



# World of Writing

## The Dale's Winter Vacation (Short Story)

I was staring out the window, watching the snow fall. This was the day I was waiting all those years for, I finally got to go to Disney World. Now, not my whole family was as calm as me. In fact, they were running around all over the place doing their last minute packing. "Skye," my mother asked, "What are you doing? If you're ready, put on your shoes, if you're not ready, then get ready." I ran off to put on my shoes. Then, mom stopped me, "Skye, take off your shoes and go find Forest." I replied, "Mom, you just said to," then I was cut off by her yelling, "Brooklyn! What are you doing! Oh, just forget I asked, as long as you're down here in five minutes I don't care." (Brooklyn, my thirteen-year-old sister, and Forest, my eight-year-old brother) A minute later, Brooklyn came storming down the stairs muttering, "Ugh, can't you people wait one minute! I was just doing my hair like a normal person, and by the way, you all look like you haven't done your hair in a week." Dad was next to come into the kitchen. He only made things worse by asking, "When should I start packing the car?" Mom answered, "You mean you haven't even started?" then she shouted, "We're leaving as soon as someone finds Forest, so move it!" Forest suddenly appeared in the room, "I'm right here. I'm ready to go, and I'll wait in the car." I threw on my navy sneakers and followed him into the garage. Dad was almost finished packing up the car. We have to be at the airport in one hour and it takes a half hour to get there. Mom and Brooklyn dashed out the door and slammed it behind them. Everyone climbed into the car, then, dad opened the garage door and... oh no. There was a car stuck in the snow at the end of our driveway.

Chapter 2 continues on page 3.

## Contents

### Special Interest Articles

Dale's Winter Vacation	1
Destination Review	2
Beach Battle	3
Short Story: Dinosaur Digging	4

### Individual Highlights

Pleasant Poetry	2
Cont. The Dale's Winter Vacation	3
Limerick	3
Haiku	4



## Pleasant Poetry

### Fireworks

See them glow,  
every color of the rainbow.  
So bright, so clear,  
everything is magic here. Roaring like  
thunder as they zoom up to the sky,  
then fall to the ground, and there they  
lie.

### My Plant

Though I gave you sun and water,  
You still seem to totter.  
You should stand up straight and tall,  
Instead you slump against the wall.

## EXPANDO-CASE

Can't fit everything into your suitcase? Try the Expando-Case! It's stretchy, it's shapeable, it's the Expando-Case! Buy now and get a FREE Expando-Purse! Now comes in floral, denim, AND mesh!!

## *Fabulous Flights*

Make your wallet AND you happy on this vacation! Enjoy the comfort of massage chairs, three course dinners, your OWN Mini TV! Check out our website at [www.Fabulous-Flights.com](http://www.Fabulous-Flights.com) today!

## Destination Review: Hancock Center

After hearing many stories about the Hancock Center, I finally got to visit it. It was everything I thought it would be and more. I could look out and see north, south, east, and west. Have you ever been over 1,000 feet in the air? Or over 90 floors up in a building? Have you ever been able to see over 80 miles out?

The John Hancock building is currently the fourth-tallest building in Chicago and the seventh-tallest in the United States. Some people call the Hancock "Big John". It is also a residence to many people with over 700 people residing in the building. These lucky people get to call the John Hancock building their home. They even have a swimming pool! The 44th-floor sky lobby features America's highest indoor swimming pool. Another interesting thing about the building is that it even has a restaurant on the 95<sup>th</sup> floor that anybody can dine in...assuming they can afford it! When I first saw the building, I was amazed how tall it was. The John Hancock Center is 1,127 feet high! The ride in the elevators to the 95<sup>th</sup> floor was so fast, I had problems with my ears. The elevator to the top is the fastest elevator in America. Even the elevator feels like a roller-coaster, it takes less than 50 seconds to get to the top.

When we got to the top, it was very cool because we were so high up and everything was so tiny. The height of the building is just amazing. The John Hancock Center has Chicago's only open-air Sky Walk. It is an area that you can walk through. It has an open side that lets you feel the rush of the air.

Finally getting to visit the Hancock Building was everything I thought it would be and more. I could look out and see north, south, east, and west. It was such a cool experience it is hard to explain all the feelings from; rushing up in the elevator to the top floor, being able to see so far out, and seeing how tiny everything looked below.

CONTINUED from page 1     The Dale's Winter Vacation  
Chapter 2

The owner of the car got out of it and shoved from behind. A few minutes later, our neighbor came out to help. By fifteen minutes later, when we only had forty-four minutes until our plane left, our whole neighborhood was shoving and pushing. Tick, tock. Tick, tock. The car inched forwards. I was staring at my watch. Forty minutes left. Tick, tock, the car inched again. I huffed and sighed. Mom was tapping her fingers on the cover of "Life of Pi". Dad got out of the car to help the man. Brooklyn was filing her nails. Thirty-five minutes left. The neighbors heaved and hoed, they pushed and pulled. Heave, hoe, heave, hoe, heave- all of the sudden, the car lurched forward! Everyone cheered and gave high fives. I'm pretty sure the cheering was loudest from our car. I quickly calculated... when we arrive at the airport, our plane will be done boarding after two minutes! The car owner thanked all the people who helped, then he climbed into his car and drove away. The car was gone.

