

Night of the Little Opossum

By: Ava H.

It was pitch black with only the flickering light of our campfire to light up our faces. Animal sounds came from the dark forest only a few feet away, adding an eerie feeling to the air. I listened intently to my mom's story, eating my roasted marshmallow and having a great time. The delicious smell of s'mores wafted through the air and the fire crackled loudly. My mom finished her story and then my dad said he would be right back and he walked toward our house.

We continued to talk, when suddenly we heard a scream coming from the small dense trees in our backyard. My dad came charging out of the trees panting. It turned out he'd snuck around the house and hid, planning to jump out and scare us but had heard something in front of him. He pointed his flashlight at the sound and in the beam of light, was a little opossum. It hissed at my dad and he screamed. We all laughed and finished our campfire. I'll always remember what happened that night.

Going Hunting

By: Stone River C.

One winter day, not long ago I spied a doe eating vines near the burn pile in my back yard. It was a rare sight. I was in living room watching T.V. and spotted it through the door wall.

My first thoughts were "How will I shoot that far and what weapon will I choose?" I jumped down the stairs and made a soft landing. Once I got to my room I searched for my bow and found it. I rushed upstairs quietly. When I got up to my mom, she opened the door a little bit. Then, icy chill hit me like a frost punch.

Then I pulled my bow back. Then, swoosh! There goes the arrow like a missile just launched. Then I thought I had it heads on but I guess I missile just launched. Then I thought I had it heads on but I guess I didn't. My first thought was I deserved a prize at first. But then my second thought was I deserved some hot cocoa from my sister Sierra. Then my dad came home.

How We Named My Puppy

By: Kassy D.

Have you ever had a puppy? I sure do and he's very hyper. We got him ten months ago. It happened when one afternoon I came home from school, it was so bad, I had found out my dog Scout passed away. I felt so sad I couldn't stop crying.

About a month passed and my dad and I went onto the computer and looked up golden retrievers, and there was a litter of puppy's that were eight weeks old. A week later my sister, my mom, my dad and me went to the litter of puppies in Dearborn Heights. They were so cute! They were also very tiny. They were so small they could be a stuffed animal. There was five boys and three girls. We knew we were going to get a boy 'cause we've always gotten boy dogs.

My mom knew which one she wanted when she first saw them. My mom picked up one of the puppies and she knew that was the one. We ended up getting that puppy, I was so happy I couldn't stop smiling. We paid for him and left. When we got in the car we were thinking of a name for him. We were really thinking hard but then we remembered how my dad always wanted a Harley and thought about naming him Harley. We weren't sure so we thought of some other names for him but they didn't suit him so we decided on Harley.

About a week passed and it was Saturday morning. My stepbrother and sister came over and we pulled a prank on them. My dad said he got a Harley Davidson motorcycle. My brother and my sister did not believe him so my dad opened the garage and Harley came running out. My brother was happy that we got a puppy but he thought my dad actually got a motorcycle. But my sister loved him and thought we pulled a good prank.

About a month later, Harley was bigger and we took him for a lot of walks and every time we saw someone we would tell them his name and they would say he has a cute name so we knew we picked a good name for him. Harley learned his name and would always listen to my dad but the bad thing was he would always take our stuffed animals and toys and chew them up, but that's a whole other story.

The Injury of Snowboarding

By: Marat F.

Have you ever gone snowboarding and hurt yourself and said you were the most unluckiest person in the world? Well I don't think so!

It started at Vets Park, Michigan. I was snowboarding and my dad was sledding. I was going up and down fine.

I was ready to snowboard again. I went down and ...crash! "Oww!" I said.

Here's what happened. My snowboard slipped on ice and I fell off and landed on my neck going 10 m.p.h.

I can't believe that I didn't break my neck. Can you?

My dad said that we should go home. I said no and I went two more times and crash! Then we left because it was too much pain! Oww..!

It was sore for 6 days. If I moved my neck it hurt.

So, I doubt you hurt yourself worse snowboarding.

My New House

By: Claire Richardson

It all started one day when my mom called me and my sisters upstairs. "Hey girls. How do you feel about moving?"

"No!" I said. But five weeks later, we moved.

