



# MENTOR'S NOTE



Welcome back, readers! Get ready, because *Lit Kids Magazine's* Issue 5: Water is shore to make waves!

Before we dive in, here's a little background about our magazine! *Lit Kids* features creative work by children ages 5 to 13 from all over the world. What sets us apart (besides the amazing kids we work with) is the mentorship program offered for each submission! Our mentors help participants polish their work for publication so the children can experience the publication process firsthand. Whether these kids decide to participate in our mentorship or keep their pieces the same, we're so proud to offer a platform that shines a light on young talent.

Through Issue 5: Water, you'll find an array of interpretations of the theme. These pieces are fluid and cool, just like their namesake; some capture the magical side of water while others pay homage to how essential water is to life on earth. Every piece approaches the theme playfully, drawing from personal experience in one way or another, serving as evidence of how water connects us all. As I peruse this issue, I'm reminded how important it is to appreciate this beautiful blue planet we call our home. We hope you'll use these undertones of hope, resilience, and gratitude to conquer the tumultuous tides in your life. No doubt, the loveliness of rainbows makes the rain worth it.

Congratulations to all the writers, artists, and photographers featured in Issue 5: Water! We're proud of you for sailing through every emotional current. You truly made a splash! Keep shining!

Happy Reading,

Rebecca Weber

*Lit Kids Magazine's* Mentor-In-Chief

P.S. If you enjoy Issue 5, please subscribe to our website to receive updates about open submissions and future issues! Also, if you know a creative kid who deserves the spotlight, point them in our direction. We open to submissions quarterly and can't wait to highlight new talents!



# 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.

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## Waves

by Shreya J. Singh

White froth

Crashes

Against

Jagged stones,

Edges

Worn smooth

Over

Centuries,

Wind whips

Chilling the air,

Liquid glass

In the distance

Reflecting

The sunlight

In blue

Green

And gray,

Concealing

Its frigid

Depths.

Martha is 7 years old and she lives in Yorkshire, England. She loves books and stories and cares about the environment. She loves to share ideas about writing and looking after the planet with people. She has a pet guinea pig named Toffee.

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### **When I Looked Out My Window**

**by Martha Baker**

When I looked out my window

I saw the sea blue

The waves were flowing

The sea was high

I jumped out the door

and said, "Hello sea"

I jumped in the sea

with the blue and the waves

Then I got out

to dry myself off

but the water kept running

inside my veins

Evan is 7, lives with his mum, dad and brother in Norfolk. His favourite book is *James and the Giant Peach* (this week) and his favourite TV show is *Paddington*. He loves writing, especially horror stories.

### Dog Waves

by Evan Fowler Holden

Waves

Attract

The

Excited

Running dogs

Lincoln is an elementary school student who enjoys competitive swimming and playing with his brother.

### My Body.

by Lincoln Chung

If I were a building

I would be a pool.

My skin would be the pool deck

That is very rough.

My blood would be the water



Moving every which way.

My mouth would be the gate

That opens and closes.

My bones would be the fence

Keeping people out of harm's way.

My heart would be the people

With a love for swimming.

My fingers would be the flags

Waving in the wind.

My rib cage would be the lane lines

Cutting the pool in sections.

My voice would be the water splashing

Back and forth as swimmers swim.

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

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**Siren Song**

**by Samantha Scaduto**

Stay away, it's dangerous

The water could overflow

It can't be trusted, keep away

There's danger where it goes

It's crazy, all the rapids

You'll get sucked in and die

You'll drown insane

Now don't complain

And don't you dare ask why

It's evil, can't you see?

It's cursed through every bone

The water and its voice

Is best dead and alone

Its siren song is screeching

Horrible and scratched

Your insides turned to lead

You want your limbs attached

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I sit here alone, dangerous

My tears carve crevices in the shore

My pleading calls are all ignored

I have no hope to sing of anymore

Advay is 11 years old and is in 5th grade.

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## **WATER**

**by Advay Tripathi**

### Introduction

Water is a clear, tasteless, and odorless liquid. Its formula is  $H_2O$ , which means that two molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of oxygen combine to make water. Water also contains minerals like calcium, copper, magnesium, zinc, iron, potassium, sodium, etc. Water is found in 3 states: solid, liquid, and gas.

When liquid water turns solid, it expands by 9%. This is called freezing. When liquid water turns into gas, the process is called evaporation. When a solid turns into a gas yet skips the liquid state is called sublimation.

