

*Clare Hall*

# Literary Magazine



Volume 2: Nature & Animals

# Table of Contents

## Page

3	Rosalina and the Flower Power	David Sharyan
6	Climate Change and Sea Levels	Landon Hoang
9	Pros and Cons of Sustainable Energy	Larissa Bonn
12	Blue	Portia Trabue
13	The Independent Princess	Ava Offerdahl
16	Starless Soul	Lila Kim
21	Trees Please	Max Deggendorfer
23	Where the Sidewalk Ends	Portia Trabue
24	Beach Turkey	Leo Hartley
28	Thank You's	Lila Kim and David Sharyan

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*Thank you for all the hard work!*

# Rosalina and the Flower Power

By: David Sharyan

Long, long ago in a world that still believed in magic, there was a rose in a forest in Armenia, just waiting to bloom. When the day finally came for the little rose to bloom, everyone gathered around to watch as a new flower joined the world. Little did they know that one day, this little rose would be the natural world's savior. The rose's mother and father decided to name the little rose Rosalina. Growing up, Rosalina always had a strong opinion and positive attitude. She would stand up to bully-flowers and protect those who couldn't protect themselves.

One day, as Rosalina was out frolicking in a field, she got swept up by a powerful wind. Rosalina couldn't resist it, and was blown far off to a magical lake. As she lay in the water unconscious, she suddenly felt someone trying to wake her up. She confusingly woke up and saw various other flowers.

“What's going on?” asked Rosalina.

One of the flowers replied, “We were all carried over to this magical lake by a powerful gust. I'm Buttercup. Nice to meet you.”

“Who are all of you?” Rosalina asked the rest of the flowers.

“I'm Poppy. I'm fast, energetic, and I always have a positive attitude,” she replied.

“Lily, pleasure to meet you,” said an elegant and graceful young flower.

“The name's Daisy. If you don't need to talk to me, then don't,” she announced.

“We're Iris and Periwinkle,” declared Periwinkle loudly.

“We're twins,” rapidly revealed Iris.

“And we finish...” said Periwinkle.

“...each other's...” said Iris.

“...sentences!” said Periwinkle.

“I’m Tulip, and I have the wisdom of the sea and the intelligence of the sky,” said a mysterious, witty flower.

“And I’m Violet, the fairest of them all,” recited a beautiful and gorgeous flower.

As the last flower finished introducing herself, the water in the lake started glowing. As the flowers were engulfed in the light, they felt an incredible sensation. Chills ran up their spines. They felt glorious and pampered as if they were getting a massage. They had retained magical abilities and suddenly grew arms and legs. It was so mystical and wondrous that the flowers lay there speechless. After the light had faded away Rosalina gasped as she saw her wonderful new powers and her unexpected change in body form.

As they made their way home, Rosalina couldn't help but wonder, why were she and the other flowers given these powers? Maybe the forest was warning them about something. Maybe it was just a regular, good old miracle.

Rosalina’s life went on as usual for the next couple of days. Nothing new or exciting happened. But then one day, she heard a loud noise coming from the edge of the forest. She leaped and jumped to the edge of the forest quickly using her new power. The closer she got, the more she could hear the booms and grinding sounds. She had finally reached the edge of the forest and stopped. She couldn’t believe what she saw. A large number of humans were cutting down trees and tearing apart the forest. It was awful and disastrous. Rosalina immediately knew what to do.

Rosalina went to each of the homes of all the flowers she had met in the magical lake and gathered them all to form a team. They made a secret base near the humans’ construction site and prepared to attack. The new team they formed was called Flower Power. They were assembled and ready to go.

Rosalina and Flower Power first tried to negotiate with the humans. They wouldn't even listen to them and just shooed them out with a broom. Rosalina was enraged. She wouldn't stand by this. Then the team gathered and came up with a plan to attack and drive the humans out of the forest forever.

Rosalina and her team watched the humans for a couple of days. They decided to attack while the humans were at break. Off they went: Periwinkle, Iris, and Daisy sabotaged the construction workers' tools. Then, Violet and Tulip destroyed their supplies and food. Finally, Rosalina, Poppy, and Lily went and attacked the humans. They burst into their shelters and started fighting.

The humans fought back but were no match for the nimble and quick flower power attacks. Within mere minutes, the humans were on their knees, begging for mercy. Rosalina and the team agreed to let them go on one condition: they had to clean up and rebuild what they destroyed, leave the forest, and never come back.

The ruthless humans agreed and apologized. As everyone went to work helping to rebuild everything, the flowers saw that the humans were struggling, so they decided to help. During this process, as the humans and flowers worked together, the humans saw that the flowers weren't harmless, and they should be protected. The flowers also saw that the humans weren't that bad and they could change for the better, given the right circumstances. As their work came to a close, the humans decided to be kinder to the flowers and forest-dwellers, and to work alongside them not as enemies, but as friends. And the flowers chose to accept the humans and forgive them. From that point on, magical creatures, plants, animals, and humans all lived happily ever after.



# Climate Change and Sea Levels

By: Landon Hoang

Sea levels are rising at a dangerously alarming rate due to the heat caused by climate change. To combat this problem and to save this planet, governments around the world need to find stable and effective ways to use renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. By 2050, scientists estimate that sea levels will rise another 30 to 34 centimeters; this will cause serious damage to coastal cities, animals, and their habitats. The heat has also started to melt Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets. Since 1880, the sea level has risen over eight inches (roughly 23 centimeters) with three of those inches being caused within the last 25 years. If we continue at our current pace then sea levels will rise another 10 to 30 inches (26 to 77 centimeters), and the temperature will rise another 1.5 degrees Celsius. This causes an event known as a thermal expansion which raises sea levels through rises in temperatures.

