Short Story: Tony and the Ruby Trident
News: A Close Encounter With an Aquatic Beast
Movie Review: A Turtle’s Tale
White Beard’s Ghost Pirate Poetry Jam
....and more

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Editor In Chief
Paige lives with her two annoying brothers and one cute corgi (Also a mom and dad). She loves dragons, and her favorite place is anywhere in the water. She likes to draw and could not have made this magazine without “Cover Story” writing curriculum.

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White Beard’s Ghost Pirate Poetry Jam
Do you want a movie with horrible music, no plot, and turtles? Then this is the movie for you! Get ready for no action, no excitement, and no adventure!

Horrible music means the wrong songs in the wrong places, and bad timing. Also it has music you’ve never even heard of. It’s as if someone let a two year old put it together!

No plot is an hour and a half of talking, animated turtles chasing each other around. The little plot it does have, is one turtle finds another turtle and then loses her, then he finds another turtle then loses him, and finds the other turtle again etc. etc.

The only interesting thing about this movie is at the end they’re all united and the main turtle marries the girl turtle and they all live happily ever after. Whoopee.

All in all this is a great movie for wasting an hour and a half of your life. I do not recommend you actually pay money for this movie, unless you like to have random movies you never watch lying around.
“Listen Whirlpool! I am not going back to the city. They’ll kill me!” On the sea floor, a merperson yelled furiously at a large great white shark.

“Maybe not. You are the king’s son, he might forgive you.”

“Forgive me for what? I didn’t do it in the first place, someone else did.” he replied as he flung up his fishing spear in a cloud of bubbles.

“Well, maybe they found whoever did steal from the king’s treasury.”

“I bet it was that guard who kept shooting me dirty looks.”

“Tony, quit jumping to conclusions and assuming absurd things.” Whirlpool thrashed his tail, irritated, as he spoke. “Just like your father.” He shook his head sadly.

“I don’t jump to conclusions, and neither does my father.” He said angrily.

“Yes he does, or we wouldn’t be in this mess. It was lucky I had Barnacles or we would have been caught by the guards that were chasing you, we wouldn’t have been able to get away.” At the sound of his name, a hippocampus tossed his mane and beat his scaly tail behind them.

“I think my father needs an advisor; if he did he wouldn’t jump to conclusions so much, or act on them.”

“Yeah.”

“I bet you would make a great advisor if he listened to you.”

“Well, when you’re king, I can be your advisor.”

“If I live long enough.” He muttered under his breath.

“Don’t say that, we could still make it out of this mess.”

“Not unscathed.”

“Well, we better pack up and go somewhere else.” Whirlpool said after a few moments of silence and started helping to put food jars in an eel skin bag. Then Tony hopped on his hippocampus and they started heading west.

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“What was that?” Whirlpool whispered worriedly.

“What’s what?” Tony replied as a roar louder than thirty-six lions reverberated across the sea floor.

“That, was a sea serpent. And a very large one judging by the sound.”

“Let’s go!” They swam as fast as they could, away from the sound of the beast. The three of them found themselves at the entrance to a small cave, and as the sun was setting fast, they decided to camp here for the night. Whirlpool agreed to go in first, because almost anything will think twice before attacking a huge great white shark.

“Woah.” gasped Whirlpool from inside the cave. Tony came in and looked at the wonderful sight. Hundreds of glowing jellyfish could be seen from the mouth of the cave. There were blue and green and purple and yellow.

“Do they have stingers?” Wondered Whirlpool. He reached out a fin to one, and found that they were just fine to touch. “They’re so squishy.” Tony took one in his hand, let it go again, and it jiggled around in the water. He looked out the mouth of the cave and saw only darkness.

“We should get some sleep Whirlpool.” Tony insisted. He went outside to tie up his hippocampus then came inside to get some sleep. The next morning, Tony put some of the glowing jellyfish in a jar and poked some holes in the lid so they could have fresh water.

“Good idea, that is the prettiest lantern I’ve ever seen.” Whirlpool said. They went outside to set out, and Tony untied Barnacles. The roar from the sea serpent that they had heard the other day unexpectedly resounded again, and the hippocampus, frightened by the sound, sped away eastwards, towards the city.

