

Telling Tales



**Written by the Children and Teens
of Highland Branch Library**

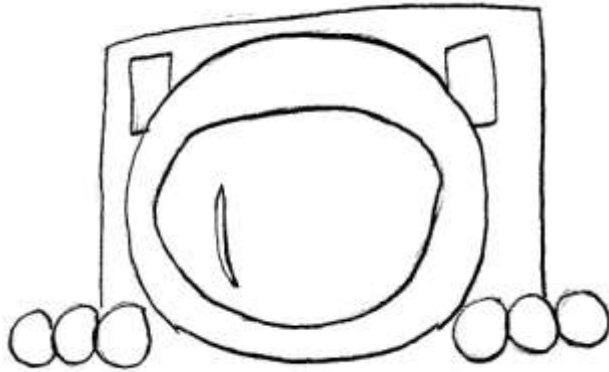
Introduction:

November is National Novel Writing Month and here at Highland Branch Library we have been encouraging our afterschool visitors to develop a love of writing. We had three different writing activities for the kids and teens on Wednesdays. In the first, there were story bins containing possible characters, settings, and plots as a starting point for their stories. In the second, we used pictures from magazines and picture books as inspiration and for the third we used dice with pictures and the kids were challenged to write a story using all of the dice.

We hope you enjoy the results of all of our hard work this month.

Story Bins

The Cheater by Abigail



One family liked to do a weekly competition where there was a different topic for the competition. One week, the family had to make an astronaut costume. The dad liked to cheat. Secretly he hired an astronaut to take his place. At five o'clock they gathered in the family room. The mom knew about her husband's plan for the competition. She required everyone to take off his/her helmet. When she saw the astronaut instead of her husband she was fuming with rage.

The Robber by Joshua



The school classroom was dark and black. Then there was a knock at the door. "Hello anybody there?" No answer. A robber came in, took the toys, and left. The next day the children walked into the school classroom. The children were sad. They all had lost items. Then a kid saw a mysterious letter on his desk: "Go to the yellow guy and look under his coat." The toys were there. The kids became happy again!

Animal Rain by Fatuma



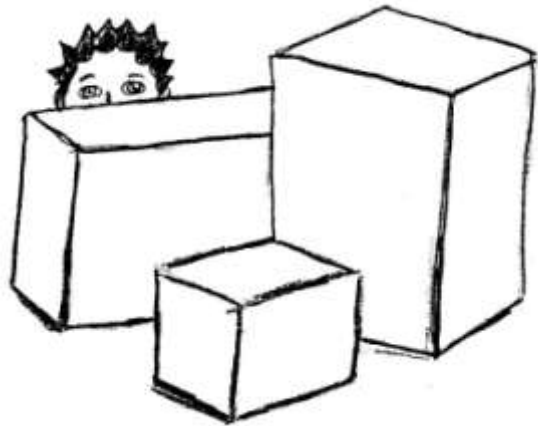
One day there was this man who owned a farmyard. In his big farmyard were a lot of animals. He had to keep an eye on them. So one day the man arrived at his farm. He wanted to check on his animals so he did. They weren't there. He was going crazy when he noticed it. Then in two minutes all of his animals started falling from the sky. He went even crazier. He started screaming "Aaaaahhhh!" everywhere. Then the animals all fell to the ground. They were not hurt. He was so happy they could be safe with him again.

The Very Old Man by Yasmin



Once there was a very old man. He lived in a very old, run down house. He could not walk. His friend would help him get in his house. One day he became lonely and sad. So he used his special phone to call his friends Ayah, Nada, Mary and Lydia. They didn't answer. When he turned around his friend had disappeared. He received a message that they all went to Mars. So he went to find them because he wanted to check out what Mars looked like.

Lost by Garrett



Andy lost an item in the basement. When he went to look for it all he found was a stranger hiding. Then the stranger got scared and ran outside. No one knew what had happened.

The Evil Phone Call by Becca



There once was a mailman. One day he got a mysterious phone call. It was from the abandoned pay phone that people avoided because it was creepy. The mailman was frightened. Then the phone said, "I am going to eat you." The mailman didn't know what to do. He tried to run, but the phone cord had wrapped around his legs. Then the phone ate him.