Since the Industrial Revolution, we have released enough greenhouse gasses to raise the ocean's temperature by one degree Celsius. It may not seem like much at first, but that much heat has started to melt Greenland and the Antarctic ice sheets. Right now, Greenland and the Antarctic ice sheets are the main reasons for global sea rise. If these glaciers melt, then not only could it raise sea levels, but it can change weather patterns. The Arctic is warming up two times faster than anywhere else on Earth. In doing so, the amount of sea ice has been decreasing 10 percent every 10 years, which increases the number of dark patches on the ocean instead of light patches. These light patches are crucial because they reflect the sunlight off of the ocean. If they're not there, the temperature in the sea rises. This lack of light patches will cause the air to warm up, disrupting the ocean's circulation. The warming seas and rising sea levels can cause coastal erosion and make coastal storms more frequent. This makes coastal cities a dangerous place to live in.

Coastal regions in the U.S. play an important role, homing more than half of the U.S. population. East coast cities, such as New York, are particularly densely populated. If nothing is done about it then the life-threatening floods will put roughly 118 million people in danger in the U.S. alone. "We are already seeing an increased frequency of storm surges and extreme sea levels," said Ebru Kirezci, a climate scientist from the University of Melbourne in the CNN Weather Report. We have released enough greenhouse gasses to the point that it causes those disasters that once happened every 100 years to where it happens every decade. The obvious evidence of this change in severe weather is reflected in the number of floods that have been occurring in the past years. Countries in Asia such as India and China have been taking some of the worst floods they've had in decades. In July of 2020, India's eastern states Assam and Bihar had to deal with a deadly flood that killed over 100 people and affected almost 4 million. In July of 2020, China faced the worst floods they've had in decades. The floods in China have impacted at least 38 million people and killed 3,000 people; China hasn't had anything like this since 1998.

Rising sea levels are threatening 233 species in 23 different coastal states in the U.S., with most of the animals being reliant on freshwater. The saline water caused by rising sea levels is putting several species in danger with some of the more notable ones being: the Key deer, Loggerhead sea turtles, Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, Western piping plover, and the Hawaiian monk seal. All of these animals are losing their habitats due to flooding; they're forced to migrate to different habitats to escape the disasters. Not only are freshwater turtles losing body fat because of the extreme salinity caused by rising sea levels, but many other types of freshwater turtles that live adjacent to brackish ponds are affected by salinity in the freshwater; these turtles simply refrain from eating or drinking, making them lose body mass over time. A similar effect happens with the Key deer as well. According to Eric Hoffman, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Central Florida, with even minimum sea level rise, it will cause saltwater inundation, making the freshwater for Key deer too contaminated to drink. There would be a great loss in wildlife if nothing is done.

Against these threats, coastal cities such as New York have decided to build a sea barrier that can act against rising sea levels; other coastal cities have already decided to take the same decision. However, this strategy will not work. New Orleans has already built such a sea barrier, but scientists estimate that the wall they made will be inadequate in about four years. Kerala, a coastal city in India, has made erosion a more prominent problem because of the sea wall they built. Countries around the world need to develop a way to stop rising sea levels for the sake of our environment and safety; this sea level rising phenomenon will put 800 million people at risk.

In conclusion, rising sea levels are one of the greatest problems climate change presents. Governments seem to be undermining this problem by continuing to use fossil fuels as an energy source instead of renewable energy. Countries that exert large amounts of fossil fuels will slowly destroy our environment and endanger almost a billion people that live in coastal areas. The erosion will affect hundreds of animals and their habitats, and the melting glaciers will submerge coastal cities, and warm up the sea. To combat this problem and to save this planet, governments around the world need to find stable and effective ways to use renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.



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*I wake up very early.*

*Good morning, Sun, on your way at last.*

*You don't wake up nearly as early as I do.*

*Now the wind is waking.*

*Tickle tickle on my cheeks,*

*rustle rustle through the leaves.*

*Birds untuck and start to coo,*

*Whooo whooo, you wake up too early, yes  
you doooo . . .*

**NORA ERICSON** studied painting at Yale University and writing for children at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Originally from central New York, she now lives in Portland, Oregon, with two kids, two dogs, and two cats. Besides reading and writing, she loves cooking, tromping in the woods, and whittling spoons while daydreaming of her future miniature donkey farm. She's also the author of *Dill & Bizzy: An Odd Duck and a Strange Bird* and *Dill & Bizzy: Opposite Day*. You can find her online at [www.noraericson.com](http://www.noraericson.com).

**ELLY MACKAY** is an internationally recognized paper artist and children's book author and illustrator. She wrote and illustrated the picture books *Red Sky at Night*, *If You Hold a Seed*, and *Butterfly Park*, among others. The distinctive three-dimensional quality in her works is made by setting up layers of painted paper in a miniature theater. She lights the scene and photographs it to create her unique illustrations. MacKay lives in Owen Sound, Ontario, with her family.



# Pros and Cons of Sustainable Energy

By: Larissa Bonn

I believe that in the process of transitioning to sustainable energy, a middle-of-the-road approach should be taken by retaining some fossil fuel use, while sustainable energy is phased in gradually.

