



## 2022 Pack a Punch Contest Entries

*Some light formatting changes have been made to create consistency through the PDF. Where students included their last name when signing off as editor of their magazine, we changed the last name to an initial to protect their privacy.*

**Felix J., 11, North Dakota**

Dear sir,

Your comics are super boring and the last one about a turtle becoming a "fast turtle" was idiotic. You need to change the comics or I'm done with your magazine.

Sincerely, Joseph Begirrlott

Mister Begirrlott,

Although you yourself do not like my comics, children are sure to say otherwise. You have made a good point, though. I do think there should be some comics with more grown-up humor. I'm glad you haven't split yet and I hope you don't.

Sincerely, Felix J.

## Isabelle C., 13, Ontario, Canada – Finalist

Dear Editor,

I offer my most completely heartfelt felicitations on writing your most excellent and praiseworthy magazine. Your articles portray these reptiles in a whole new light, and your utterly hilarious poetry adds a light touch of humour, as does your interesting prose. They stand out as shining jewels in the literature of natural history, and should be displayed with the best of them.

But one fact brings me no end of pondering and, consequentially, headaches. This one factually curious inquiry will not, I hope, be too troublesome for your staff, or, dare I say it? Yourself.

It is: How can you tell a venomous snake from a safe species? This one question has caused me many sleepless nights, because my dear German shepherd, Laya, was bitten by a snake of unknown species a few weeks ago. I hope that you will bother with my insignificant query enough to reply.

I will eagerly await your response, as much as the next issue of your magazine. I can hardly wait to crack open the cover and pore over the photographs, of which my favourite, in your latest issue, is a photo of a cottonmouth, gaping its jaws to reveal a cottony, pink-white mouth offsetting the thick, dull-brown body. I will soak in the smooth, witty poetry and be blown away by the story-telling that sucks me into the world you've created. Thank you, thank you for writing your wonderful magazine!

Yours very very sincerely,  
Lottie Squiggle

Miss Squiggle,

Thank you very much for your generous support. You have noticed so many details that I have toiled over for hours, and you appreciate the work gone into every article. That is a quality I admire greatly. I have a dog as well, so I understand your anxiety for Laya's health, which brings me to your question. One way to distinguish between venomous snakes and their safe counterparts is to look at their pupils; dangerous species have elliptical ones, while safe kinds have round ones.

But because you generally don't want to get close enough to note the shape of their pupils, I would suggest that you just check up on what kind of snakes live in your area, and try to identify the species.

However, if Laya hasn't shown any symptoms at all for a few weeks, I wouldn't worry about it. Generally snakes' venom will work within hours.

I hope that you will find this information helpful, as will others who read this issue. Once again, thank you for your wonderful support; it is you and people like you who make this magazine a reality. Who knows, maybe I'll be subscribing to your magazine someday!

Sincerely,  
Isabelle C.

## **Faith S., 14, Maryland**

Dear Editor,

I hope this letter finds you cheery and having a marvelous day, mine has been just grand. My name is Janet Jameson. I am a very loyal reader of your magazine. My husband, George, and my grandsons torment me by saying I love your magazine more than I love them, but of course they know that's just not true. Your thrilling stories shake my old bones, and make me feel as though I can do just about anything!

Today I went swimming early in the morn with my dear friend Melba Anderson (we've been friends for twenty-three years you know) then I went to the Lady's Gardening Society meeting in the afternoon.

Later in the evening after I served supper to my George, I was reading your magazine and I saw a bit about a young lady swimmer by the name of Katlynn Leducky or was it Kari Leducky, I can't remember. Anyway, she was swimming in Tokyo, and oh I've dreamed of going there since I was a little girl in Kansas.

I was just wondering if there's any way you could get me signed up for that competition? You know I've been practicing every Thursday morning, and I'm not bad at the frog stroke and all my friends say when I do the backstroke it's quite splendid.

Well, that's all I've got to say. I hope you and your family are well and I hope to hear from you very soon.