It was a long trip. Ten hours of non-stop yelling of what direction to go finally got to Michigan. I was scared. Lots of things happened.

But then it happened. I had to start school. I wonder how it will be. Good, I hope.

The Game

By: Griffin F.

Crack! Bobby Abreu hits the game tying home run! Now the Yankees and the Red Sox were tied 2-2. This is the last Yankees vs. Red Sox game in Yankee Stadium. Yankee Stadium holds many memories like Alex Rodriguez becoming the youngest player ever to hit 500 home runs, and some of the best players ever like Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio. This game was special because the Yankees and the Red Sox were the biggest rivals in sports.

I could smell the hot dogs in the air. It was a great feeling sitting behind Ivan Rodriguez the catcher and watching some of my favorite players play baseball. I was right next to my dad and my uncle. The Red Sox pitcher hit about four Yankee batters. The players almost charged the mound and the umpire almost kicked the pitcher out of the game. This was the first major league game to have instant replay, but they didn't use it. I could hear the hot dog guy in the distance yelling, "hot dogs only \$1.50."

Bobby Abreu got up one more time and one guy was on base. It was very quiet. The first pitch was low, but he swung and missed. The next was high and outside. The count was one ball and one strike. The next pitch was right down the middle and he hit it. It was the game winning single! The final score was 2-3 and Bobby Abreu was the player of the game.

After the game, the players were all dressed up in fancy clothes as they walked out of the dugout and onto the bus. While Kevin Yukalis walked out and a Yankee fan screamed "You suck Yuke!" After that everyone laughed. That's how much Yankees hate the Red Sox. I will remember this for a long time.

Raptor

By: Vedhika R.

It was a hot, sunny, summer day. My friend and I were at Cedar Point. I was so excited I had butterflies in my stomach. Our first ride was one of my favorites. The ride was the Raptor.

We waited for one hour and fifteen minutes. I could smell popcorn and other food. I could hear people scream loud. Then finally we got on the Raptor and strapped in. Then the person who starts the ride said "Please keep your hands in the ride at all times."

Just then I noticed my feet were dangling. The ride started! It went so fast I could feel the wind rush through my hair! Then we went upside down! My hair went crazy and my stomach was in my throat! I couldn't hear other people scream! I felt like I was going to fall out of my seat! It was so fun! Everything was so fast it was a blur. Finally the ride stopped.

"I hope you enjoyed the ride, have a great day!" said the person again. It was so fun I wanted to go again but I also wanted to go on other rides. I hope I go on the Raptor again!

My Trip to Lake Michigan

By: Walt F.

Imagine yourself in 85° F weather on the beach sitting in the shade of an umbrella or running along the beach or playing in the water. Well, I get to do that every year.

At the beginning of every day, my brothers and I race each other down the dune. We push, shove, trip and tackle each other just to get to the beach! When we get there my brother Nate and I head for the water right off the bat my other brother plays in the sand. He works with my dad to build sand castles with one-foot deep moats, four towering towers, thick walls and a massive main fortress.

While they're making sand castles, Nate and I are having just as much fun except we are in both the water and the sand. What we do is we hit the waves so hard that we splash into the water. Then we would race each other to the warm cozy sand. We would roll and sometimes sand gets in our mouth, it tastes like dry, grainy bread.

At about seven o'clock we have dinner. It mostly consists of mainly snack foods, chips and sandwiches. The egg salad is my favorite. It tastes and smells like heaven. At 7:30 we take a walk along the beach sometimes we find bones. Once I found a crab skeleton along with rotting crab claws. The walk takes about 15 minutes. Then we roast marshmallows, tell stories, sing songs and then we switch off the lantern at 10:35 and we fall asleep. That is a day in the life of a camper.

My Trip

By: Keely G.

Here we go with the most exciting thing in my life, that was fun anyway...

I remember my mom waking me up before the crack of dawn, me already dressed. I went outside on our concrete driveway where my friend's family car was waiting for me. To Cedar Point we go!