Earth's climate is changing; whether this is due to natural manmade causes, the globe is warming. How we take corrective action as inhabitants of the Earth is very controversial. Some want to keep all fossil fuels, some want to switch completely to renewables and the remaining prefer a combination of the two. I will address what I believe we should do to move further in a cleaner direction.

We have kept non-sustainable energy sources for many decades, and there are reasons we have not transitioned. Fossil fuels are the most deeply established energy source in the world. They are an energy source that is needed to power homes, to run vehicles, as well as support the United States and many other countries' economies. Fossil fuel is cheap, reliable, and there is an abundance of it. It creates several useful byproducts which are used to make items such as fleece jackets, aspirin, lipstick, solar panels, tires, pillows, detergents, toothpaste, telephones, hair coloring, deodorant, and even vitamin capsules to name a few. There are approximately 6,000 products made from petroleum that are used daily. The point is, fossil fuel and its byproducts have become a remarkable part of our everyday lives and dropping them suddenly would be very detrimental and inconvenient until we could find a new source to make up for the efficiency and diversity of fossil fuels.

The list of sustainable energy sources is varied, each with its own pros and cons:

Biodiesel is an energy source made from organic matter. It is environmentally friendly because it is not made from petroleum. Biodiesel is safe. Compared to diesel, which is derived from fossil fuels, biodiesel causes fewer air pollutants, has a higher flash point, is biodegradable, and extends engine life span. On the other hand, biodiesel could affect the food supply because it is produced from food, it is expensive, and is less efficient than regular diesel.

Geothermal energy is that which is produced from heat within the earth. It is reliable because the energy that is generated does not fluctuate. The disadvantages are that it is very expensive, location specific and releases greenhouse gasses from deep within the earth.

Wind energy is clean, renewable, and has low operating costs. It is space efficient and financially beneficial to those who lease land for wind turbines. Although wind energy has high upfront costs and is intermittent due to inconsistent wind. Wind turbines can contribute to noise pollution and are fatal to birds and bats that inadvertently fly through the blades.

Solar energy is a sustainable energy source that has low maintenance costs and solar panels are accessible for lower population areas. Solar energy is intermittent due to varied weather conditions and less sun exposure. Unfortunately, solar energy takes a huge amount of space and is very expensive initially. Solar panels contain materials that are byproducts of fossil fuels, which is counterintuitive. And there isn't a lot of space to store discarded solar panels once they've been used up.

Tidal Wave energy is a type of power created by the energy of tides. It is reliable due to constant waves in the ocean and could reduce dependency on other country's energy sources. Harnessing tidal wave energy has very expensive upfront costs and there are limited suitable sites to collect this energy. It could also cause harm to marine life.

Nuclear energy is carbon free and provides a high amount of power. Nuclear power plants take about 10 years to build and are very expensive upfront. There is toxic waste created, but in the whole world there is only about a football field around 50 feet high from all the nuclear power production. If nuclear power was used, electricity bills would decrease exponentially. With nuclear energy, we could use our existing power lines. Malfunctions could be an issue though, and many are skeptical about nuclear plants due to radiation and a small possibility of blowing up. Take the Chernobyl accident in 1986 for example, where the explosion was caused due to a lack of quality training. If we, as a population, used nuclear power plants as a source of energy, we would have to ensure that quality training was required. Out of all sustainable energy sources, I would choose nuclear energy as the first and best option. It is the only energy source that emits the amount of power that fossil fuels can, and is much cleaner, so I think that it is the best option if we want to move towards a greener future without fossil fuels.

Maintaining fossil fuel use in the process of replacing it will keep our economy strong while transitioning towards a cleaner future. In the United States, 80 percent of our energy comes from fossil fuels and to take that away abruptly would result in disaster. We depend heavily on fossil fuels for infrastructure, jobs and the economy. The public would have to be trained on how to use other sources of energy, which isn't bad, but is something to consider. In the process of transitioning away from fossil fuels, I believe we should remove coal first, due to it producing the most carbon emissions. Then we should begin building nuclear plants, place wind turbines in the ocean, search for geothermal energy sources, and invest in biodiesel.

My measured approach of switching from fossil fuels to sustainable energy is more middle of the road and creates two opposing positions.

The first position says to switch over to sustainable energy immediately. This group may believe that as people, there is no time to wait. They say the earth is dying, the environment is suffering and that there are only a few years to avoid permanent, irreversible damage. Their concern for the environment overrides the economy and infrastructure. They may believe that climate change is exclusively caused by humankind and therefore can be reversed if humankind switches to green energy.

For the first position, my counterargument is that to switch over immediately to renewable green energy is not only impossible, but would create a huge amount of lost jobs in the fossil fuel industry and the economy would suffer greatly. By eliminating fossil fuels, it would cause significant repercussions in many industries, forcing them to reinvent and re-source products that are used daily. There would be less reliable power until the new green power sources are perfected, which could take decades.

The second position says not to switch over to sustainable energy at all. This group may either believe that global warming does not exist, or that humankind's activities are not the cause of climate change because human activity is too insignificant. Their belief may be that current warming of the earth is another example of climate fluctuations that have been going on even before humans were around. They believe the cost of switching would be very expensive and would cause a significant amount of lost jobs, and may think that it would be too much of a strain on the economy.