The Prize by Aaron



One day an explorer went to a competition. On the way, he studied the other explorers so he could beat them. To win, he needed to explore the stage the fastest. He, in a very close competition, won after exploring the **WHOLE** stage in...(drum roll please)...3 seconds! The prize was 10 cents (very well earned).

Corny the Cowboy by Chris



One day Corny the cowboy was hanging with Horse in the park. They were preparing for a rodeo. Suddenly he heard on the radio that there was an asteroid heading to Earth. He knew he could help because his horse has very strong legs. So he rode Horse into the path of the asteroid. Corny kicked the comet with his horse. Everything went back to normal.

The Princess Storm by Dale



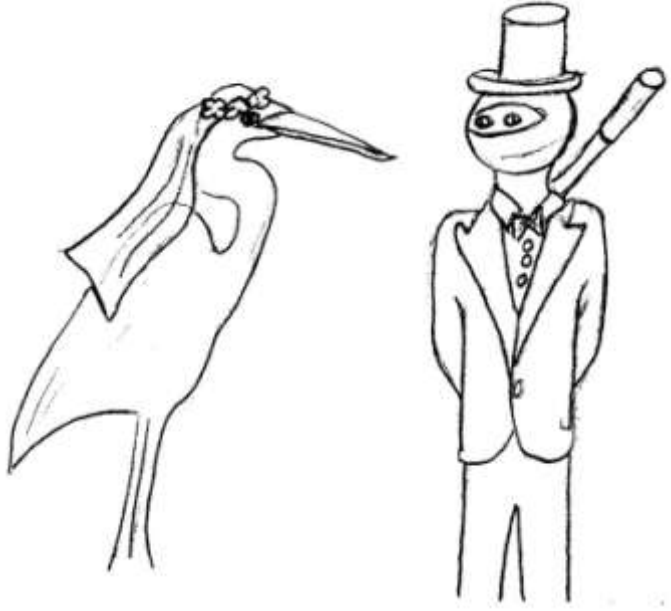
One time, there was a big storm. A princess made it go away by using her magical wand to cast a spell. She said the wrong spell. Then her basement caught on fire. The winds from the storm made the basement blow up.

The Message on Mars by Willy



One day, a stranger alien walked on Mars and found a strange message. It said, "I am someone who eats aliens. Go to Saturn to be safe." When the alien saw this message he went to Saturn and was safe and lived 1,000 years.

A Wedding by Beatrice



Picture Prompts

I landed on the egret on accident. All the rest happened on purpose. Or maybe it was the other way around.

So there was an egret wedding. I landed on one of the egrets. The person holding the wedding was blind. Therefore, I ended up married to an egret on a beach. Soon after that I got shot by the FBI.

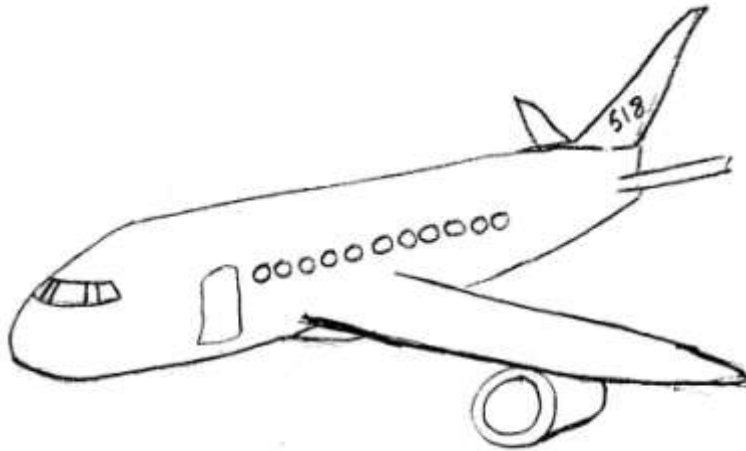
The World of Floating Everything by Willy



One day, I walked into a room and started to float. When I touched the ceiling, I hit the wall and started to cry. Then I ate a banana and felt better. I went through a doorway. I bumped into a fruit bowl and ate every piece of fruit in the fruit bowl. Then I went out the door and I am still floating. In fact, I wrote this story floating.