Heath, happiness, hugs, kisses, and homemade cookies, Yours truly,

*Janet Jameson*

P.S. Please write more about Caleb Dressel, I like him best.

Dear Mrs. Jameson,

We hope you and your family are doing well,

Thank you for your letter and your support of our magazine. Contributions from readers like you make our magazine possible.

We are happy to know that you and your friends have been enjoying swimming, it is a great source of exercise.

I believe you were referring to Katie Ledecky in your last letter, She swam in The Olympic Games held in Tokyo this summer.

As for your request, I regret to inform you that we, as a magazine company, do not have the authority to sign you up for The Olympic Games. You must qualify to compete.

You could try to qualify for The Senior Olympic Games if you are over the age of 50 and want to compete, or if you just would like a trip to Tokyo, I suggest having a fundraiser of some sort, maybe with your garden club friends.

I hope you found this letter helpful and informative, and thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Faith M. Saarinen

Editor of *StreamLine* Magazine

P.S. We will make sure to write more about Caleb Dressel in the next issue of our magazine.

## Emma B., 13, Maryland

Bethany Dashers  
410 Colony Dr.  
Flaggerstown, AZ 21054

November 19, 2021

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my love for your thrilling magazine, *The Bark*. I have read every issue since it first came out. I love dogs and share your views on them; that they are man's best friend.

I have a 1-year-old Golden Retriever named Goldy. Your articles are so helpful when training him, but Goldy refuses to "stay" when I tell him to. I have tried every reward I can think of including treats, praise, and toys, but he still won't obey. Do you have any suggestions on what I should do?

I hope you can get back to me. Thank you for your time.

Cordially,  
Bethany Dashers

Emma Brady  
4812 Berry Ln.  
Raggserville, MD 2035

November 22, 2021

Dear Miss Bethany,

I received your letter and am delighted to hear that you enjoy *The Bark*. You asked me how to train a reluctant dog to "stay". I have a few ideas. The first is that you are not giving Goldy a suitable reward. Does Goldy like praise, treats, and toys? Does he show enthusiasm when they are available during other training sessions? If not, you must find a new reward. I can suggest tastier treats such as pieces of cooked chicken or hot dog.

Another possible solution is that Goldy is frightened or have mental problems. Dogs that have mental problems won't obey as well as other dogs.

There could also be distractions when you are training your dog. Distractions make it hard for a dog to concentrate.

I hope you find these suggestions helpful. If you have any more questions, feel free to contact me. I wish you luck in training Goldy.

Sincerely,

Emma B.  
Editor of *The Bark*

## Cecilia P., 13, Maryland

Dear Editor,

You seem to know a lot about kids and the fam and other such mysteries, although you most likely know next to nothing on the topic of antlers and cow hide. You see I have a niece about to turn 12 and she seems to need some time out and about with her crazy uncle Frank. I'm askin' the likes of you for advice cuz she seems to need to be a tomboy for a day or two after being in a house full of women for too long. I'm thinkin' on takin' the little miz out for a hunting trip at my little cabin in the trees for a birthday surprize. I live out in Colorado and read your magazine lots cuz I want to be able know what to 'spect when I visit all them women on holidays.

Sincerely,  
Frank Portazi

Mr. Frank Portazi,

I appreciate that you believe I know quite a bit about children and family and I hope you have enjoyed reading my magazine. Since you are wondering whether or not to take your niece hunting for her birthday, I would suggest that you ask her and her parents first. I realize that this isn't a surprise and might not be quite as much fun for you but I do think she would want to make her own decision. Sometimes young girls her age won't appreciate hunting as much as boys and she might have other ideas of fun things to do with her uncle. Of course I don't know your niece as well as you do. If she doesn't want to go hunting, some things I might suggest are going out for dinner and a movie or taking her to an amusement park. I hope that this is helpful to you.