For this position, my counterargument is that the earth is warming. Even if our footprint is small, it may still be contributing to the change of climate. We should gradually phase into more sustainable sources of energy, not only to help with global warming, but also reduce our dependence on other countries for energy.

In conclusion, I agree with certain parts of both positions to my argument. My belief is that climate change is real. I believe it is one of the less urgent of our present concerns, but still cannot be overlooked. It is important that we consider sustainable energy alternatives. While we do need to make changes, they should not be at the expense of an economic collapse. We need to search for solutions to climate change and be certain that we can move forward with sustainable energy that is clean and efficient and leads to a cleaner, greener future.

# Blue

By: Portia Trabue

That's a sky  
That'll eat you alive,  
Falling into  
Neverending blue,  
And you can see the hawks  
Between your fingers  
In the wind, and you can fly.

There's really infinite blues,  
If you can catch them,  
Deep and all-consuming:  
The noon-blue  
Bright as the sun itself,  
And the paler, fading  
Skyline blue,  
And the way in the evening,  
you can catch the city light,  
Staining the sky  
A yellow of popcorn,  
Reeks of late-night apartments,  
Fades out into the indigo  
of the night-sky ocean,  
And you can sail your way  
On the pinprick star boats.

And you've never really  
Seen clouds  
Till you catch them in all their dimensions,  
And you can watch,  
awestruck,  
the way they bloom,  
Outward like mums,  
and the airplane-streak  
Types can fly above,  
And up higher,

And you can see  
Just how big it is,  
And you are very small.

And have you seen  
The sky, on a messy day?  
When every shade of gray cloud,  
Bleeding rain like watercolor,  
In dots and dashes,  
A morse symphony,  
whether it be the start  
Or the end  
Or an extended rainstorm,  
And then you can see  
that sunbeam break through,  
And there's a whole other  
Dimension to it, within the  
Light-shadow tapestry,  
And there's no difference  
between ground and sky at all.

I once wrote  
That hope  
Is the sky after a rainstorm.  
I have always feared  
That people have always misunderstood:  
It's not hopeful because  
The rainstorm is over, it's  
Hopeful because the  
Rainstorm happened,  
The world is rejuvenated,  
And you can walk out  
Into the glorious chaos  
Of it all.

# The Independent Princess

By: Ava Offerdahl

Once upon a time, there lived a lonesome princess named Ava. She lived on a big beautiful farm with her very lenient and merciful mother named Tanya, her very dictatorial sister, Addison, and countless adorable animals. The princess felt mournful one day, wishing that she had a handsome prince to carry her through life. One day, out of the blue, a handsome prince, pretending to be a farm boy, showed up at the farm. He didn't want anyone to know he was a prince because he just wanted to be normal for once without fans and reporters pestering him.

When Ava and her sister saw the prince, they were suspicious. He looked too handsome to be a farmhand, they thought. The princess and her sister decided to test the farmhand to see if he was a real prince. To find out if the prince is who he says he is, the princess and her sister put him on the most stubborn horse in the barn, Cimmeron.

The prince now had to ride Cimmeron, and if he was able to make him walk, trot, canter, and gallop a barrel pattern, he was a real prince. A couple hours later, he finished riding Cimmeron. It turns out that he was a real prince. Princess Ava then asked the prince for his hand in marriage. The prince accepted and they had a big, grand, beautiful wedding.

They invited all of the princess and prince's closest family and friends. They held their wedding in a big beautiful barn with big skylights which provided a mass of glimmering sunshine throughout the whole barn. The princess and prince were as happy as they could be. Now, normally this is the part of the story where you would say, "And they lived happily ever after," but I'm not going to say that, because that's not how it happened. Princess Ava soon began to realize that marrying a prince wasn't as exciting as she thought. The prince wasn't all that helpful around the house. He never did the dishes, or the laundry, or any of the cleaning. The prince left ALL of the chores for the princess to do. The princess did not like the way this marriage was working out. She finally decided to file for divorce. After Princess Ava divorced the prince, she was happy and content.

For a while the princess was very happy, but she didn't know what to do with her life. Then one day she thought to herself, what's a joyful way that I can combine my favorite thing, and something to make a living from? And that's when she thought of it: Ava opened an animal rescue.



Ava moved to Arizona to start her rescue. She named her rescue Forever Farms. Her main plan for this rescue was to take in animals and put them in forever homes, not foster homes. Now, Ava wasn't against the idea of foster homes, it just didn't go with the name. A foster is not a forever home, with foster animals having the opportunity to go to different homes instead of staying in one forever home. The reason Ava named her rescue sanctuary Forever Farms was because animals get tossed around so much depending on their situation. Ava wanted to create a trust between the human and the animal. If the animal is in a foster home, there is still a chance that they will get moved around. The idea was built around the fact that when an animal gets comfortable in a place with their owner, they feel safe and they have a lot of trust with the person. When the animal was in whatever their situation was they didn't have that safe place or that person to trust.

When Ava opened Forever Farms, she opened it to all animals. She had birds, bunnies, horses, mini ponies, donkeys, mules, dogs, cats, and a lot more animals. Now, this is the part where I say Princess Ava lived happily ever after. She was independent, happy, and surrounded by loving animals.