“Oh no! Oh great! Yeah that’s awesome.” Tony yelled as he flung his arms up in frustration and started chasing after his steed, Whirlpool close behind. “COME BACK HERE BARNACLES!” Whirlpool, who was faster, caught up to him first. Tony, couldn’t see them, but he heard Whirlpool cry out,

“AHHHH!” Tony sped along faster. Out of nowhere, a huge orange tentacle grabbed him around the middle and pulled him over the hill, to the mouth of a cave, which held a gigantic three headed squid twice the size of any whale with at least a hundred tentacles. He looked around for Whirlpool and Barnacles. Barnacles was safe, but Whirlpool was about to be eaten! Tony broke free of his tentacle, ducked one hurtling towards him, and sliced through another with his spear, which he wasted no time in stabbing through one of the kraken’s heads.

“Come on!” He yelled as he grabbed the 2,000 pound shark and dragged him to safety. Whirlpool was wounded and unconscious, and now he had no spear for fishing. He went to Barnacles’ saddlebags and took out some thick white cloth and some ointment for the large gash on Whirlpool’s side. Tony cleaned out the wound and put some of the ointment on it before tying the bandage around him. He carried him back to the cave and put their stuff in the saddlebags.

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He wasn’t going to let Whirlpool get hurt like that again. He was going to go back to the city.

“Where are we going?” Whirlpool said groggily, waking up. He looked around and saw that he was riding on Barnacles, Tony walking beside.

“Back to the city, I’m not going to let you get hurt like that again.”

“The city, we can’t go back there!”

“Just yesterday you were telling me that we should go back.”

“Yes but now… Why have I got a bandage on me?”

“You were hurt pretty badly by that kraken.”

“I don’t remember…” Whirlpool never finished his sentence, because just then they came across the cave of the kraken that had injured Whirlpool.

“I only killed one of the heads, it should still be alive.” But it wasn’t, someone else must have killed the other two, as there were two new spears sticking out of the heads. Whirlpool poked a tentacle with his nose.

“Yup, it’s pretty dead. He looked over the dead creature and saw a gold glow. “Tony come over here.” Tony swam over to it and found that the glowing was coming from a ruby encrusted trident made of celestial bronze, the only metal that could harm sea serpents or hydras. He went outside and saw that the spears were celestial bronze too. He went back inside and put the trident in his bag.

“What are you doing?”

“I could give it to my father, it might ease his anger.”

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“Why do you think someone would kill the kraken and leave the trident? Unless they put it there…” Whirlpool wondered.

Suddenly an earsplitting roar reverberated across the sea floor.

“Was that…”

“It was…”

“It’s at the city!” They yelled simultaneously. He spurred Barnacles at full speed towards the city gates.

“No! That is why you can’t go back!” Whirlpool wailed.

“If the sea serpent is as big as you say, it’ll destroy the city, killing thousands of people in the process, including my father!” As they swam over a hill, they kept swimming upward to get a better view. A sea serpent a mile long was violently smashing houses and shops, beating them with its tail, all the while steadily heading towards the palace. Tony looked down at the celestial bronze trident in his hand and then looked back at the city, a determined look upon his face; the beast was almost at the palace.

“Oh no, Tony no…” Whirlpool whispered as Tony dismounted the hippocampus and launched himself at the huge, blue serpent.

“Hey you big ugly brute! Leave my city alone!” It turned to look at him with its big yellow eyes, opened its mouth, and shot a jet of boiling water at him. He ducked it and swam around to its rear. The beast swatted him aside with its powerful tail and continued the destruction of the city. Tony got back up and swam towards its massive head. It turned to look at him, but before it could do anything, he stabbed one of the golden eyes with the trident, yellow goo oozed from the puncture. The snake writhed with pain, destroying more houses, and roared again. Mixed with the water, and smelling of sweaty socks and gasoline, the goo that had come from the serpent was in Tony’s nose. Turning around and, only having one eye, the snake struck some six feet to the left of Tony, and he took this opportunity to drive the trident into the head of the great beast, killing it.

A merperson dressed in a purple robe and wearing a brilliant crown of gold swam towards them from out of the palace, and as he reached them, Tony stuttered, “Father, it… it wasn’t me… I didn’t…” He was cut short as his father pulled him into a hug, “But father, I don’t understand…”

“We caught the real culprit weeks ago, I should have known you wouldn’t steal anything from me, especially my ruby trident.”
Brothers are annoying. I should know, I have two. One day I went to the beach with Isaiah. (Israel wasn’t born yet.) I was sitting on a chair reading a book under the shade of a beach umbrella. I was wearing my swimming suit, however I had no intention of getting in the water at the moment. “Hey Paige!” I was startled out of the climax of the book. “Hey Paige! Can you come play with me?” It was my brother Isaiah. “No, I’m reading a book.” He walked away.