Sincerely,  
Cecilia Pollock,  
Editor of *Family Zoo* Magazine

## Jonas S., 12, South Carolina

Dear, Sir

We are devoted fans of your work. Every D&D secession we read some of your best HomeBrew to each other. We particularly like your True Seer race from your *Tales from the Abyss* series and your Zelda cross-over campaign. Our reason for writing you this letter is that we would love to see a column in this magazine that allows people to proudly display their Characters that they have put so much time and effort into. I sincerely hope that you would consider displaying some of your countless master-pieces in a column like this

Your Fellow D&D Fans,  
Biff, Buff and Dan Parish <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These are our D&D characters names. We are not actually brothers. We would prefer our true names to remain anonymous.

Dear Misters Parish,

I have recently received your letter and wish to thank you for your steady subscription to the DM's Cauldron. I am grateful that you follow my work so closely. I wish to familiarize you with a quote of mine "I am not the only one to come up with these ideas, just a famous person who writes them down." This is true for your favorite HomeBrew of mine that you mentioned. As for your suggestion for a Character Column, I do not believe that this could work. The reason for my negativity is that most Character Sheets are 2-3 full pages long and much of their original glory would be lost in the process of miniaturizing them. However we could add this function to our website and place an advertisement in the Magazine. When this function is ready I will alert everybody via the Magazine and will choose the most Flavorful and Spicy builds.

Sincerely, Jonas S. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> My Characters are to many to name in this brief conclusion.



**Lincoln B., 14, Ontario, Canada**

Dear Sir,

I want to know why you think all kids are useless? I am a kid and I think that I'm not useless. So I asked my parents and they said I'm the most amazing kid in the world. But I would understand other kids being worthless. I go to school and all the kids are mean and annoying. They're always teasing me because of my hair. So yes I do think other kids are useless, but not me.

Sincerely, Chelsea Shells

Miss Chelsea Shells,

The reason I think all children are useless is because I pay attention to society. If you look around you, children contribute nothing to society. They are a waste of resources and when they can contribute, they don't help with anything. They don't help with income or cleaning. If you ask it to do something it either doesn't do it right or argues with you. And yes, school is full of annoying kids.

Sincerely, Linko thinko

## Josie W., 12, Tennessee

Dear Sir,

I am a very large fan of your Elf magazine. I love how every new article is about Elves and that there is a story in it. The school in Iceland sounds like a very interesting place to visit. Have you ever been to the Elf school? My mother and father refuse to take me there, but my Aunt Tiffany is a very large fan of trips, so I am hoping that on my tenth birthday she will take me there. Have you ever thought about making another Elf magazine? I am sure lots of people would enjoy it. Your magazine is the talk of the town where I live. I would really enjoy meeting you one day if I can, and maybe if you come visit my town we can eat blueberry ice cream together.

Yours truly, Adley Tristan Barns

Dear Miss Barns,

I received your letter. Thank you for enjoying the Elf magazine, we heartily appreciate your loyalty to this Elf magazine and we hope that you will share the magazine with others. I hope very much that you will get to visit the Elf school in Iceland. I unfortunately have never been there, but I have done lots of research and learned so much about the Elf school that it is almost like I have been there. We have thought about making another Elf magazine, but we have never had the time to, but I assure you that if we make another Elf magazine you will be the first reader. I would enjoy visiting your town and guess what? Blueberry ice cream is my most favorite flavor.

Sincerely,

Nickalous Bailey

## Brianna S., 13, Colorado – Finalist

Dear Editor

Your article about the proper care of carnivorous plants failed to warn me of the dangers of house keeping and having visitors. It has caused me to spend a fortune in cleaning supplies. And after three of my friends had gone missing (mostly the work was done by the Hannibal Lector tree) my other friends flatly refused to come to my house. And I also lost my niece. You see, I was watching her while her parents went out to dinner. I never really figured out who ate her but I have a suspicion though because I found one of my niece's sparkly pink and orange shoes hanging out of the venous kid trap's jaws. When her parents got home they were very aggrieved that she had been devoured by a plant. They also thought it was my fault. Although I argued that it was not my fault, and that if they had had any sense they would have found someone else to watch their nosy girl who was always poking her nose where it didn't belong! They left after that, but not before shouting themselves hoarse then storming out of the house and slamming the door so hard the strangler vine (who normally didn't mind loud noises) shrank back and wouldn't touch them. But of course, having dangerous plant inside and out has its advantages. For example the neighbor's cat has stopped leaving bombs in my yard and every other yard in are neighborhood. One of my neighbors actually said thank you and gave me a venous fly trap (I put it to close to my giant toxic mushrooms and it got eaten). My house has never been robbed more then once ( both the tv and the robber got eaten by the venomous tentacula). However, I insist that you warn people about the dangers of keeping deadly plants before they and/or their children and friends get eaten, strangled, clobbered or killed by these fascinatingly deadly phenomenons.