### Different water sources

Our earth consists of various water sources like oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, swamps, creeks, and ponds. Oceans are the largest water bodies. Swamps and ponds are mostly found in coastal and inland regions and tropical areas. Lakes and ponds are found on every continent, perhaps even near your house. Water sources boost civilization by having people move to nearby water bodies to cultivate crops and collect marine needs such as fish, shrimp, crab, etc. The economy is then boosted by people buying and selling marine products.

### The life cycle of water

The life cycle of water starts from evaporation and transpiration (evaporation from plants). Then, the evaporation and transpiration form a cloud. This stage is called condensation. Transpiration means the movement of clouds by wind currents. When there are many water molecules in a cloud, rain begins to fall as precipitation. When rain hits steep ground, it is called runoff water. When the rainwater falls into the waterbody, it is called collection, and the water cycle starts all over again.

The water cycle in mountainous regions includes precipitation, snowmelt runoff, groundwater recharge, glacier formation, and evaporation. First, the air over mountains cools and causes water vapor to condense and fall as precipitation. Depending on the altitude, precipitation occurs as either snow or rain. Snowmelt runoff happens when snow melts and flows down steep mountains due to gravity. Groundwater recharge occurs when rain seeps into the openings in the landscape. Glacier formation happens when snow compacts into ice and slowly moves down the landscape. Finally, evaporation occurs when water from lakes, rivers, oceans, and seas enters the atmosphere and restarts the cycle.

## Significance of water for the earth

Water is essential for all living beings, as nothing can survive without it. Vegetation, animals, and humans all need water for their daily lives as it provides essential nutrients. The hydrosphere, which consists of all the water on Earth, supports life, regulates the atmosphere, and sustains ecosystems. It plays a vital role in shaping landforms and influencing weather patterns. Water carves through landscapes through the process of weathering, erosion, and deposition. Weathering breaks down rocks, erosion moves the particles, and deposition lays down sediment. This process is how the Grand Canyon was formed by the Colorado River.

## Importance of water for the human body

About 60%-75% of our body is made out of water. Water helps maintain body temperature when we are sweating. It also helps moisturize skin, which gives off a healthier appearance. Water helps in removing wastes from our bodies which keeps our kidneys healthy. It helps to transport oxygen and food to the blood cells and gives energy to our body. Water also lubricates joints and membranes in the lungs and mouth. Water can also control weight. Drinking water instead of sugary drinks can help control calorie intake.

## Water bodies

One of the biggest and oldest water bodies on Earth is the Pacific Ocean, which measures about 163 million square kilometers (63 million square miles). The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest ocean, which measures approximately 41.1 million square miles (106 million square kilometers). Separating Europe and Africa from North America and South America, the Atlantic Ocean has the formation of the letter 'S'. The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean and is located between India, Bangladesh, the east coast of Africa, the west coast of Australia, and Indonesia. The Indian Ocean is about 27 million square miles (70.5 million square kilometers). Some oceans are millions of years old but were named in the 20th century. The Southern Ocean is the second smallest ocean in the world. It was named in 1999 and was recognized in 2021. It measures up to 8 million square miles (20 million square kilometers). The smallest ocean is the Arctic Ocean, which measures about 14 million square kilometers (5.4 million square miles).

The Nile River is the longest in the world at 4,132 miles (6,650 km). It flows from central Africa northward through northeastern Africa to the Mediterranean Sea. The largest river by volume is the Amazon River. It is located in the Amazon rainforest.

# Water transportation

Water is one of the modes of transportation that includes boats, ships, and submarines. One of the advantages is that there are no weight or volume restrictions. It is also very cheap. One disadvantage is that the ship has a slow transit time that would take weeks or months.

People also go on water cruises for vacation.

# Hydropower

Hydropower is a renewable energy source that uses kinetic energy to generate electricity. First, the kinetic energy of the moving water is captured by the turbine, which then generates electricity. One benefit of hydropower is that it is the oldest and largest source of renewable energy. Hydropower plants can easily turn off and on the power. Hydropower accounts for about 6.2% of total electricity generation in the United States.

# Water sports

Water is a great way to have fun. When you have fun in the water body, or you play in the water, it is called water sports. Some common water sports are swimming, boating, surfing, canoeing, rafting, and snorkeling. Water polo is a common water sport. People who like to go to beaches and do water sports mostly play free diving, water skiing, kiteboarding, and parasailing.