Eve, my friend, and I thought we had driven for hours when we finally saw the big Cedar Point sign. We were so excited because I was the first friend to come with her on a vacation. When we got there we all had to eat something, and we put on gooey slimy sunscreen. We went on a ton of rides before we got to Snake River Falls. We all got in a tube-like boat with really hot plastic seats and leather seat belts. Eve and I felt like we were puke because it was so hot! So the guy there pushed the tube-boat and we all went off spinning. Eve and I were so scared we were screaming and hugging each other because we could see the mini roaring falls. The next thing we knew, we were right under one of the heavy waterfalls. It was terrible because the water made you feel like you were being crushed under a huge amount of boulders. When we got off Eve and I were shaking like there was an earthquake going on. We NEVER, EVER wanted to go on that ride again.

A Bad Tubing Mistake

By: Jeff K.

One weekend I went to my friend's house. His name is Quentin. We don't go tubing very often but when we go we love it. So the next day we decided to go tubing. The lake was not deep at all but there was a lot of slimy mud and icky seaweed.

When we went tubing we decided to stand up and his dad loves to tip us over, and we got stuck in the current and this seven-foot wave came straight at us! I said duck but it was too late. The wave hit us right in the face. And I thought I was going to drown but I didn't thanks to the life jackets. It felt like I was being tickled when I hit the ground. But we decided never to do that again. When we told my mom, all she did was laugh.

Meeting Ashley

By: Emily K.

It was a sunny afternoon on the first day of kindergarten. (On the first day of kindergarten your mom or dad comes with you), this time, my mom came with me.

Ashley, another classmate, and I sat at two different tables. I was playing at the mega blocks table while Ashley was playing at the wooden blocks table. When I was in the middle of making a colorful tower, my mom said, "Go over there and meet her."

I kept refusing. Then my mom looked at me with her eyebrows up and her arms crossed, and that convinced me to go meet Ashley. I said "Oh, all right."

I got up, pushed the plastic chair in and walked towards her. Right then a chill went down my back making me nervous. I went to the table (only three feet away) started talking to her, and we have been friends ever since. The very next day we sat together. Our bus driver (Jenny) put us in the same seat!

I made lots of friends in kindergarten but Ashley was the first one.

The Bridge

By: William L.

One day my sisters, my little brother and I were exploring a forest- like part of our yard. When my sister, Mollie, went past some amazingly green bushes she saw a creek. All of us went with her. Mollie wanted to build a bridge across because there is a little island-like piece of land that is surrounded by the amazingly green bushes.

We all started to find hard and sturdy sticks that were fairly big. We ran out of sticks so we had to go down stream. It was tight between the trees and I almost fell in! We finally found a lot of sticks and a log. We found some rope and tied the sticks together. We set them down then I crossed it but the little island was some solid ground and some mud. Of course with my luck, I started to sink into the mud so I struggled and fell face first into the mud. I got up and was trying to get across the bridge but this time I fell into the creek. Mollie helped me get out.

We went back to our house and explained what happened to our mom and dad. We go there sometimes but the first was the best.

A Really Nice Gift

By: Cassie N.

Imagine. It's Christmas Eve and you get to open one gift. What will it be? Well, I got to open one, it was in a really big box. My sisters were screaming.

Okay. So I'm sitting there with a box as big as a dog cage in front of me. My parents kept on saying "You can open it now!" So we did. My sisters were tearing off the paper like crazy. Soon I ripped all the tape off and opened the box. I dug through it but couldn't find anything, until I saw four little slips of paper. I gave one to each of my sisters.

I opened mine and... I got a trip to Walt Disney World! My sisters were screaming. I'm going to stay at the Music Resort. The front of the resort had giant Maracas. We are all eager to go. I can't wait!

The Baseball

By: Merritt S.

It was the Twins vs. Tigers at Comerica Park that day. I was at my third Tiger's game. The day was just right, warm with no breeze. As I walked by the posters of old Tiger players, I did not even notice them. There was one thing on my mind that day, catching a ball. We got to our seats and the game started. Three innings went by and I didn't catch a ball. The next inning, Maglio Ordonez was up to bat. I was not prepared when he smacked a ball right to me. I quickly got my mitt on and stood up! But, I was not fast enough. I missed the ball by about an inch. There goes my chance I thought to myself.