Yours dangerous plant lovingly,  
Shirley Eaten

Dear Shirley Eaten

The reason I didn't say any thing about keeping dangerous plants is the fact that I don't keep any myself. My reputation of being the best plant writer of the 21 century would plummet if one of my plants ate a famous biologist I was interviewing. And I didn't expect anyone else would keep these plants either. I simply assumed that you might work with them in a museum. But I will take into consideration that you did and other people might too, although it's not recommended. So I will edit a warning for people like you who think it's a good idea to put dangerous plants in your house.

Warning!

Pay attention if you keep dangerous plants in your house.

1. These plants can be hazardous to your health
2. Be careful where you put things
3. Always keep a tazer with you
4. Best not to have kids
5. No pets

You have been warned!

Yours moo ha ha ha-ingly

Brianna.H.S

**Mikayla S., 15, Colorado**

**Entry 1:**

Dear Madam,

As unlikely as it may seem, I am an avid follower of your magazine. I love to read about delicious little morsels and how some are better to avoid than devour; like the banana spider, which is very fast, and poisonous. But I must ask, why are gnats so delicious? And do humans eat many bugs? If so, which is your favorite? Mine is the stink bug, flavorful and fun to eat!

Your Faithful Feline

Fluffy the Siamese

Miss Fluffy,

I am pleased to hear that more than humans are reading my magazine; new and exotic followers are always welcome. I cannot accurately answer your first question because frankly I think gnats are disgusting, so why they taste delicious is a mystery for another to solve. To answer your other question, humans consume bugs on a regular basis mostly unintentionally. Where I'm from though, a large number of humans (but not I,) enjoy a snack of fried ants or chocolate covered locust especially in certain Asian countries and in most of Africa. You are not alone.

Gnats Dislikingly,

Mikayla R S

## Entry 2:

Dear madam,

As you surely know bugs are more populous than any other species of the planet. living just about everywhere, the sky, ground, water, warmer and colder climates. striving for the most part, and helping our ecosystem thrive. eating what no other would eat (dung beetle, flies etc.) I am sure you know this so who better to ask than you... do bugs live in Antarctica? It does not seem possible to me as their coldblooded and Antarctica being very very cold. Is it possible for these necessary prodigies to thrive on such a frozen tundra as Antarctica?

Yours questioningly,  
Carrie Bean

Miss Bean,

Only one bug is native to Antarctica, the Antarctic midge. it is a small bug measuring less than a centimeter, flightless, and possessing the amazing ability to be completely frozen around nine months a year. they can survive up to negative fifteen degrees Celsius, go without oxygen for up to a month, and can survive loss of up to seventy percent of its bodily fluids! this amazing creature eats bacteria, algae, and penguin poo. it lives for two years as a larva before its short life of twenty to thirty days as an adult. it only comes to the surface in summer when it is warm enough to move, I hope this was enlightening.

Sincerely,  
Mikayla R. S.

## Grace H., 12, Missouri

Dear EDITOR,

I love playing princess with my sister Bingo and with my friends. I also love fairies. Look, what I mean is when I saw your magazine, I begged my dad and mum to get it for me, but they said that I would hate it. So, when I went to my Nana, I asked her to get it for me and she did and then I loved it. So, the only question is what's your name? What is this (points to nose)? And what is this \_\_\_\_\_(empty hands). EDITOR knows nothing. Got that Dude? OK!