I had got bored of my book and was lying on a beach blanket, taking a nap. “Hey Paige!” The enveloping darkness shattered and it seemed impossible to get back to now that I was awake. I saw my sandy brother standing over me. “Can you build a sand castle with me?” “Go away!” I snapped.

Now I was putting on scuba gear for going to the nearby reef. “HEY PAIGE!” A wave of boiling anger was rising higher inside me by the time he got to me. “WHAT!” I roared. He hesitated, taken aback by my tone.

“I was just wondering if you had brought my scuba stuff so I could go with you.” “Oh, yeah.” I said as all the anger flowed out of me like a wave of cool water. “Why didn’t you decide you wanted to do something with me when I wasn’t doing something like sleeping earlier?” I said with the last remaining ounce of anger. “Umm…” “Yeah, no reason. Come on I’ll help you put it on.” I said when he couldn’t think of anything to say. “Actually there is a reason. I’m made to annoy you.” See everybody knows it, even him.
In the summer of 1985 Wren Underwood swam through the Belize Barrier Reef, following the tour group. She wasn’t a tourist, she was helping guide the diving tour for the scuba shop she worked for in America, which had a station in Belize.

While she was looking down at the amazing reef, her tour group swam away. When she looked up, the biggest barracuda she had ever seen was a yard away, staring her down. As it opened and closed its terrifying jaw, Wren’s heart stopped, but it didn’t attack. Wren swam away from the 6 foot barracuda cautiously not taking her eyes off of it until she had reached her group.

Now, she says she knows to “pay attention to your surroundings and stay with the group”, but also that “just because it has teeth doesn’t mean it’s going to bite you”. Wren Underwood currently works as a park services specialist for Savannahs Preserve State Park and lives in Jensen Beach, Florida.

**CORAL REEFS**
A cinquain by Paige Workman

Reefs
Are home
To fish galore
Reefs are full of Life.

Wren Underwood
Do you want a fun snack that’s easy to make? So did I, until I made Aquarium cups. They’re really easy to make and they take really good.

To make your aquarium cups, you will need: whipped cream in a can, blue gelatin mix, I suggest Jell-O, a bag of Swedish fish, I used a bag of assorted colors for more variety, and some small clear plastic cups. First, follow the instructions on the box of gelatin mix up to the step where you put it in the fridge. Then, pour the gelatin into the cups, not completely filling it up. Now put one fish in each cup, or more if you like, but don’t put too many in there or all you’ll be able to see is fish. If you want a fish floating in the middle, put it in the fridge for half the cooling time and push the fish down with the blunt end of a skewer. Finish the instructions on the box. Once the gelatin is done cooling, spray the cream on the tops of the gelatin cups so you can’t see into it from the top. Cover them in plastic wrap and put them in the fridge until you want to eat them.

I used mine for my under-water themed birthday party, but they’re great for all kinds of things. I thought my fish tasted a little funky but everyone else thought it tasted fine, so I guess it was just me.
Slap, slap, slap, went the paddles as we kayaked through the shallow lake. Everywhere there were tall clumps of saw grass and in the middle there was an Island populated by birds and alligators. The water was occupied by bluegill, small minnows and other various fish. I had kayaked many times here before. “Ahh… caught in the grass again.” I said as we stopped moving. “I hate it when that happens.” Riley said looking down the side of the boat, as I put the paddle to the sandy bottom and pushed the boat off the clump of grass and we started moving again. We were kayaking with our 4-H club. “So… what did you do when you last went kayaking? You were talking petty happily about it earlier.” Riley asked from behind me.

I turned to look at my backseat friend, “Well, I don’t remember what it was called but, I went kayaking with my grandpa, grandma, brother and mom at a place with a playground. Grandpa had brought two boats with two seats each, so my brother had to sit in the middle of the boat that my grandpa and I were in, which left Grandma and Mom the other boat. The place we were going kayaking in was made up of many small islands made of mangroves, which got larger toward land.

“Eeeew!” I said as Haley’s paddle dripped kelp on me. “Sorry!”

When we kayaked out of the launch bay there was a long river that stretched to both sides, we took to the right. When we exited this river, there were two tiny islands. The larger one we circled around, to find a narrow path completely roofed by trees so that there wasn’t a lot of light.” “Ooh spooky.” “We went down it; the only sounds were birds and the paddles hitting the water. Soon we ran into a bunch of brambles and had to turn around. We did a figure eight around the two islands from before, and went through a tunnel whose end was hidden by a bend in the path.