It was the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins were up 5 to 4 and I thought I would never catch a ball. I was getting ready to go, when Carlos Guillen smacked a ball to me! It got closer and closer and felt like it was going really slow because I was so nervous and excited. My heart started pounding. I stuck out my mitt and caught it!

I still have that ball hid in my room and I will always remember that day.

Cedar Point

By: Alexis M.

Mom I'm home. Okay when you up stairs pack your bags. I got up stairs and my whole family was there. What's going on I said. Your dad was supposed to tell you. It's okay dad. It's exciting. Well, I am going to get started on packing.

Well, that's the last of it. What car am I taking? You are going to take our car dad said.

Z...z...z... When are we going to be there I asked. In about two hours said dad. Now go to sleep dad yelled.

Dad are we there yet I asked. We are just pulling in he replied.

Ouch I yelled. My dad said what's wrong. The bag landed on my foot. Dad are we going to ride some rides tonight? No dad said. Now get some rest for tomorrow!

Ring...ring...ring. What is that I said. Of course they were ready. It's 8 o'clock go to bed. They open at 8 anyway. I'm going to get dressed.

This is so cool! Dad can we ride the Corkscrew I said? My dad said let's ride it second.

The first ride took us up and up. And then it took us down really fast.

We came to the second ride. It was what I was waiting for. We were going to ride the corkscrew.

We got in the carts. The guy said keep all hands and feet inside the ride at all times. So it started to go. Two minutes later.

So every one started to scream as we went down the ride. The ride took us side to side. Then for the scary part we went upside down.

And I will never forget that moment.

The Winning Catch

By: Neil M.

"Come on boys, hop in the car" said my dad as half of the cricket team hopped in the rented minivan. We had flown from Detroit to San Francisco in six hours!

When I got out of the van, I went to explore the Best Western hotel. I got my key and went to my room. I fell asleep as if I woke up at 4:30 or worked for 24 hours at a lumber mill.

The next morning I woke up at 7:30. "Disgusting" I murmured as I dropped the vile doughnut. The team arrived at the ground with food waiting. I was too excited to eat.

"First ball starting now", said one of the umpires. My brother Gordon and teammate Rohit together scored 30 runs. The other players together scored 35 runs. The score was 65-19 (with one wicket left). I went in. The first one I faced was a wide. The next, I got out. We lost by 4 wickets.

The next game, guess what, we lost again. We flew all this way for nothing. That meant we couldn't go to the finals. I went back to the hotel. All of the team was depressed.

I woke up the next morning, being positive so we could win the dead rubber match. We went to the cricket ground.

In the first innings we scored 12-15. They started to score quickly. With three overs left they had 11-19. Then the awesomeness. I was fielding at the middle of the field on the legside. The ball was hit a couple inches to the right of me. I got it! Yeah! We won! I was so happy.

The Worst Referee in the World

By: Kieron M.

As I was going down the sidewall my eye on the goal, I was right about to cross the ball when I was shoved into the wall! I felt a dull pain in the side of my chest. I waited to hear the referee to call the foul, but there was no call. Three minutes later I was shoved into the wall again! And the referee didn't call it! Then in the next half, AJ was about to score and the goalkeeper grabbed AJ's feet! I talked with him about how the referee was terrible about five minutes later, the other team kicked and the goalkeeper got it but it was in the goal! The parents on the other team started to yell like lots of monkey's screeching, but the referee didn't count it. At least he was making bad calls on both teams.

It was just the player and the goalkeeper. The opposing player did a move. Trying to get around our goalie. The player got really close to the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper was picking up a bag, that if he slipped on it would hurt him bad. The referee declared that the goalkeeper was grabbing the player's feet and red carded the goalkeeper!

This has been a horrible referee but there might be a worse one out there waiting to get to be a referee and he will be the worst!

Laser Tag

By: Christopher Q.

Zap, zap, zap, we just hit 3 guys, we were in first. Bang, bang, Kevin and Billy were shot. Will and I were at the top, it felt like we had snipers. We took over and hit the mega base 4 times.

Then Kevin and Billy's lasers turned on and went down. Someone found them but he thought they were moving so fast he said, "Hey, how are you moving so fast?" and then Kevin and Billy kept getting him over and over. The bell rang, the game was over. We hit the multicolor score board and came out. It smelled like sweet victory. The scores were out. We won! We were so happy. I was the most happy because I got 1st.