# Fun Facts

- \* It covers 71% of the earth's surface. Fresh water is very limited, about 3% all over the world. Saltwater makes up 97% of the earth's surface, which is unhealthy for living beings.
- \* Ice cubes are less dense than actual liquid water.
- \* Natural disasters caused by water like floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis are powerful.
- \* People in the United States may use at least 80 gallons of water per day.
- \* Anything that we drink or eat contains water.
- \* Milk is 90% water.
- \* Watermelon, celery, zucchini, watercress, cabbage, cauliflower, bell peppers, and tomatoes, all have a water content above 90%.
- \* Among vegetables, lettuce and cucumbers have the highest percentage of water i.e. 96%.

# Conclusion

Water is very important in our daily lives. But water is limited, and we should conserve water. For water

conservation, we should turn off the faucet whenever we are not using it. We should fix all the leaks. We should not waste electricity as water is used to generate it. We should not pollute water by throwing trash into the water bodies, especially oil and other toxic substances, because it affects the ecosystem. Otherwise, the pollution that we have caused is going to pollute the drinking water, which will harm our bodies.



Ryan is 13 years old and lives in Norfolk with his parents and brother. He has had poetry used for the Great Get Together festival. He enjoys walking, *Pokémon Go* and Anime.

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**To Begin The Swim**

**by Ryan Fowler Holden**

A single toe

Dipped into the cold

Foot sinking forward

The silt pulling me in

The sea laps at my knees

A cheeky puppy nipping at my ankles

Pulling me to play

I shuffle deeper, raising my arms to the clouds

I dive

Or more honestly fall

Slicing my arms into the waves

Head pushing to the bottom

I cling there a moment

Entombed in the briny waters

My body rebels, forcing me up

Back to the surface

When I emerge,  
The sun burns bright  
And there I float  
Happy and free

Snow Belle is 10 years old, and a 5th grader from North Carolina. Her favorite subject at school is English and creative writing. She loves tennis and swimming, farm animals, and her dog Westley. She loves to travel with her family, especially to Florida! She hopes you love reading *The Magical Sewers* as much as she loved writing it.

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### The Magical Sewers

by Snow Belle McMullin

One day at the animal shelter, a 22-year-old girl named Snow got a promotion and it was her first night shift. She fell asleep on the job at about 10 PM. She tossed and turned and hit the gate button that opens all gates! All the animals ran out, except for a single white mouse. The mouse made a *squeak*, then ran off.

Snow jerked awake at 6:45 AM just as her boss, Terry, walked in. She told her boss everything, then Terry interrupted, “WHAT?! YOU’RE FIRED!”

“But...but...” Snow tried to plead her case.

“NO BUTS! GET OUT!” the boss yelled.

Snow ran home crying, and then fell asleep as soon as she walked in the door of her apartment. She heard a knock, knock, knock....*squeak*, coming from the door.

“Man, I really need to get this door fixed.” Snow said on her way to the door. Snow looked up and saw her landlord. “Oh Bob...hey,” Snow said.

“Hey, um listen, you're bankrupt. You can't pay for your apartment anymore,” Bob the landlord said.

“WHAT? Can I at least stay here one more night?” Snow pleaded.

“No, sorry. I hired some people to help gather everything,” Bob quipped.

“But, where are you going to put everything?” Snow asked.

“The dump,” Bob said with guilty hesitation. Snow grabbed all that she could carry in an Amazon box, while fighting the tears from her embarrassment. She made her way to the street and sat on the sidewalk, watching them throw her childhood memories, keepsakes and personal treasures into the truck. Snow sobbed, wishing she wouldn’t have gotten that promotion.

Several hours later...YAWN!

“OUCH! My back isn’t supposed to crack like that! Well, that was way less comfortable than I thought.” Snow said while stretching her back.

“Pst,” said a voice in the darkness.

“Wha...” Snow said in fear.

“Pst. Over here,” the voice chirped again.

Snow looked down on the street. Snow screamed, “AHHHHH MOUSE! Wow, sleeping on a hard sidewalk really messed with my brain.”

“Shhhhhhhhhh, it’s ok,” the mouse said.

“A TALKING MOUSE?!”

“Shh, shh, just follow me,” the mouse said, trying to entice her.

“Why?” Snow said as she crossed her arms and looked away in disgust.

“Just come on.”

“Fiiiine,” Snow relented. Snow and the mouse walked to the end of the street to the lid of the sewers, “Hold up...have I seen you before?”

“Uh, yeah at the animal shelter,” said the grumpy mouse.

“Oh, yeah,” Snow felt a little foolish having not remembered.