Love your biggest fan,

Bluey

Dear Bluey,

I'm glad you have fun with your sister and your friends and that you have great jokes and the way you love my magazine. I've seen a lot of fairytales when I was a little younger than you and I still do. I don't have a whole lot to say but I really love your jokes.

Love,

EDITOR

**Elliot H., 10, Missouri**

Dear editor,

I love your magazine so much brah it's so cool just brah. By the way I have one question like why did you choose

A minecraft magazine bro? Why? Why? Why? Is it because It sounds sus? I don't know but

# Bruh!

I'm going to stop writing right now.

Sincerely, Random noob

Dear random noob,

I,m going to tell you why I decided to do a minecraft mangesine In I three easy steps .

1: I love minecraft

2: My youtuber plays minecraft

3: because it's fun

So that is why I chose a minecraft mangesine

Sincerely, Editor

P.S.

Why did you say your name is

Random noob?

## Megan M., 11, Indiana

### Entry 1:

Dear editor;

I enjoy your magazine. I wish I had read your "Safety on the Trail" sooner, because I once had a little trouble when I went hiking to Grandma's house. I went because my mother told me to take Grandma cookies.

Although I know I should not have, I was talking to a stranger while picking flowers a little off the trail. In the end, my question is; how do you keep wolves out of the house when your Grandma is half deaf?

Your fan,  
Red Riding Hood

Dear Red Riding Hood;

I am glad you enjoy our magazine. Here are some tips to keep wolves out of the house:

1. Do not socialize with wolves, stay away from them!
2. If a wolf gets in the house, bang pots and pans and make a lot of noise. I would recommend playing country music full blast.
3. Call your local hunter or 911.
4. Get one of those fancy video doorbells.
5. As all children should know, if you do not know who it is, do not open the door!

Yours truly,  
Jacob W. Grimm



**Entry 2:**

Eleanor Celia VanHisingia  
2310 McBroom Drive  
Tent Ridge, CA 11111

Backpacking Princess Magazine  
6032 Mountain Drive  
Snowshoe, FL 00000

Dear Editor;

I LOVE your magazine. All of your articles are great! I especially liked the article “Hiking in the Badlands” with all those funny calamitys, was it all true? My favorite was when the tent fell over because of the wind. How did three people all sleep in the pickup cab?

Will you ever host a backpacking expedition? Would you consider go to Eswatini because I’ve always wanted to go there? If so I will most definitely try to attend.

Yours truly,  
Eleanor Celia VanHisingia

Dear Eleanor,

I am glad to announce that we have decided that we should go to South Africa –with an optional side trip to Eswatini--in November 2022! Here is the idea that we have right now. Plans will be finalized March 1, 2022.

After flying into Johannesburg, we will take a bus to the Drakensburg. We will stay in rustic lodgings for five nights. For more experienced and adventurous families, we will lead a group trip around the Crack and the Mudslide (strenuous 6.2 hike). Some other trail options are the easy to moderate Chain Ladders Hike or the Tugela Falls Hike.

We will then go to Kruger National Park. You will have four days to chose between game drives, wilderness trails, birding or exploring on your own. Authentic South African food will be provided. One sunset “Big Five” drive will also be offered.

Backpacking Princess tours will then take a bus to Eswatini to visit TWR’s radio site along with day trip’s to Hlane and Mlilwani game parks.

More information will be provided upon request. Please contact us at 1-TUG-ELA- FALL.

We hope to hear from you soon,  
Suzie Surefoot



**Astrid D., 13, Ontario, Canada**

Dear Editor,

Is ending the world or sitting in a void a good fantasy story idea?

Sincerely,

Kim Jr.

Kim Jr.,

Yes, ending the world and/or sitting in a void could be a good story idea, though sitting in a void would need more action. Why, may I ask, would you want to end the world? You live here, too.

-Astrid D.

**Sarah S., 12, Alberta, Canada**

I LOVE TO LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE SO LOVEABLE

Dear Editor,

I love your magazine and find all the pictures cute. I am very artistic and like your colourful pages that match your interesting articles and stories. I love how you appreciate art just like me. I subscribe to your magazine because I wonder what stories will come out in each addition.