Story Cubes

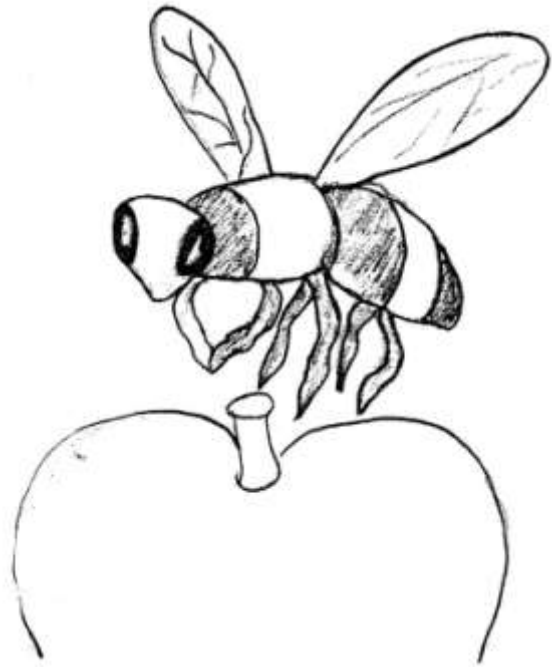
Flight 518 by Brandi



On holiday eve, there was a family agreement that they are taking a trip to France. So the family bought passports that were brand new. They got to the airport and got on the plane number 518. While on the plane, the worker read them a book during the flight, but this book was a warrior book that comes to life. Then all of a sudden a passenger heard his suitcase rumbling. A monkey was inside.

Then the plane started rumbling. It was being attacked by soldiers. The soldiers had guns that blew red and purple fire. So then the plane started to go down but the captain had an emergency button that put down wheels to save the plane. They found a key to the plane door overnight. They lived in teepees for three days. After that, the navy spotted a big sign spelling SOS and the passengers were saved and lived happily ever after.

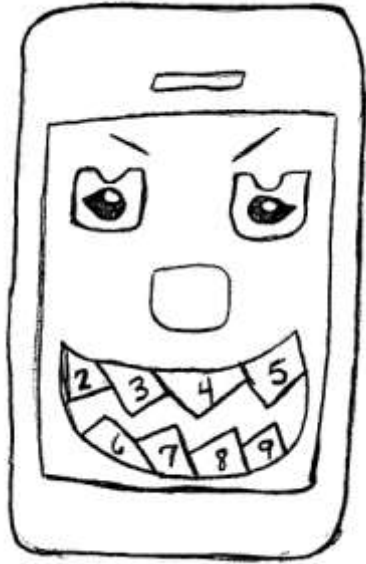
Three Wishes by Emily



One day there was a horrible storm and lightning was flashing and thunder was crashing. Flowers and mankind were dying off. There was a little girl named Cantalope who had a pet magical bee. The bee could grant any wish and give out three wishes per day. Cantalope wished for a magical key that would open any door and lead them to a warm

place. When they got there it was way too hot. They were in Egypt. So Cantalope used another wish to go to Myrtle Beach. She knew she only had one more wish. At Myrtle Beach they enjoyed themselves a lot. The bee then told them she had to hurry and make a wish because she was running out of time. Then all of a sudden a shadow came over the beach. Cantalope looked up and saw it was a big magnet pulling Myrtle Beach away. Cantalope's final wish was to wish herself back home, but what she didn't know was her home was destroyed. She tried to go home but couldn't. She was sad and sat down and noticed this apple. The apple was magical. It turned the land back to normal. Or so she thought...

Phone Trouble by Bre'Azian and Iyanna



Once upon a time, there was a bad little girl named Ashley. Ashley asked her dad for a phone. A phone that has internet and can talk back to you. But the phone was evil. She got the phone anyway. This evil phone could set people and buildings on fire and trap them in a dungeon. The phone then trapped Ashley in

the dungeon where she met Briana. These girls were scared and were made to make world globes. In the dungeon there was a magical cockroach that would help them get free. As they were escaping, the dungeon was shooting out bows and arrows. Then they ran so far they saw a big rainbow that would lead them to a magical land. There were people flying out of the air sprinkling five dollar bills. They got enough money to build a house and live richly.