“Open the lid,” the mouse said with force.

“Excuse me,” Snow said while giving him a disgusted side eye.

“Ugh, please,” the mouse said while rolling his eyes.

“Thank you. Wait, why are we lifting the lid?” Snow asked.

“Do you want a better place to sleep?” the mouse said with a sassy tone.

They jumped down with a big splash. She did not want to be in the rocky wet sewers.

“This a better place to sleep?” Snow said while putting her hand on her hip and looking around confused.

“Turn around,” the mouse said. As they turned around Snow had the biggest face of surprise ever.

“WOW!” Snow said, “It’s a magical place of wonders.”

There were dancing elephants with top hats, mice with top hats, animals you would never be able to see or touch, all with top hats. With every jump or glide the animals took, the water would become clear and clean.

“Hey, I never got your name,” Snow said.

“Oh, it’s Ron,” the mouse said.

“Well Ron, how long have you lived...here?” Snow asked, then paused, looking up at a sign that has dripping paint with colorful words saying, THANK YOU SNOW. “Aw, thanks guys, ” Snow said, while wiping away a tear.

“No thank you, we wouldn’t have been here if it weren’t for you,” said a mouse with a high-pitched squeaky voice.

“These are the animals you saved from the animal shelter” said Ron.

“I didn’t save any elephants,” said Snow.

“These are magical animals. They have shape-shifting abilities,” said Ron.

“Really?” Snow’s hands went to her forehead in surprise.

Snow looked back up at the banner and watched a small fiery ball shoot in the middle of the banner. “AHHHHHH!” Everyone screamed in fear!

“What’s happening?!” Snow yelled to Ron.

“Bianca, she’s severely allergic to flour.” Ron said in a low heroic voice.

“Who’s Bianca?” Snow asked.

“My evil sister,” Ron said in the same low heroic voice while looking to the sky.

“HAHAHAHA, oh Ron, miss me?” Bianca teased

“Hey Bianca,” Snow said.

“What are you doing?” Ron said while grabbing Snow’s ankle. Snow kicked her foot and Ron flew across the sewers.

“Stop picking on them and go home!” Snow said with power.

“Oh, ok I’ll leave...” Bianca said while playing with her fingers. “On one condition, you...have to fight me.”

“Fine,” Snow said while looking down at her reflection. “What kind of fight?”

“A dancing fight,” Bianca said.

That’s when Snow remembered her dance lessons from high school.

“Do you accept? When you accept there is no turning back,” Ron said with his hand out in front of them both like a referee.

“Yes,” They replied at the same time.

“Ok then, 3...2...1!” Ron yelled.

Snow got the first dance. She danced to the song HOT TO GO! by Chappell Roan.

“5...6...7...8!” Snow yelled. Snow did the worm, splits, then a backflip, and to finish it off the sprinkler.

Bianca laughed until it was her turn. Bianca did the tango with one of the mice to the song, Fortnight by Taylor Swift. Every animal had to vote...

“The winner is...SNOW!” Ron said in excitement.

“NOW!” one of the mice yelled.

Then Ron threw a bag of flour on Bianca.

“AHHHHHHHHH!” Bianca said while turning into dust. Snow looked away in disgust.

“YAYYYY!” Everyone yelled.

“THE WITCH IS DEAD!” Snow shouted.

“Um, now that the violence stopped, do you maybe wanna maybe be my new pet mouse?” Snow asked Ron. “It’s sad to live alone you know. You probably know what that feels like though.”

“I’d like that.” Ron said. Then Snow gave Ron a big hug and he gave her a top hat.

“You are our new leader Snow,” Ron said. Then they all did Snow's dance and Snow and Ron lived a happy life together!

Snow and Ron lived in the sewers together, dancing every day. Snow found a job at a sales company, and she loved living with all the magical animals.

**The End**

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Aliana Kae Evans is 11 years old, she is in 5th grade, and she attends Marvin Christian Academy in Waxhaw, NC. She is presently enrolled in Mrs. Franklin’s creative writing class and has been overjoyed to participate with her friends and classmates in writing fun adventures and ideas. In addition to loving life, she loves animals.

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## **Three, Two, One. Jump!**

**by Aliana Kae Evans**

One hot summer day, I was eating ice cream, sitting by a fountain with my three friends, Jonah, Micah, and Eliana.

“This ice cream is so good,” I say, as Jonah throws a penny in the fountain and makes a wish. Then Micah accidentally drops his ice cream and falls in the fountain.