At the end was a spectacular sight; clear blue water surrounding hundreds of tiny green islands, and Grandma who had finally caught up. “He he he.” We kayaked around the islands; figure eight, loop, loop, figure eight, river, loop,” I traced with my fingers and for the few seconds I wasn’t paying attention, we got stuck in the grass. “Urg. We kayaked around for a bit longer we stayed and then headed back. Then we went to the playground and goofed off for a while.” I finished as I suddenly fell in the water when we were pulling the boat in from the landing. We laughed and then took of our life vests to hang them up in the shed and put the boat back.
I once caught a magical fish
Who said he would grant me one wish
If I just put him back
In the great ocean black
That fish made a wonderful dish.
When I went seining at the Florida Oceanographic Center I learned about different animal mouths. Puffer fish have strong teeth for eating barnacles. Stingrays have mouths on the underside of their body for eating scraps of food off the ocean floor.

There are lots of places you can visit while in Florida, but I recommend these three for ocean lovers!
Pete ran to the doorstep, his untamed brown hair flying everywhere. Today was presentation day; everyone was supposed to write a speech and present it in front of the whole school. He didn’t want to be late; this was his big chance to show everyone how horrible sharks are and that they should get rid of them.

“Peter, don’t forget your lunch!” his mother called from the kitchen.

“Mom I’m going to miss the bus!” Peter complained. “It doesn’t come for another fifteen minutes.” his mother said quizzically. “Yea, but I’m going to meet Rey before walking to the bus stop.” He replied as he ran back out the door and hurried down the street to Rey’s house.

The door opened just as he reached it and Rey jumped out. “What’s your speech about?” Rey asked, “Sharks, what about yours?” “Saving California Mudfish… I can’t wait till after school!” He answered as they got on the bus.

A few hours later, he was standing on stage ready to present his speech. As he spoke he couldn’t help but notice hardly anyone was listening to him once they realized what he was talking about. “Maybe afterschool will be better,” He thought.

After school he was walking down to the boat launch with Rey in their scuba diving gear. They got in the boat with Rey’s mother and took off from the delta towards the reefs.

“So where do you wanna go, over by that little strip or way over there in the circular reef?” “In the circular reef,” Peter said as he dived off the boat and swam towards the reef. There were thousands of fish swimming around the stunning reef. There were corals in every color you could imagine and there was a spectacular show of schools of tropical fish swimming around in tight formations. While he was admiring the beauty of it all, suddenly he couldn’t breathe! He turned to see if his air tanks were empty, but instead he found a rubbery fin, and when he reached over to touch it, he didn’t have an arm! He started to swim up to his boat, “now he could breathe, but why was that?” When he surfaced, Rey’s mother screamed, “AHH! A shark!” and pointed at him. He looked around to find it, but all he could see was clear blue water, could he be the shark? That would explain the fin and the complete lack of arms, but how did this happen? He went back under water and swam towards the reef.

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He found a shiny pearl and used it like a looking glass; he was a huge great white with three hundred menacing teeth and the bite force of two tons, he turned and saw a group of tiger sharks attacking a pod of dolphins. A few of them had cornered a calf and were about to kill it. He swam over as fast as he could and head butted the nearest one, starting the rest of them and allowing the dolphins to escape. “What’s the big idea man? There goes our lunch.” Peter turned to see who was talking and saw that it was one of the tiger sharks, “Why can’t these great whites leave us alone? That’s the third meal in a row that’s been interrupted!” “I… I like dolphins.” Said Peter, flustered. They swam off towards a school of fish and Peter realized he was hungry too, but what was he supposed to do? Kill and eat a fish is exactly what he was supposed to do. Smelling a large tuna fish, “Wait how can I tell what kind of fish it is just by smell?” he turned to see that it was several yards away “How far can I smell?”

As he chased the fish everything was very clear, and had a rather pronounced smell, he could sense things near him, almost as if he had super senses; the water was bluer, and he could pick out scents like he could pick a book from a shelf. As he was eating the fish he stopped for a second and thought, “Wait, what happened to Rey?” Then he turned around and swam back towards the reef.

There he is, “Rey, HEY REY!” he called, but when he turned around it was with a look of mingled fear and disgust not relief. Peter realized that his face was covered in blood so he reached a fin over to wipe it off. Now Rey’s face looked puzzled and he said, “I’ve never seen a shark do that before…”

Peter shook his head and tried to say, “Neither have I,” but it sounded more like, “Mh uh meh eh eh.”