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# Starless Soul

By: Lila Kim

High up above the atmosphere, in the vast, celestial realms of space, there was a star sheep named Soul. She lived in a space colony, along with all the other star workers. There were many different jobs in space, including Star Lighters, Star Watchers, Destalie Catchers, and many more that you don't need to know about at the moment. Soul was a Star Lighter, and although it was the most common job, it could be argued it was the most important as well. Why, you may ask? Because if stars were not lit at night, and went unlit for more than seven days, then the star would expire and proceed to evaporate into a wisp of mere nothingness. Which is seemingly harmless- at first.

Sometimes the nothingmists will just fade away from existence if enough time passes, unable to merge with another one of its own. But, if in luck, the nothingmist would come across another wisp and conjoin, and then conjoin with another, and another, until it transforms into a colossal cluster of nothingmists; called a Destalie. Even as a young Destalie, it is extremely deadly- and only becomes deadlier and more wicked as time goes on.

But over the past 300 years, the space colony had lived in such harmony and uniformity: so much unity that nothing, *not a single thing*, had gone wrong. Residents of the colony stopped believing in the Destalie, stopped *fearing* the Destalie, and soon it had become a mere legend that was told from generation to generation. Most wondered why the job of a Destalie Catcher was even a thing anymore, because they all thought the Destalies were just a fantasy, just a fairytale that was told to scare them before bedtime.

One day, Soul was called into the Cloudhead Quarters.

"Soul! My sweet child!" greeted her boss and former teacher, Flora. "You're probably wondering why you were called here. I'll get straight to the point." Flora turned on a projector, letting it brighten up before continuing. "You see, the star watchers noticed your section of stars have not been lit for the past three days. And it wasn't just the star watchers who noticed, but also the humans down on earth. I'm afraid they're getting pretty smart these days."

Flora started a video. More specifically, a news channel.

"BREAKING NEWS! LOCAL STARGAZERS HAVE SPOTTED UNUSUAL PATCH OF NIGHT SKY...WITH NO STARS! ASTRONOMERS HAVE BEEN PUZZLING WHAT COULD CAUSE THIS PECULIAR PHENOMENON... LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!"



Flora paused the video and turned the projector off. She looked at Soul, who was dumbfounded, staring at the wall where the projector was previously projected onto.

“Would you like to explain, Soul?” Flora gently asked.

“Uh...um...I swear I didn’t do this! It wasn’t me! Something must have put them out!” Soul stammered out, trying to find the right words, but failing miserably.

“Soul, I know you’re very responsible, but your route is very big! Maybe you could use someone to assist you, so you don’t have such a big weight on your shoulde-”

Before Flora could finish her proposal, Soul impulsively interrupted,

“No! I don’t need help. I can do it myself!”

Flora smiled softly, knowing that was exactly what Soul would say.

“At least consider my words.”

Soul nodded her head quickly, thanked Flora for her time, and went home. She was confused. How could this have happened? After overthinking for a while, Soul decided she would stay late and try to catch who- or what- had put out her stars.

That night, Soul set out on her route. But something felt off. Every step she took, uneasy, unsettling shivers were sent down her spine. *I’m just tired. It’s probably nothing. It’ll wear off eventually.* And so, Soul proceeded to light her stars just like any normal night.

After finally lighting the last star and closing her knapsack of crystal flames (which activated a star’s hearth, and automatically went out at sunrise), Soul went back to the largest star on her route, about three times her size, and hid behind it. *I guess I just have to wait now,* Soul thought to herself.

A couple hours later, Soul was hungry, tired, and on the brink of giving up.

“Ugh! That was a waste of time,” she mumbled to herself. Just as she got up from her watch spot, Soul saw, out of the corner of her eye, a whoosh of blue and purple, mixed together like a galaxy of color.

“What the...what was that?” Soul was bewildered. What could that have possibly been? It looked vaguely familiar, but she couldn’t put a hoof on what was.

Starless Soul

By: Lila Kim

Page 17

Is that...a Destalie? That can't be possible. I thought they weren't real!

Soul looked again. It was gone.

Then she saw, scampering from behind one star to another, two animals. A bunny and a panda. Are they trying to catch the Destalie? she wondered.

"Psst! Hey!" Soul called out to them, waving them over. They both looked up, startled, looked at each other, nodded, and then sneakily crept over to her.

"Who are you?" Soul asked.

"Who are you?" they both responded simultaneously, in perfect harmony.

"What are you doing here? This is my route! Was that a Destalie?" questions burst out of Soul's mouth without even realizing it.

"Ok, first of all, I'm Bingo," said the bunny.

"And I'm Poppy!" said the panda.

"Second, we're trying to catch that Destalie. And third, yes, that was a Destalie."

"But I thought Destalies weren't real! Or that they at least went extinct 200 years ago!" Soul was befuddled. And shocked. And surprised. And a bit scared.

"We did too. Until my stars started getting put out, and I did exactly what I'm assuming you're doing right now," answered Poppy.

"So where'd the Destalie go? Why did it disappear?"

"See, the thing that most don't know is that the Destalie can basically teleport. Every star has another star that is exactly the same as itself. The Destalie can travel from star to star, disappearing next to one and appearing beside another."



Soul's mind was pandemonium. All this information was not processing in her brain, and there were so many unanswered questions that needed to be answered. Finally, she managed to sputter out, "...Can't you report this to the Destalie Catchers?" Bingo's face turned sullen, maybe even annoyed, and she responded.

"We tried, but apparently the day before, some kids reported one and were just trying to mess with the DC to see what would happen. So they didn't believe Poppy and I when we said we saw one!"