“Micah!” Jonah wails, but all we can see are bubbles, so Jonah jumps in, not even thinking. Ellie reaches in, but it’s too deep.

“Well, I don’t think it’s that deep. They should be back by now,” I say, but nothing happens.

Ellie all of a sudden says, “I’m jumping in!”

“What? You can’t. You’ll never come back, like them.”

“I don’t care. I’m saving my friends, so either you come with me or not.”

“Fine, I’m coming,” I say, so we both hold our breath and jump in.

All we can see is dark, pale blue. Far below, we notice four hands waving, and we hear them yelling.

*How can they breathe?* I think.

Then Ellie starts to yell back to them.

“Guys, this is amazing! We can talk,” she says, poking me on the back. “This is like an underwater world.”

“Wow,” I say.

As we get to the bottom, we say to them, “We were worried sick about you guys.”

“Sorry,” they sigh.

“It’s fine, but where are we?”

“Dunno. When we jumped in, we kind of got, like, tugged down to the bottom, and blue surrounded us.”

“Okay,” Eliana says.

“Look!” Micah yells. “The sign says ‘Fountain Park!’”

“Awesome,” Jonah says, but someone else appears.

“Hello, I am Dr. Albert, and this is private property.” The man says.

“Oh, sorry,” says Micah. “It’s not like we got swept down here on purpose.”

“You are a human!” Dr. Albert exclaims.

“Yeah, so?” Jonah says, also very loud.

“This is bad,” Dr. Albert mutters to himself.

“What? What is so bad?” Micah yells so loud we all jump.

“Humans are not allowed down here because they killed our last king, and if you kill our king, we have no replacement.”

“Um,” Ellie says. “But you are a human, right?”

“Well, no, I am a shapeshifter.”

“Okay?” I say. “So how do we get out?”

“There is no way out. There is only a way in. Have you not been listening?” he asks.

“Um... no,” Jonah says. “I am not a good listener.”

“Ha,” Micah says. “You think you’re not a good listener? I’m awful at listening.”

“No, I am!”

“No, I am!”

While they are fighting, Ellie and I talk to Dr. Albert.

“This may let you out, but I do not know if it leads the right way,” he says, giving us a map.

“It’s fine,” I say quickly. “But does it cost anything?”

“Five thousand dollars.”

“Holy cow, that is way too much! How about we trade something instead? Deal?”

“Fine,” he says, so we give him Jonah’s brand-new Apple Watch and start the journey.

Five minutes later, Micah asks, “Can I have a snack?”

We yell at him. “We just had ice cream!”

Then Jonah interrupts. “Guys, look! It’s a castle!”

A towering, light blue ice castle stands in the distance.

“Awesome!” Ellie yells.

“It says on the map that we have to go through the castle, defeat a monster or something, make a portal, and then we are free.”

“Perfect,” I say. “Let’s go.”

So we step through the huge brown doors that open up to an ice throne room. We all shiver at the cold.

“Awesome!” Micah yells.

Then, all of a sudden, a big booming voice echoes through the room.

“GET OUT, YOU STINKY HUMANS, AND NEVER COME BACK.”

“Okay,” Jonah says. “Um, mister, we can’t see you, but I am going to talk to you anyway. First of all, we are not stinky. Second of all, who are you?”

But there is no answer, so we keep looking around. A dusty throne covered in ice is in the left corner, a huge chandelier is at the top of the ceiling, and a table is in the middle of the room with fifteen seats around it. In the right corner is a desk and a dusty carpet.

“This room looks so old,” Ellie says.

“Yeah, it does,” I say. “It must have belonged to—or does belong to—the king.”

“That would be so cool,” Jonas says. “But why in this huge light blue ice castle is there only one room?”

“Dunno,” Micah says. “But maybe there’s, like, a trap door.”

“Good idea, Micah,” I say.

“Why, thank you,” he says in a weird voice that makes Ellie and me so mad we end up slapping him in the face.

“Ow! Yikes! Stop!” he yells.

After we slap him a few more times, we finally stop and look for a trap door. Then Jonah yells, “Found something!”

We rush over to him, and he flips a lever behind the throne. Four large tunnels going down surround us.

“Cool,” I say. “Let’s go.”

So we all jump down a different one.

Before I can blink, I hit a hard surface and look around me. It’s just a large stone patio, and my friends look as amazed as I do.

Then we hear a familiar voice again.

“Hello, I am Dr. Albert, and this is also private property,” he bellows.

“Oh no, not you again,” I say, slapping him in his red, fat cheek.