Game number 2 was started. Thunder boomed around the room and Raven flew with him. Snake Eye stayed with Panther. Kevin was Raven, Billy was Thunder, Will was Snake Eye and I was Panther.

Then zap, zap, zap, zap, zap, we hit most but not all. They hit all of us when it turned on again, again and again. We went to the mega base, we kept hitting it but it would not go off. The bell rang, it was over. We felt pretty good but not like the first game. Then we looked at the score. I got 3rd this time but we won. Then whenever I shut my eyes I saw the flashing red and blue lights.

World War II

By: Kyle M.

My dad and I were landing in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for an air show. We flew in his homemade plane.

On the way there most of the time I slept, but when I didn't, I was thinking about the air show. I was also thinking about what happened last time. Air shows can be dangerous.

After two days at the air show, my favorite event finally arrived. I had just seen a rocket-powered Loney Ez and an Air Force F-22 Raptor.

World War II P-51 mustangs were taking off. They were prop planes with no swept wing. They circled around and around the runway. Then B-17's took off. (The B stands for bomber.) They flew over the runway and BOOM! More took off. B-b-b-boom! Tons of explosions. BOOM! WOA!? I felt a heat wave!

Last year I learned that they didn't really bomb. They just set off explosives under the planes to make it look bombing.

Last year a pilot died so they just set off the dynamite instead of doing the event.

There were huge, black clouds of smoke and giant smoke rings and mushroom clouds. It was radical. It smelled like gasoline coming from the tailpipe of a car. Boom! About ten minutes later it was over. It was fun seeing the World War II bombing.

Going to the Hospital

By: Sabrina R.

I wasn't feeling well so my mom and dad took me to the doctor. The doctor said the noises that I was making were weird, and if I make the noise again to go to the hospital. I made the funny noise so my mom and dad turned the car around and went straight to the hospital. When I first walked in I saw a bunch of sick kids and heard a lot of screaming. Then I puked a couple of times and then I fell asleep. Then the doctors had to put suction cups on my chest. The doctors took a bunch of tests and that still wasn't enough. I felt scared because I thought the doctors were going to give me a shot. So the doctors had to give me an I.V. An I.V. is like a pinch in your hand, it's not a shot. I was only three or four at the time.

I had to decide whether I wanted my mom or dad with me in the emergency room. I picked my dad. Guess what I didn't cry and it didn't hurt at all. I fell asleep again and the doctors had to wake me up to take the suction cups off my chest. I got really mad. After that I watched Spongebob with my little sister. I was feeling better but the doctors said I couldn't leave. The doctors finally found out I was dehydrated. I stopped puking. I had to drink lots of lemonade and water. The doctors gave me and my sister a Popsicle. I felt way better after that. Then the doctors finally said I could go home. It felt good.

My New Hairdo

By: Brannon W.

My sister is a really cool person. She is 16 years old and has a good sense of fashion. One day, I got an idea and since my sister plays with her hair a lot, I figured I might as well tell her about it. She said she would help me with it. Now, I'm a pretty average kid but after my sister was done with my plan, I would be very different. Later that day, we went to Meijer's and bought the supplies. When we got home, my sister made a mixture with the supplies and put it in my hair. I waited half an hour. Then, my sister called me into the bathroom. It was time to finish the task! I got in the shower and rinsed the mixture out of my hair. I looked in the mirror and screamed so loud that I almost strained my voice! I had blond hair!

I would have never looked the way I do today if it wasn't for Elena, my cool, big sister.

My New House

By: Wesley T.

It all started two years ago when my mom divorced with my dad and moved. My mom and dad weren't getting along too well. So first my dad moved to a nice little lake house and if we didn't want to make dinner we would just canoe across the lake because there was a little restaurant where you could pull up your canoe and then walk up the hill and eat dinner.

But once my dad had stayed there for a little it got musky and moldy and then my dad wanted to move back to the house that my mom was living in, so my mom has to look for a house to live in. So the first thing comes at us where are we going to put all of my mom's stuff? So we decide to stock it at my Grandpa's and Grandma's house. Next, we had to decide on a house, so we chose a house in Loch Alpine where I now have lots of friends. The next question was fixing up the house so we worked from early morning to late afternoon and then...we were finished.