I was wondering if you would consider having an art contest for your subscribers. I would definitely enter and I'm sure others would too. It would fill some more spaces with colour, and I paint beautifully. As I would be sure to win, I think the prize should be that the winner gets to paint the pictures for the main article of your next issue. Since I will win, what is your next main story? I will start painting right away. In fact, you will be so amazed at my paintings that I will paint pictures for every issue.

Looking forward to working with you!

Love your future painter,  
Olivia Blake

Miss Blake,

I have received your letter, and I thank you for the encouragement. I am glad you enjoy reading the magazine that I enjoy designing.

The board and I will consider your request for an art contest, but I cannot promise anything. We plan everything in our magazine at least a month in advance. I am sure you paint beautifully and would look forward to seeing your paintings featured if we end up holding a contest. I personally like the idea of an art contest, though I cannot guarantee what the prize may be.

Thank you for your suggestions, I enjoy hearing from my readers.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Perk

## Isabelle L., 12, Iowa

### Entry 1:

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to say that your first book is wonderful. Are you making more? If so, I wish to be the first to read them. Here are just a few ideas for new stories: a boy hiding in a cave from a band of robbers, a child going to camp, perhaps a blue whale meeting people.

Truly,  
Thomas Fanley

Mr. Fanley,

I am happy you want more books. I am working on another book and your suggestions will be helpful. My favorite of your ideas is the boy hiding in a cave. I could (will) use your suggestions in my story. I will send you a summary of the story and you pick a good title.

Sincerely J.O. Turtle

**Entry 2:**

Dear Sir,

I HATE your books. You choose the most boring topics ever. Such as, *How to Deal with Noisy Kids* or *Constellations in the Sky*. These books contain too much information and little interestingness. How do you find such horrible topics?!

Truly Your Least Favorite Admirer,  
Anna Bell Jomar

P.S. My last name is pronounced Joe. Mar.

Miss Jomar,

Thank you for addressing a big problem. These topics you call 'boring' are simply written for adults and, therefore do not have many stories to perk your interest.

You must not have heard of other stories I have written. Some of these are: *The Turtle kid*, and *the Eagle Kid*, *The Journal of April May June*, and *Short Tales*. These are stories for all ages. Perhaps you will like my personal favorite, *The Mud Eater*.

Sincerely  
John Hot,

**Sakeena Z., 12, Ontario, Canada**

To: CatsAndCrowns@gmail.com

From: MrsShmooblewart@gmail.com

Dear Madam,

I am writing this email as my son sobs in the corner, a direct result of your incompetence. You see, my son adores your magazine, reads every addition ravenously...or at least he used to. One day, in issue #127 of *Cats And Crowns* page 7, paragraph 2, sentence 59, you stated, "The average cat can jump 6 times their height but Sorbet jumped 149 times her height!" don't you think a comma is in order? I certainly do. And if this is the standard you and your staff uphold yourselves to, I want no part of it. My son's subscription will be cancelled unless we receive a refund on every magazine we have ever purchased.

Warm regards,

Karen Shmooblewart

To: MrsShmooblewart@gmail.com

From: CatsAndCrowns@gmail.com

Mrs. Shmooblewart,

My team and I thank you for bringing this grammatical error to our attention. Please be assured that this is not a regular occurrence. Unfortunately as this edition of *Cats And Crowns* was put into circulation over three years ago, it is out of our capacity to do anything to mend this typographical error. However we do believe that a refund on all purchased magazines is slightly supernumerary. Instead, we could send you 12 kilograms of passion fruit flavoured cat food, as it is what we regularly give as compensation. Again, this is not the standard we uphold ourselves to and this case of mismanagement is most irregular.

Sincerely,

Sakeena Catface

## Mitchell M., 12, North Carolina

Dear Sir,

When I subscribed to your magazine, I was excited to hear what you had to say about Minecraft. I have been playing Minecraft for 4 years and am the champion Minecraft player at my grandma's senior center. When I read *Steve and Me* though, I was disappointed because of all the lies you are telling.