“I am the king, and you must respect me.”

“What?” Eliana asks. “You? We have to defeat you?”

“Oh yeah, about that. You will never be able to defeat me.”

“Oh yeah?” Micah says. “I may not be a good listener, but I am a good fighter!”

“Yeah, me too,” Jonah says, smirking at Micah.

“And I can do karate!” Ellie says, balling her hands into fists.

“Um... and I am good at slapping people,” I say, blushing.

Jonah giggles.

“Hi-ya! Pow! Get off! Bro...Ow!” echoes across the patio.

Soon, we have defeated the king.

Then Micah yells and points to Dr. Albert's pocket. Inside is a small bag with all the ingredients to make the portal.

"Yippee!" we say, combining all the ingredients. Then we walk through the portal, which leads to a water park. Kids splash on running water slides next to a crowded wave pool.

"Wow, this is awesome," we exclaim.

"Who wants to swim?" Micah asks.

"Not me!" we yell together, and slap him in the face.

"Okay, okay," he says, "just joking."

And we live happily ever after.

**The End**

Hudson is 12 years old and is in the 6th grade. He lives in Charlotte, NC and was born in South Florida. He lives with his older brother, younger sister, mom, dad, beagle and lots of fish. He enjoys writing stories, being outdoors, playing with his dog, riding horses and drawing/painting. He had a great time writing *The Magical Cappuccino*.

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### The Magical Cappuccino

by Hudson Jones

As I took my first sip of a cappuccino, it started to sizzle in my stomach and I knew that something wasn't right. I clutched my stomach in agony, and sprinted to the Starbucks bathroom. But after I shut the stall door, the automatic sensor on the toilet went off and it started to flush. The bathroom started to rattle, and the next thing I knew, I was evaporating into the toilet.

"Where am I?" I asked myself. It looked like I got sucked into an underground world, except it was filled with crystal clear water and beautiful diamonds hanging from the ceiling. The crystals shimmered off the water making the room bright. The soft silky water rushed through my fingers. The soft sound of small waves echoed in the cave.

I got startled by a merman figure coming toward me. His tail swayed in the water as he got closer. I started to walk back, I never realized that I was also in the water too, but I wasn't getting wet. There was a warm feeling, but my clothes were not wet. I swam away from him, but his flippers worked better than my feet.

As he came out of the water, his scales glistened in the light. His tail was a beautiful aqua color, blending in with the water.

"Hello there, Hudson. We've been waiting for you," he said in a calm but deep voice.

“Who are you?” I asked him in shock.

He looked just as shocked as I was. “You really don't know?” he asked in disbelief. I shook my head.

He swam closer to me and stared straight into my eyes but then backed up, and puffed out his chest. “I am Poseidon's Brother, Riptide,” he said.

I widened my eyes in shock. “Why have you brought me here? Why not anyone else?” I demanded.

He swam toward me again, and then twirled back around. “We brought you here because you have to find your powers.”

“What powers? I don't have powers!” I said, staring directly into his eyes.

“Well, believe it or not, your mom, tSunami, who is my sister, has the power to control salt water and sea animals. This means that you also have some sort of powers regarding water and fish. Your mom is really a god! She was just in human form so people wouldn't recognize her.”

I was stunned to hear about my mom. “How do I get out of here?” I demanded.

“Well, you need to meet with your mom, and she will tell you your power. Then you would need to go through a course and see how well you can use your powers,” he said.

“Still, I have no idea what you mean by *powers*. What powers do I have?”

“We don't know yet, but it has something to do with water,” Riptide said.

“Well duh! I'm not getting wet right now! Where can I find my mom?” I asked.

I swam towards a bright crystal cave that he pointed to. It probably had something to do with my powers because I was able to swim over to the cave so fast that waves formed behind me. It kinda felt like I had flippers.

As I entered the cave, I dunked my head underwater. Wildlife was everywhere. Fish swam around rocks, and beautiful plants were down below me.

A whirlpool started to form around me and I began to swim away, but the whirlpool was too strong. I went under the water, and the next thing I knew, I was in a large beautiful room. The water seemed to have a green glow to it, but I couldn't see where it was coming from. In the corner of the room was a large throne made out of seashells. On the throne was a beautiful mermaid wearing a bright green and blue outfit and a seashell necklace.

“Are you?” but she interrupted me.

“Yes, I'm tSunami,” she said in a calming voice.

“So, uh... I guess I have powers?”