"What? That's stupid! Wait...I might have an idea..." Soul's gears started clicking as she thought of something. "My best friend is a Destalie Catcher! We could talk to her and try to convince her team to check it out!"

"Really?" Bingo exclaimed, eyes sparkling with hope. "That would be perfect!"

"By the way," interrupted Poppy, "what's your name? I never caught it..."

The next day, Soul, Bingo, and Poppy met up with Yoshi, the space chicken, who worked as a DC and was also Soul's best buddy. Yoshi was very intrigued by their findings, and agreed to investigate with her team. Bingo was so excited, she hopped around Soul's apartment screaming in happiness until she had no more energy left.

The trio, Soul, Bingo, and Poppy, watched out the window (also wall) of Cloudhead Quarter's Stargazing Room, anxiously chewing on their fingernails while they saw Yoshi and her team packing their gear, preparing to attempt capturing the Destalie. A week had passed, and it was discovered that the Destalie they had seen was actually extremely dangerous, growing at rapid rates, and taking over stars all over the universe.

"Wow, I hope Yoshi will be ok..." Bingo said worriedly.

"He'll be fine! The whole team has trained vigorously for their whole life," Poppy tried convincing Bingo, and Soul chimed in,

"Yeah! Yoshi's tough, he'll be fine!"

But deep inside, Soul was scared. Scared that her best friend would never come back from this mission. Because even a single touch from the Destalie could be fatal. A single touch, that's all it could take.

Soul woke up a day later, gasping for breath. A nightmare. She felt like something was not right. Had something happened to Yoshi? She rushed to Cloudhead Quarters, and up to Flora's office.

Starless Soul

By: Lila Kim

“Flora! Are they back yet? Is Yoshi ok? Did the mission succeed?”

“Soul, Yoshi’s fine. He’s a little scratched up, but nothing major. You can go see him. The team was brought to the East Infirmary Wing.”

“Thank you so much, Flora! See you later!”

Soul raced to the East Infirmary Wing, and saw Yoshi, laying in a bed, eating a bowl of vegetable soup. She was so relieved her best friend was ok. Yoshi told her all about the capture of the Destalie, how it had turned into a huge, vicious, howling, ice storm-like whirl of razor sharp, stinging shards that stabbed at their space suits, paralyzing them if it got through. There was a turbulent battle, and unfortunately some lives were lost. If it wasn’t for the other teams that came to help, the Destalie would have emerged victorious.

It was then when Yoshi told the story, that something dawned in Soul’s mind. She realized that needing help is not a bad thing. Soul had thought needing help would burden the people she asked, and make her seem weak. It was like a gear went click in her brain.

The valiant souls of those who did not survive the mission were honored greatly, and those who survived did as well. The space colony residents no longer told mere legends to their children about the Destalie, but rather educated them about how to avoid creation of Destalies in the first place. Soul accepted an apprentice to assist her on her route, and her life went pretty much back to normal, but with a different mind set. She, Yoshi, Bingo, and Poppy all became really close and lived for a very long time, making joyful memories and living life to the fullest- together.

**The students  
and families are  
so grateful for  
the amazing  
teachers  
at FMES**



Starless Soul  
By: Lila Kim

# Trees Please

By: Maxwell Deggendorfer

Trees can help to catch the CO<sub>2</sub> to help stop climate change. We are going to need to plant a lot of trees in order to stop global warming. On October twenty-fifth of 2019, there was a fundraiser online that said for every one dollar given they would plant one tree. They raised over twenty million dollars. Per year, a mature tree can hold forty-eight pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. This proves that this organization got 960,000,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air. Sounds like a lot, but in 2019 the Amazon rainforest lost one billion trees. That's why the Amazon fires were so bad because those trees are hundreds of years old.

Trees absorb carbon, and we have too much carbon. But what if I said that the carbon in the air is causing climate change and causing a greenhouse effect? If we plant enough trees, we can make a big difference to help the end of global warming. "Trees use the energy of sunlight, and through the process of photosynthesis, they take carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the air and water from the ground. In the process of converting it into wood, they release oxygen into the air," said Stephen Leahy from National Geographic. He also states that trees can get more carbon from the soil and use it for energy.

Trees provide habitat for animals, and we are losing animals and biodiversity. Let's use any bird as an example. Birds need food (mice, nuts, berries, and other animals) and they need water. If one of their foods goes to an extent the birds will try to get food from the other things. Let's say they need to migrate to do this. But where they migrate the trees are getting cut down. Now we lose not only the tree that helping get the CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air, but is also we lose homes for plants and animals. They will need to fight to find shelter and to stay alive.


Trees provide lumber for construction, which humans need (and should harvest more sustainably). The prices have been going up for wood, which may be bad for the construction industry. But this could be a blessing in disguise. With the prices going up, people are not buying as much lumber, and this is making the lumber companies not be able to cut down more trees. This is good for all the examples I listed above. Another reason is when the companies cut down the trees they sometimes replant trees. But these trees will take lots of years to regrow. Instead, they should cut specific trees out of a bigger area. This would also make the forest more fire safe.