You claimed that Notch created Minecraft on May 12, 2009, when he actually created it on May 13, 2009. You also claimed Notch sold Minecraft for \$2.6 billion but it was actually sold for \$2.7 billion. I now wonder what other lies you tell in your articles.

Since I am an expert gamer, maybe you should have me fact check your articles before printing them. If you can't get your facts straight, I think I'll just have to unsubscribe from your magazine.

Concerned Reader,  
Blob Ross

Mr. Ross,

Thank you for subscribing to *Steve and Me*. I received your letter concerning errors in the magazine. I am glad you have been reading the magazine carefully and thoroughly each issue.

I know Notch personally and have interviewed him many times about Minecraft. We talked about programming the game and the release date. We have also talked about why he sold Minecraft and how much he sold it for. I can assure you that we have people to fact check the articles before publishing them.

I am sorry to hear you are disappointed in our articles. I do hope you will not unsubscribe from *Steve and Me*. If you do want to unsubscribe let us know and we will refund your money. I hope you continue playing Minecraft, and remain the champion Minecraft player at you grandma's senior center.

Sincerely,  
Mitchell M.  
Editor and Chief of *Steve and Me*



## **Brock S., 11, Alaska**

### **Entry 1:**

Dear Editor,

I am an interested reader of “My Nomadic Life” and enjoy many of your creative works. Not all of your poems and stories are good, but I quite like your “Scary Harry” limerick and your “Finding God” short story, which leads me to two questions.

Were all of the details in “Finding God” from personal experience, and if they weren’t, what gave you the ideas for the story?

Secondly, I noticed that children seem to struggle with limericks. Do you have any advice for other kids on making rhyming limericks?

Sincerely,

Amy Wright

Dear Ms. Wright

Thank you so much for reading “My Nomadic Life”! It means a lot to know that you enjoy the articles, stories and poetry.

To answer your questions, yes, many of those details and events were from my own experiences. I did many of those things that Mannie did in the story, but, like him, I realized that God was only trying to get me in a position to get myself out of a bad place in my life. So, I decided to do just that! However, none of the characters were actually real. They were purely fictional.

As for a few helpful tips on limericks, I generally find it helpful that with any poem that requires rhyming, to use something I call “word banks. Word banks are boxes that I put lists of rhyming words in. I especially use word banks when I experience “writers block”. They can help you fit rhyming words to a theme, and a theme to a rhythm. From there, you can practice limericks on your own.

I sincerely hope that this answers your questions, Amy.

Yours truly,

Brock S.

Editor of My Nomadic Life

**Entry 2:**

Editor,

What standards do you hold in “My Nomadic Life” when you tell people that it’s perfectly safe to eat jellyfish? Our poor mouths and stomachs would be damaged beyond repair by their toxins. I demand that you retract every word you’ve said about being able to eat jellyfish. Everything! You are misleading innocent people! I am going to retract my subscription to your deceptive magazine if you don’t publicly admit it and remove all mention of eating jellyfish from your future publications.

Sincerely,  
Florence March

Dear Ms. March,

I completely understand your concerns. Most jellyfish ARE toxic. This is why I researched so carefully and made sure I clearly stated that only Cannonball Jellyfish are safe and very healthy to consume. You see, jellyfish are full of nutrients and rich in collagen, as well as other healthy substances.

Furthermore, I always recommend to my readers to do *their own* research *before* trying something new. I was nervous the first time I experienced handling and eating Cannonball Jellyfish, but I have enjoyed this specie several times now without any negative effects. I hope you will consider trying this healthy dish too and continue subscribing so I can share more with you.

Yours truly,  
Brock S., Editor

## Evie A., 14, Ohio – Finalist

Dear Editor of the MTL (Movies to Life) magazine,

I have read your magazine from the very first issue and I have determined that you are the person to ask help from. For years I have been trying to attract the attention of my favorite actors with little or no results and I need you to help me end this horrible streak of bad luck.