“Yes, you, Hudson, have the power of freshwater, and all freshwater animals. You are able to talk to the animals, and can control freshwater.” she said.

“Wow! I can't believe it! I do have powers!” I whispered to myself.

She smiled and snapped her fingers, and I was back at the top with Riptide.

“Are you ready?” he asked as he pointed to the obstacle course.



The obstacle course just had jumps slowly getting bigger, and a ring I had to jump through at the end.

I was a little scared, but I nodded my head and a wave formed around me. The wave launched me past the obstacle course. I don't know how that counted but Riptide smiled and snapped his fingers. I was back at Starbucks in the bathroom stall.

The toilet flushed again and I got sucked into a beautiful lake filled with wildlife. I sank to the bottom and saw large bass and catfish, and some other small ones swimming above me. I blew a bubble and swam through it so fast I launched out of the water with so much force; I flew 30 feet into the sky and flipped back into the water.

Over the next few years, I spent a lot of time with my mom as she helped me build a fortress under the lake made out of smooth rocks and driftwood. But every so often, I got bored with just me and the fish. At the lake, there were no people, just me and the fish. Because of this, I had no one to talk to. So I also liked to visit friends on land.

### THE END

Kate is an 11-year-old girl who loves animals, writing, Roblox, and her friends and family. She loves her parents and little sister, Izzy very much. Kate is in the 5th grade at Marvin Academy in NC and would like to give a shoutout to her ELA teacher, Ms. Franklin for all of her support and encouragement.

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### Turtle Dreams

by Kate Kinnin

Hypatia awoke flustered from the horrible nightmare—the one that had been playing in her head since last year. It was about her brother, Orion. He had gone missing in the depths of Turtle Beach on their last cruise because he had to leave and join the Navy. She was here back on the scarlet colored ship wishing she could go home.

“Come on Franklin,” she said to her bright blue eyed husky. She patted his head and headed onto the deck of the ship. Hypatia sat with Franklin and wrote a poem about all the constellations she saw. The Big Dipper, Ursa Major... she got a little sad when she saw Orion’s Belt. Then suddenly, the ship hit a large reef and Hypatia flew overboard into the sea of coral. She watched as Franklin barked and howled. Hypatia’s father walked out of bed to grumpily take him back inside, not even knowing what just happened.

A couple hours later, Hypatia just couldn’t tread water anymore and she sank down to the bottom of the reef. Just when she thought it was all over, she found herself on the back of a blue sea turtle breathing underwater and gliding across the sea. “Did you save me?” she asked the turtle. The turtle nodded. After expressing her thanks to the turtle she asked for his name. He then grabbed a piece of dead coral and

spelled out o-ri-on in the sand. Hypatia's head then got flooded with sad memories of her brother but she felt better once Orion the sea turtle nuzzled her.

Then all of a sudden, Orion's expression changed from happy to terrified/ When Hypatia looked over her shoulder, she saw something awful. A SHARK! She grabbed onto Orion's shell and they sped across the ocean, dodging the rocks and seaweed, but they reached a dead end. They both thought they were between the jaws of a great white when they heard some chirping. A pod of dolphins! They were fighting off the shark, flying under the waves like birds of the ocean. They were so sleek and elegant as they defended Orion and Hypatia. The shark finally swam away. Orion and Hypatia said goodbye to the dolphins because they had to get to shore.

After a few minutes of gliding through the reef, watching all the beautiful and colorful fish play, they reached the shore. Hypatia saw her mom and dad searching for her like a chicken with its head cut off. Hypatia felt happy knowing that her parents and Franklin were trying to rescue her. When Hypatia arose from the warm salty ocean water her parents held her in their arms so tightly, they were squeezing the life out of her. Franklin jumped up and knocked Hypatia over. He was so happy that she was safe, but Hypatia was a little sad about saying bye to Orion. She'd had to do something like this before when Orion joined the Navy, but remembering all the good times she had with him made her feel good instead of bad, and when she slept that night with Franklin at her feet instead of nightmares she had...turtle dreams.

The End



# PHOTOGRAPHY



Stanley loves spending time with his family (especially his cousin, Ana), 3 dogs, and pet snake, Noodlebob! Some of his favorite things include playing board games, video games, playing toy cars, and playing on playgrounds when the weather is nice. He loves that this issue of the magazine is called "Water" because swimming is one of his favorite things in the whole world.