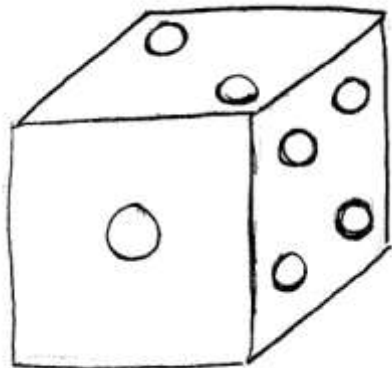
Dez Cooper by Desiree



the other girls sneaked into the back door. They noticed in the house was this big apple tree that throws apples at people. The ghost Anne came back in the house and saw the girls. She told them, “Either get out or I am going to throw you into a deep, scary water fountain.” The girls then started running in the house and saw this big door with an “L” on it. Inside the door was a dirty caged chamber with spiders in it. They looked up and saw this direction compass that led them to a classroom where they did work forever and ever.

A long time ago, I, “Dez Cooper,” lived in this big, creepy mansion with a ghost named Anne. She scared little girls after she ate their Girl Scout cookies. One day the little girls decided to get the ghost back. So one of the girls called the ghost and told her to come outside while

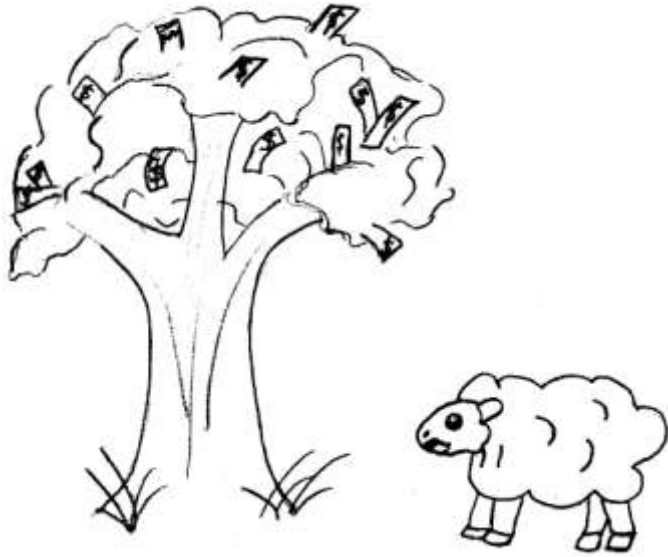
The Village by Madison and Alexis



Once upon a time there was a village called Oak Moon. In the village were two bad Indian kids and one day they found this cube with dots. And so they threw it up in the air and it hit the girl on the head and she passed out. Then the boy threw it up again and it hit him on the head and he passed out. When they woke up the village was burned down. While in the village they were startled by a bow and

arrow that almost struck them. They kept walking and walking and walking and then spotted a log cabin. They looked through the keyhole and saw the brightest light they had ever seen. So they then went into the cabin to see what the light was and on the table was a message. They didn't know who or where it came from. All they knew was the letter was very dangerous and suspicious. So they went into the bedrooms, laid down, and went to sleep. After a while something woke them up. It was a cracking of a cane on their back. So when they looked up they saw a tall, dark, devious, sinister looking man. The man then scooped up the kids and took them to a lake. And they were never seen again.

Sheep Bob by Meredith and Sara



the glass would change the money into one hundred dollar bills. He became filthy rich and bought a jet, which flew him to the Earth. There he became a human mime and bought this pink mysterious cane which he used to turn people into sheep so they would know how it felt. He soon became the ruler of the world and never turned the sheep into humans.