“I’ve never seen a shark respond to what I say either, hmm… Do you like to eat fish?” Peter shook his head. “Are you a normal shark?” Peter shook his head again. “Do you have a name?” Peter nodded. “Is it Bite?” Peter shook his head, but he had an idea. He swam over to a school of fish and started instructing them to form letters… P… E… T… E… R… “Wait, Peter?! Hmm, do you know who I am?” Peter nodded vigorously and instructed the fish to form letters again… R… E… Y…

“Oh my gosh! Peter, what happened?” Peter went and got more fish and started to tell Rey. When he was finished Rey whispered, “How are we going to turn you back?”
The Great Wave is a wood block print by Katsushika Hokusai in the series 36 Views of Mount Fuji. This artwork was so popular that the blocks used to make it wore out. To make a wood block print you need to carve one block for each color, six for this one. The artist has signed his name in the upper left hand corner in a little box. I like this picture because I like the sea and anything that has to do with it, and it is a very good artwork.

It seems that these three boats have been caught in a violent storm! Perhaps they were fishing before they were caught. The foaming waves make it seem intense, contradictory to the cool blues in the water. The foam in the wave looks like claws reaching out to crush the boat. If I were there with them, I would feel spray in my face, smell and taste the salt from the sea, and I would be holding on to the boat for dear life. The mountain is tiny in comparison to the wave, making it look like it too, is going to be smashed.
Dear Paige,

How does bioluminescence work? There are lots of glow-in-the-dark animals. But I can’t understand how they work.

Sincerely, Sam

Dear Sam,

There are at least two different ways that bioluminescence works. One way is the animal turns energy from the food it eats into light energy. Anglerfish have bacteria that do the same thing in their light.

The other way is the animal has two chambers full of chemicals. When the chemicals mix, they cause a chemical reaction, which makes it glow.

I went to answers.com to reach this conclusion. I also remembered a trip to an Oxbow Eco Center class about fireflies and how their glow works.

Sincerely, Paige

Dear Editor,

Do owls blink? How far around can they turn their heads? How big do bats get? Do they use their thumbs at all? How many lions are there in a pride? Do they eat snakes? Why do dogs chase squirrels? Do squirrels build nests? Do they make noise? Can you do an article about house pets? Do you eat sushi?

Your most curious fan,
Matilda Jenkins

Dear Matilda,

I shall try to answer all of your questions, but you have asked quite a few. Owls do blink and they can turn their heads up to 270 degrees. The biggest bats can get over a foot long and can have wingspans of 5-6 feet; also they use their thumbs to cling to trees and walls. There can be up to 30 lions in a pride, but normally there are 6-8 not including cubs, they do not eat snakes. Dogs chase squirrels because they taunt them. Squirrels do build nests, I have one in my backyard, and they do make noise. Maybe I will do a house pet article. I have not tasted sushi, though I wish.

Best wishes, Editor
White Beard's

GHOS T PIR A TE

POETRY JAM

...For Land Lubbers

THE DIAMOND

A Found Poem
By Paige Workman

She is prettier
Than any rose or flower,
The sun sparkles and dances
Off her surface with passion,
No wild lily or poppy
Can compare to the radiance
Of her beauty, she waltzes
With precious metals,
The ruby is her equal,
The most precious gem, the diamond

MOTORCYCLE

A Free Verse Poem
By Paige Workman

The wind is in my hair, flowing out behind
Me, I rocket across the countryside
The engine roars, the wind whistles.

Everything above me, blue blur,
To the left of me, green blur,
To the right of me, green blur.

I ride on all through the day
I ride into the sunset
On my motorcycle.
THE DRAGON  A Ballad  By Paige Workman

There once was a knight,
Who lived in a castle
And to him the king said with fright,
“A dragon will kill us if you do not hassle.”

“Gather your weapons and go to Mount Sniffly
“I'll prepare for battle
I'll go kill him quickly
He'll eat no more cattle”

He came up to the mountain,
He came up to the cave
And what a surprise found him
As he looked in the cave,

A wizard was having tea
With the dragon
And very puzzled was he
Why was a wizard friend to a dragon?

The wizard said “Dear friend
Why are you here?”
“I’ve been sent this fiend,
To kill over there.”

“This dragon is kind
He is not harmful
He’ll get you out of a bind
And give you cookies by the armful.

So do not fear my fellow swordsman
This dragon least of all.”
“I’m sorry dragon, be my comrade.”
“I’ll come whenever you call.”

And he rode home on the back
Of a big forest dragon
And he rode home on the back
Of a big forest dragon

WRONG TOPPING  A Haiku by Paige Workman

I take the pizza
Out of the oven and think,
I made a grape pizza

PIE  A Senryu  By Paige Workman

“I must eat this pie,
If I don't I'm going to die.”
Said this really fat guy.
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