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**A Sink Full of Colors**

**by Stanley Doughty**



**Marshall's Pond**

**by Stanley Doughty**



ART





Adaline is 6 years old. Adaline is French-American. Adaline likes camping, traveling, dance (hip hop in particular! She does hip hop competitions!), drawing, and sparkles. Her favorite colors are pink, purple, green, red, yellow, aqua, and white.

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### The Mermaid in the Ocean

by Adaline Turmaud



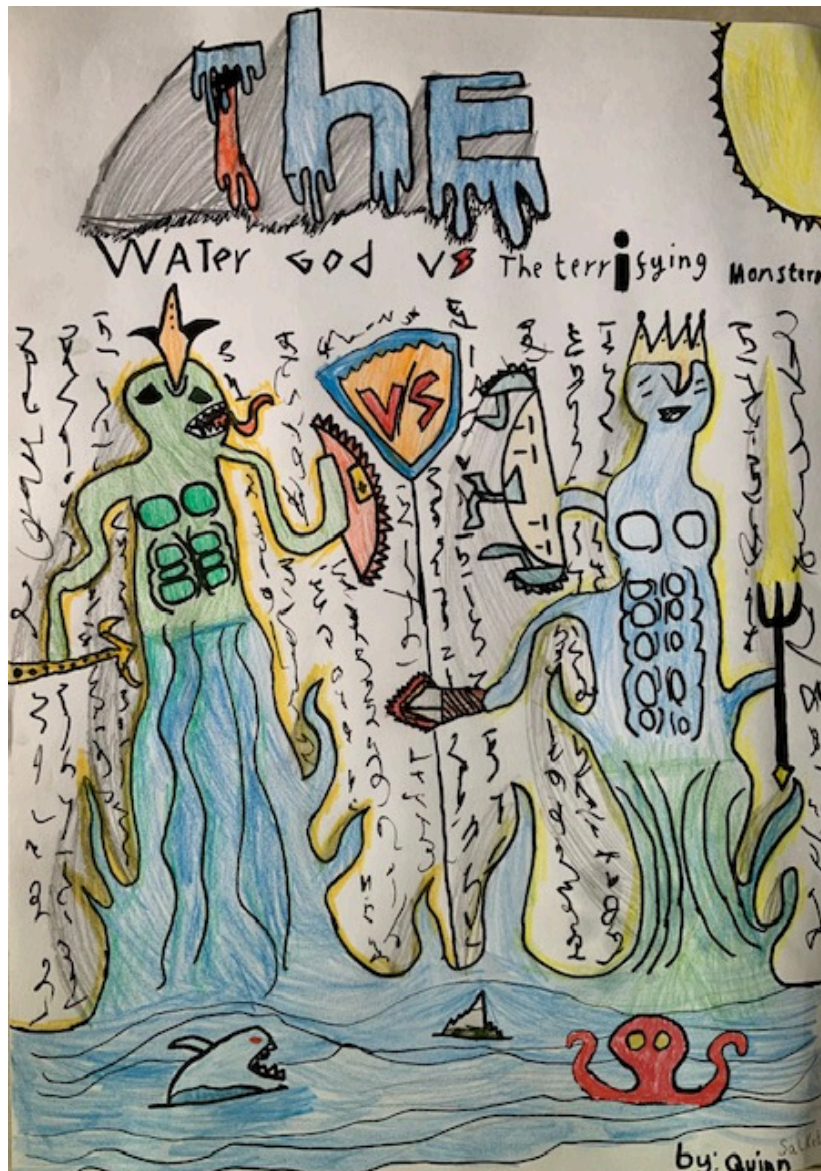
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Quinn's half British and half Australian, and was born and lives in the United Arab Emirates. He's in Year 5 of a British system school there. He loves playing video games, reading (particularly *Amulet*, *Wings of Fire* - any comics and graphic novels), football, rugby, cricket and drawing fantastical evil creatures. Quinn always loves drawing monsters going to fight each other, so it is in his skill set of drawing or sketching!

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### The Water God vs. The Terrifying Monster

by Quinn Salkeld



Quinn is 12 years old and likes sports, specifically wrestling. He also enjoys hunting and fishing with his father. This picture shows his four favorite kinds of ducks.

### Ducks

by Quinn Hartmann





Michael Ocuto is 12 years old. Michael likes baseball and the beach.

Drippy Beach

by Michael Ocuto





Hannah Houlihan is a 13-year-old who enjoys swimming, climbing, art, and exploring. She lives in California with her parents and younger siblings.

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### Waterfall

by Hannah Houlihan





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# THE END

(IT SHORE WAS A SPLASH!)