# Trees Please

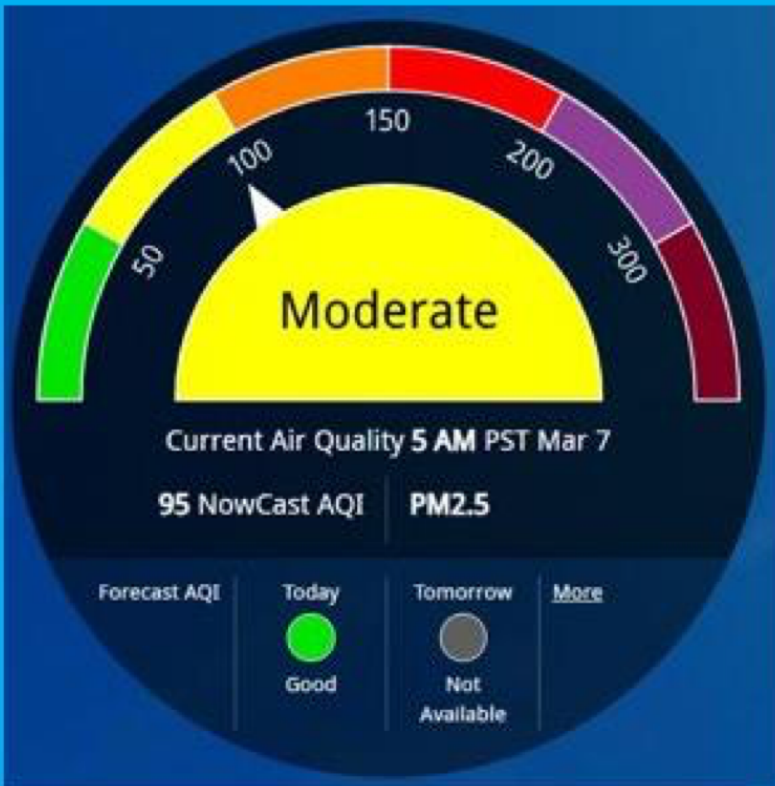
The problem that some countries are running into is that with their growing populations they need to make more space for homes. They are also thinking that they have other ways of energy like solar wind and water. Lots of countries are trying to help plant more trees but they are taking a shortcut. Instead, to let a whole forest grow with strong trees, they are making a small forest that they are going to cut down in ten or twenty years. This is 40 percent less effective. Trees need lots of time to reach their full potential and to be big and sturdy. This is also making more work for others to do, like planting trees, cutting, and repeating. Probably when the countries cut down the trees they make paper or something like that. This would also cause more pollution to be in the air.

In conclusion, the climate is getting warmer every year and this is a great way to cool it down. Even though there are different ways to get the CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air, this is the cheapest, and it does not let out greenhouse gasses at the beginning of the process like the other options do. Planting trees is fun and it's great for the earth, so let us all do our part and plant some trees!




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# Where the Sidewalk Ends

By: Portia Trabue

I once had a  
Book of children's  
Poetry, by a famous  
Man I'll never meet,  
And it told me  
Where the Sidewalk Ends.

I've visited Eastern  
Oregon once,  
Amazed at how the towns  
Just drop off,  
Fall, into  
Desert. You can  
See where the sidewalk ends,  
And it all just goes  
On, flat, till you reach  
The mountains,  
And whatever,  
To them, nonsense  
Goes on beyond them.

I drove to a friend's  
House once,  
And was somewhat disturbed  
By the perfect suburbia,  
As each house,  
A cracker box  
A bit too big,  
Was practically the  
Same shade of gray,  
Though you couldn't  
Really tell,  
And there, the sidewalk ended,

And the development  
Gave way to  
scorched earth scrubland,  
And the grass  
Was dry again.

I hardly ever drive  
To school,  
Mostly I ride the bus,  
And the sidewalk often ends,  
Eaten whole  
By innocuous yard grass,  
Fades into pothole-  
Ridden alleys,  
And the alleys  
Connect the city,  
Often overlooked,  
And the brambles,  
Dandelions,  
Bluebells,  
All cheer.

Contrary to popular  
Beliefs, the sidewalk,  
In whatever form  
You find it,  
Does not end. It  
Pauses,  
Rambles,  
but its many dots  
And dashes  
Are still speaking.



# Beach Turkey

Once upon a time there was a turkey named Timothy, or Tim for short. Tim was no ordinary turkey. He was a beach turkey. Tim lived in a city on the Oregon coast. In this city there were many beach turkeys and they all got along. The thing that separated beach turkeys from other turkeys is that they needed the beach to live. Tim lives in a tree on a beach.

“Good morning,” said Tim. It was time to go to work. Tim works at McDonalds and he rides his skateboard to work every day. As Tim rides his skateboard across the beach to get to work, he hears and sees big waves coming from the ocean: SPLASH! SPLOOSH! SPLOOAASH! Then a giant horn comes out of the water.

“Morning Billy,” says Tim. This was Tim's friend Billy the narwal, he and Tim had been friends for a long time. In this world there are two different kinds of turkeys: beach turkeys and forest turkeys. Since ancient times the two different kinds of turkeys have battled it out and it is now thought by all turkeys that they are sworn enemies.

“I have to go or I'll be late for work! Bye!” says Billy.

Far away in deep dark woods, “With this device all the turkey beaches will be destroyed after it's activated! MWAA HA HA HA HA AH AHA HA HAHA HAHA HAHAHA!” says a hooded figure.

Tim likes to read so after work, he goes to a library.

“Ah, what book should I read today? I've read just about all of them,” says Tim.

“Well,” says the librarian, “You could read this new one we just got from the ruins of old Turkey City.”

“How did you get that?” said Tim.