Then came the last and final task, moving all of our stuff. We worked all night moving stuff into the garage of our new home. Today my house is complete with everything in place and I have two pets, a cat and a dog and I love my home.

The Pool With No Lifeguard

By: Meghan U.

Splash! went the water in the pool when I jumped in. "OW, this is hot" I thought as I entered the hot tub. My cousin, my sister, and I kept jumping in and out of the pool and into the hot tub. It was one of the most fun things we did there.

After jumping in and out of the pool we played and then did swimming contests, well I didn't, I was the judge. My cousin won all of the contests. After that we went in the hot tub to relax but I wanted to jump in and out of the pool, so I did. It was no fun though because no one was doing it with me. So I went back into the hot tub for a couple of minutes then it was time to rinse off and go back to the camper.

The most fun thing was to get to see my cousin because I don't get to see him. This great memory will stick in my mind forever.

Going to the Beach in Grand Haven

By Olivia Seta

Splash! ...

Every two years my three cousins, my two aunts, my two uncles, my mom, my dad and my brother go to the beach in Grand Haven.

When we arrived at the beach in Grand Haven, the first thing we did was play in the sand. We built a sand castle by the water, but then a huge wave piled up onto it and crushed it.

After we build our sand castle, it was time for lunch so my three cousins, Ashley, Johnny, Jenna, and my dad and brother, James, and I went to the snack shack. While we were at the snack shack, I saw an awesome wake board, so I begged and begged my dad. Then he finally said yes.

After we were done eating lunch, we got a chance to try out my new wake board. It . . . was . . . awesome! We went out to where it was five feet deep and kept falling off the board. Even though the water was cold, we didn't mind going in because it was fun and exciting, and we made my mom and dad laugh whenever we fell head first in the water.

Then my dad asked if we wanted to take a walk down the beach. So me, Ashley, Jenna, Johnny and my dad walked along the water line. Then we hit a part of the beach where the wave was four feet tall. Then my dad said, "I know a fun game that we can play." At the same time, Ashley, Johnny, Jenna and I said, "What?"

"I'll show you, but first let's head back," said my dad.

When we got back, my dad started jumping the waves. Then we all joined in and started seeing who could jump the highest. The winner was Johnny. Ashley, Jenna and I all knew it was because he was a boy.

When it was time to go, we all said goodbye. I can't wait until next time we go to Grand Haven!

Mall of America

By: Mikayla B.

Welcome to my adventure. Hi, my name is Mikayla. My family is going to Minnesota where the biggest mall in America is at. I can't wait to go shopping at the mall of America. Finally they are here. "Hi mom, did you grab my Webkinz?" said Mikayla. "Sorry Mikayla" said Mikayla's mom. "Now I won't be able to sleep! Thanks a lot mom." Mikayla whined. So Mikayla's mom said, "We will buy you one." "Yahoo!" said Mikayla, "Thanks mom. So...are we there yet?" Mikayla and Mikey whined. "No, we're not there yet." Said their mom. "Mom can I have something to eat?" Said Lindsay. "Sure you can. What do you want?" their mom said.

Mikey and Mikayla at the same time, "Links! You owe me a cake. Pinch back! You owe me a six pack" "Ha!" said Mikey. "Mikey owes me a six pack!" "Na na boo boo!" "Mom, can I have a sandwich?" Haley asked. "Sure," said mom, "what kind? P.B. or turkey?" "I'll have turkey! Thanks mom!" said Haley. "Here you go sweetie." Said their mom. "Mom, can I have a turkey sandwich? Please and thank you mom!" said Alyssa. "Mom are we there yet?" asked Lindsay and Mikey. "Look up ahead!" Everybody screamed, "Yes, we are here!" "I'm hungry, let's have dinner." "OK. Order pizza." Said their mom.

After dinner we went swimming in the pool at the hotel. Then we went shopping in the Mall of America. We got trapped in the biggest Mall of America. We got back to the hotel and went to bed. The next morning we got up and had breakfast and said goodbye to Minnesota.