A long, long time ago there was a sheep named Bob with a magical French mustache. He lived in a giant mansion that was purple and was on the moon. He planted this big money tree but it only grew one dollar bills on Saturdays. Every Sunday he would stare out his window through his magnifying glass and

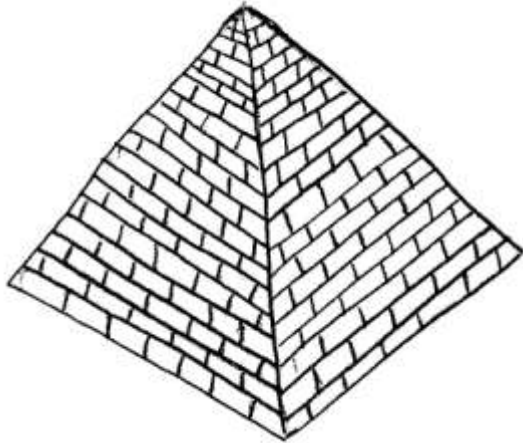
Nine Magical Friends by Jaihlen



A long time ago, there were nine people. They went into a haunted castle. It was haunted because when you went in everything about you changed. For example, you would go crazy and your skin would turn different colors. One of the nine people, a boy named Jake, knew magic. He sensed the evil spirit

inside the house. They all tried to escape but the house would never let them go. They called the police, but the police was bogus. They set the house on fire. Jake's hand was magical. It had a water symbol on it and when he pressed the symbol water came out and stopped the house from burning. Then the evil spirit fled from the house and Jason, Jake's friend, saw the ghost leaving and used his magical bow and arrow to kill it, but what they didn't know was it was still alive. Jake's other friend Jonathan used his magical ability to turn into a giant, huge piranha to eat the ghost. The question was, did the ghost really die or was the ghost now one of the nine friends...

Pyramid by Becca



There once was an ancient pyramid. One day a princess flew over to the special pyramid on an airplane. In front of the pyramid was a waterfall. The waterfall had pretty, sparkly, fresh water coming out of it. Also you had to cross a bridge that had water under it to get to the pyramid. When the princess got inside the

pyramid, she used a magnifying glass to see things because she had bad eye sight. When she got into the middle of the pyramid she saw fish swimming inside the pond. In the back of the pyramid she noticed a trap. Then a U magnet came down and fell on her. Afterwards she discovered other life under the pyramid. The humans were in this huge logged house. The house had a special door that led to a prison. The princess was captured and never seen again.

The Island by Deion



There were three people and they went into a spooky, villain castle. Inside there were aliens and zombies. The people tried to get out, but the door locked by itself. The master zombie used his powers to make a huge plane to take the castle to a magical island. Then the island was moving and on the surface of the island

there was a house. It was abandoned by people with whips. The whips had special ends with the tip of an arrow so when they get hit the arrow turns on fire. One of the people had powers and could transform stuff and then he transformed a piece of the box into a cell phone so he could call the police. The cell phone worked, but the police didn't believe him. He told the police, "If I'm lying it will turn dark and gloomy, but if I'm telling the truth it will turn light and a rainbow will appear." And in three seconds a rainbow appeared, but the police still didn't believe him because the policeman was an alien. To be continued...

The New Scary World by Willy



A long, long, long time ago in 17 B.C. there was a bridge that cracked when time ended. Then when that happened clocks would stop and everything would go black immediately. Then the world would unlock and we would go into a new world even scarier than this world could be. When this happened, in 1112, a demon let them in to the new world and the door unlocked. Lots and lots and lots of aliens were waiting at the bottom of a hill in a line. Zombies and monsters and mummies and all of the scary things you could think about were waiting at the bottom of the hill. Then the aliens and zombies and all the scary things blocked the path. A tower rose at the top of

the hill. A door in the tower unlocked and locked when every person from the old world was inside. The door locked outside so the people were trapped inside. The aliens and all the other scary things burned the tower and only one person survived. Then a pyramid rose instead of the tower and all the mummies walked inside. Then the person ran outside because he found a secret passage that had clues to the rest of this mysterious world. When he found all the clues he ran through the passage and out the opening. When the clues were found the world got destroyed with all of the aliens and zombies and all the scary things and the new world unlocked. And that is why it is now 2011 and almost 2012 and it will get later into the world as the years go by. Now we have a very beautiful world that nothing scary lives in as far as we know.