“Well, somebody was just trying to make some money so they went and scavenged stuff from the place and sold the book to us, or at least that's what they told us.”

“What kind of book is it?” said Tim

“It's some sort of a myth that turkeys of the olden days used to believe in, I think I wasn't able to open it. It's been stuck.”

“Cool, I'll take it," says Tim. Tim rides back to his tree and starts to read the book: *The History of the Turkeys*.

*Once upon a time there was one giant flock of turkeys that all lived peacefully and happily. They all worked together since they were the only turkeys on the planet. They roamed for years trying to find a good home until they found it. It was a waterfall off a cliff into a lake. They settled here and it later became Turkey City. This city was on the edge of both a beach and a forest. The turkeys had two leaders, John and Tyran. John was a leader who cared about the people of Turkey City and its economy, while Tyran only cared about the military strength of Turkey City. Later, other animals started to attack Turkey City because their town had ruined their watering hole. The turkeys needed a way to defend themselves, so they built a machine capable of mass destruction. It was basically a big flying bird robot that was piloted by both leaders. With this machine, the turkeys were able to drive off the other animals and have peace, but Tyran, driven mad with power, wanted to take over the other animals. John did not agree. So the turkeys split into two: those who followed John, and those who followed Tyran. John and Tyran fought for the robot but both died in the process, so the robot flew deep into caves where nobody could find it. The turkeys who followed John fled to the beach, while the turkeys who followed Tyran fled to the forest - and thus the two turkey clans separated and never met again. The location of the robot, however, is only known by the forest turkeys, and it is believed that the forest turkeys will someday use the robot to destroy the beach turkeys; but our legend says that the descendant of John will rise up and protect us against it.*

“Oh,” says Tim “I guess it's missing the last page. Bummer. I was enjoying that. Well, time for bed.”

*ZZZZZzzzzzzZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZzZzZZZZZZZZzzzzzzzzzzZZZZZZZZZZzzzzzzzzZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZzzzz.*  
THUD! THUD! THUD!

“Huh? What's that?” said Tim. As Tim looks out the window, he sees a giant bird robot in the distance.

“Uh-oh,” said Tim. Tim rushed over to Turkey City, only to see the giant robot land on the ground with one turkey standing on top of it.

“Hello beach turkeys, I am Jim the forest turkey and I have come to destroy you all.”

Turkeys gobble in fear.

“No, you won't, we will not let our town be destroyed by a forest turkey,” said Tim.

“Come up here and stop me then,” said Jim.

Tim caught an updraft and flew high enough to land on the robot. As Tim flew to the fight of his life, he looked deep into the eyes of his foe. This is it, thought Tim, this is the time that he would rise up and protect his town when everyone else was too scared. Tim only knew basic turkey kung-fu so he was ready to fight, but did not know what his enemy had in store for him.

When Tim landed they immediately started fighting. Wing to wing, claw to claw. Those turkeys fought for a while on that robot. They tackled each other, they clawed each other, then they finally stopped. They stood there and stared at each other.

“This is the end for you, Tim. My robot is charging up; Turkey City will soon be destroyed,” said Jim.

“No, it won't,” said Tim. Tim rushed towards Jim and started to attack him, but Jim grabbed his foot and threw him off the robot. Tim glided down, because turkeys can glide and not fly. Tim didn't know what to do, but he knew he had some time before the robot was finished charging - so he glided down to the elders' house for advice.

“Elder, help me please! I don't know what to do!” said Tim.

“You must save Turkey Town. That's what you have to do,” said the elder.

“But how? Jim is too strong!” said Tim.

“Ah, I knew this day would come,” said the elder.

“What?” said Tim.

“The day that I would need to tell you, that you are the ancestor of John,” said the elder

“WAAAAAAHHH?” said Tim.

“Yes it's true. And also, Jim is the ancestor of Tyran.”

“What does this mean?” said Tim.

“It means that only you and Jim can control the robot, so you are our only hope,” said the elder.

“Then I will defeat him!” says Tim. Tim catches the updraft again and glides up towards the robot where his enemy Jim awaits him.

“It's over, Tim! Turkey Town will soon be destroyed!” said Jim.

“No. I will defeat you this time!” Tim yelled.

“And why is that?” said Jim

“Because I'm the ancestor of John!” said Tim proudly.

“GOBBLE GOBBLE BOBBLE!” went Jim (a turkey's version of laughter).

“What? You don't believe me?” said Tim.

“Oh no, I believe you,” said Jim. “In fact, I've known for a long time now. Who do you think put that book in the library?”

“You did that!?” said Tim, “But why?”

“Well, you see, Tim, in order for the robot to activate the book that I planted in the library, it needed to be opened, and the only person that could open the book was an ancestor of John. So I gave it to the librarian and surprisingly, the page that told you that you were an ancestor of John was missing.”

Tim rushed towards Jim and they fought. Jim pinned Tim on the ground and then the robot started making sounds like it was going to catch fire. “Turkey Town will now be destroyed!” said Jim.

But then: SPLASH SPLOSH SPLASH! Billy flew out of the water into the air, soaring through the sky. Tim and Billy's eyes met and Tim could tell what Billy was going to do: sacrifice himself for Turkey Town.

“NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!” yelled Tim.

Billy's horn stabbed into the robot and it went crashing down, and the robot was destroyed. Tim climbed out of the rubble a hero, but he knew the real hero was Billy.

Beach Turkey  
By: Leo Hartley

# Thank Yous

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