When I was 13, I endeavored to recreate the Harry and Marv break in scene from *Home Alone* for the amusement of Macaulay Culkin, but I was arrested for breaking and entering before I could meet him. When I turned 15, I tried falling out of a tree onto the hood of Michael J. Fox's car only to find out that it was in fact not Michael J Fox's car and I had to be taken to the hospital with three broken ribs. At 17, I attempted to stand under Timothy Omundson's window and serenade him with the Woody Woodpecker theme played on the drums and was promptly taken out by his security guards. At that point I had been warned off of living celebrities by the authorities so, two years ago on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, I ventured to rob Dwight Frye's grave while dressed as his corpse pilfering Frankenstein character, Fritz, in honor of his birthday. His family didn't press charges because I was, as they said, "very mentally disturbed." (can you believe they said that?)

Recently I've been on a superhero kick and have discovered the majesty that is Robert Downey Jr. I have since constructed a custom homemade Iron Man suit with fully functioning jet boots. I am planning to fly to his house so we can have a privet chat. I just know he would love to talk to a dedicated fan like me.

My only concern is that he won't notice me even with the suit. I have failed so many times before, I'm not sure I even have the heart to go through with this. Please, tell me how to get his attention.

Armed with my camera and autograph book,

Someone-Who-Is-Tired-Of-Being-Handcuffed

Dear Someone-Who-Is-Tired-Of-Being-Handcuffed,

I have just begun my position as Editor here at MTL and was indescribably excited as I opened my first letter. Needless to say, my enthusiasm took a beating when I discovered the letter writer was an utter psycho (no offense meant of course).

I do not know how you built fully functioning jet boots or how you managed to sneak into the Forest Lawn cemetery to *ROB DWIGHT FRYE'S GRAVE*, and I have absolutely no interest in finding out (need I restate the grave robbing bit?). To put it frankly, you scare me!

Please do not bother Mr. Downey Jr. as I am sure he would rather do anything on earth other than talking to you for five seconds.

Please do write me again.

Locking my doors and barring my windows tonight,

Harrison Fjórd, Editor In Chief of MTL magazine

## Julia A., 12, Florida – Winner for Entry 2

### Entry 1:

FantaLit Magazine  
987 Hobbit Cres.  
Shire, AB  
A1B 2C3

Dear Editor,

Hi. I read your magazine and wanted to know how you write. I read some books and I like them and they all are so good. You have stories in your magazine, and they are also really good. I have a treehouse and really want to write stories in there, like an office, but I can't write anything good. Please help me learn to write!!!!

Your reader,  
Meg Senapplis

Meg,

Writing is a lot of fun, but it is hard too. A lot of people have the same problem as you seem to have: a case of writer's block. If you are not having any ideas, try switching up your location, reading books, or watching the world go by. Doing some of these things might help stir up some ideas. If you have the ideas, but can't find the words to express those ideas, try collaborating with someone, like a parent or friend. You tell them what you want to write, and they can find the right words. With enough time and practice, you'll be able to write whole novels!

Sincerely,  
Julia A.

**Entry 2:**

FantaLit Magazine  
987 Hobbit Cres.  
Shire, AB A1B 2C3

Dear Editor,

Why do you bother writing about fantasy? None of it actually exists. I think that fantasy is a waste of time. My mom forced me to read one of your magazines, and it is all so fake. Why bother?

Sincerely,  
Jake Pewter

Dear Jake,

Sometimes when I get letters from readers, I think about Roald Dahl, and what he said in the beginning of his book, *Matilda*.

*“If I were a teacher I would cook up some real scorchers for the children of doting parents... I think I might enjoy writing end-of-term reports for the stinkers in my class.”*

By this, he means to say that he would tell the children and their parents exactly what he thought of them. But, alas, I am not a teacher, and so, I shall instead give you the answer to the question you took the time to lovingly send me.

I write fantasy for the same reason I believe most authors do: not because we believe it is true, but because we like hearing about the things that we ponder in our imaginations. We love fantasy *because* it is different from our world, because it takes us away from the monotony of real life, away from work and school and paying the bills. If one does not imagine, what do you have for enjoyment?

- Julia A.