by Summer Palmer



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Cougar Enjoying the Stars

by Adaline Turmaud



THE END

(THE FLASHLIGHT FLICKERS OUT... FOR NOW)