## Beach Battle: Myrtle vs. Clearwater

Clearwater and other Florida beaches are the place to go if you are looking for the kind of beach that you can hunt for shells, or if you're looking to find marine animals, like dolphins. It also, on a sunny day, has smaller waves, which is good in some cases. However, Myrtle Beach could be the place for you. Although it does not always have the sunny warm days of Florida, it still is a wonderful beach. It's great for taking a walk on the sand (without poking your feet on shells), or, you can have an amazing boogie board experience with the great waves! But, beware of jellyfish! Jellyfish are pretty common here, but, you also may see a dolphin or two. During my visits to these beaches, I saw more sea creatures in Florida, although, at Myrtle Beach, my family did encounter two jellyfish. (If they're your kind of animal) So, if you're planning a beach trip soon, but don't know where, I hope I helped with your decision.

## Limerick

Cone of Shame \_\_\_\_\_ (for Brick)  
There once was a pet,  
Who came back from the vet,  
Wearing the cone of shame.  
There was none to blame,  
For that poor pet - was not healed quite yet.



## Reaching Out...

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I'm a Visual Latin student, and I am ten years old. I love watching your videos! My sister watches them with me every chance she gets (even though she does not take Latin) because you are so funny! My whole family loves them.

After Latina Christina I, I took Latin through Rosetta Stone, but it would not teach me words like: and, have, this, or that. It was so confusing that it made me not like Latin anymore. Then I started Visual Latin and it made Latin easy and definitely more fun!

What made you decide to learn Latin and when did you start your study? My sisters take French and Spanish. I was wondering if you have done any videos for either of those languages. If you have, I know my sisters would enjoy watching them.

Sincerely,  
Your Student

## World of Writing

### Haiku: Winter

The air, cold and crisp  
the snow is softly falling  
winter has arrived.

### Haiku: Spring

I found a Robin  
egg, almost ready to hatch.  
Now, it starts to crack.



## Short Story: Dinosaur Digging

"Jimmy," Jimmy's mother gasped, "Why are you digging a hole in the yard?" "I'm just practicing, mom," said Jimmy, who standing in front of a giant hole, covered in dirt and mud. "Practicing what?" "I want to be an Archeologist when I grow up." "Oh, I see. Then you may keep digging, just please do it in the corner of the yard where people can't see it as much and don't forget to fill up the holes when you're done." "Okay, mom," Jimmy said as he moved to the corner of the yard, "there wasn't anything in that hole anyway." As his mother went inside she murmured "I guess I can turn it into a garden once it's filled."

A few minutes later, Jimmy came rushing into the kitchen, dirt and all, shouting, "Mom! Mom! Guess what I found!" "What is it Jimmy?" His mother asked. "I found dinosaur egg! I bet it's a giant T-rex! Or maybe a soaring pterodactyl!" shouted Jimmy. His mother said, "Calm down, Jimmy. First go take a bath. You're getting dirt all over the floor." "Okay mom," said Jimmy as he hurried to the bath tub with his egg. As he took his bath, he thought of more possibilities of dinosaurs it could be. Then he decided that Todd – for that what he named his egg- was due for a bath also. But, since it was time for bed, he decided to give him a bath tomorrow. Right before Jimmy dozed off to sleep, he dreamed that Todd would be a Pterodactyl so that he could ride on his back and fly to school every morning.

### World of Writing

The next morning when he woke up, he filled his bowl with cereal. Then he turned on the TV and switched the channel to his favorite show, Dinosaur Train. While the show was on, he made sure Todd could see too. Jimmy whispered to Todd "See, soon you will be able to fly just like that dinosaur."

Once it had ended, it was time for Todd's bath. He filled the tub with water again. When the bath was filled to just the right amount, he put Todd into the bath tub and scrubbed as gently, but still as thoroughly, as he could. Once Todd was as clean as could be, he took the egg out of the tub and dried him off with a towel. As he drained the tub he noticed that the water was freezing cold. He figured that Todd must be cold too. So, Jimmy sat on the egg just like a bird to warm it up. As Jimmy sat down he heard a crackle and cried out, "Mom, I think I broke Todd!" his mother rushed over and examined the egg. "You didn't break it! It's hatching!" She rushed away to call the News. The news arrived fifteen minutes later. Reporters crowded around with cameras, everyone was staring at the egg holding their breath as the egg continued to crack. Then it happened, the egg cracked open and out came... what was this! It wasn't a Pterodactyl, it wasn't a T-rex, it wasn't even a dinosaur at all! It was a bird! A plain normal -not dinosaur bird! "It's a Pterodactyl!" said Jimmy. His mother replied, "Jimmy, it's just a normal bird." The reporters began to get angry. "There are more important stories out there. We might have missed a big one. Next time don't call until you're sure that you have a story." one of the Reporters said. Then, they all stormed off. Jimmy was very embarrassed and devastated. His first archeological find was nothing but a big mistake. He asked his mom, "Can I at least keep the bird as a pet?" "We'll see." Jimmy said with a sigh, "I'll never get to be an archeologist now." "Jimmy," his mother said, "You can still be an archeologist. Everyone makes mistakes. We just expected too much. One day, you will find something as spectacular as a dinosaur egg and by then, no one will even remember this." Todd chirped in agreement.