Flight 161 – The Crazy Sushi Guy and Me

By Ryan Jiang, age 9

It was midnight. The plane just took off. Suddenly a slimy tentacle came out from under my seat. It wrapped around my leg. A flight attendant came and seized the tentacle. “Sorry for the uncomfortableness,” she said. After six hours we landed in Japan. I said, “Ni shu shae.” A random man said, “Ni shu shae.” He turned out to work at the sushi bar. I had a cup of green tea. The world was very busy at the airport. I took a taxi to a hotel called Rawfish. The sushi guy took me to the room. Something fishy was going on here. He was the taxi driver and the shinkansen conductor. Something very fishy was going on here. I took another shinkansen. The sushi guy sat next to me. I couldn’t bear it anymore. “Who are you and what do you want?” “I am a sushi spy. I track down people who like sushi. Together we can eat the great sushi demon.” “OK.” So we had lunch together in Tokyo and took a train to Edo. Then we met the sushi demon. He was really a huge floating pile of sushi. We ate and ate until we devoured the pile.

Then I bought a GRV Transformer. It changes from an iPhone to an iPad and back again. Too bad it was only made of paper. I took the “yma no te se m” to the next station. The sushi guy took me into a taxi and we each rented a room at the Ta ko. Suddenly a slimy Ramen wrapped around my leg...

Book Two: Ramen Roundup

I bit the Ramen but it bit me first. Suddenly the sushi guy arrived with a bowl of diluted soy sauce and chopsticks. He took the Ramen, dunked it in the soy sauce, and ate it in one whole bite!

Preview of upcoming book, ‘The Villains of Sushiland.’ Riceball – the fattest villain. He has a piece of sashimi for his internal organs. His samurai armor is made of Nori (dried seaweed).

Glossary:
Shinkansen – A Japanese bullet train.
Edo – a particular city. Tokyo – the capital of Japan.
Ramen – thin Japanese noodle.
Ta ko – octopus.
Yma no te se m – a silver train with a green line.
Ni shu shae – Who are you (in Chinese)
Little League Baseball Series
By Dominic Christiansen, age 8
(n.b. Dominic is on the Cubs)

Giants vs. Cubs
The Giants scored in the first. They scored three.
First we got five runs on two doubles and six singles.
The second inning was a shut out.
Cubs 5 Giants 3.
Then there was one run on two singles and one double.
Cubs 6 Giants 3.
Giants score three to tie it.
I score the winning run and crush the catcher.
Three runs.
Giants 9 Cubs 7.
Cubs score three.
Giants 9 Cubs 10.
Giants score five.
Giants 14 Cubs 10.
We score five and win.
Cubs score five and win.
Giants 14 Cubs 15.
We win! Yay!

Cubs vs. Athletics
First they score four. Not a good start.
We have a good inning and score three.
Second inning they score three on ten hits.
A second three run hit gets us the lead.
Cubs 9 A’s 7.
Third inning two runs on a single.
We get one that at least gives us the 10 to 9 lead.
Fourth inning they get only three.
We are losing.
Cubs 10 A’s 12.
They score on a towering fly.
We score four on three doubles and one single.
Christiansen is running home at his fastest! He touches home and smashes into the gate.

We win the game.

Cubs vs. Red Sox
For some reason, they wipe out.
We get five.
Cubs 5 Red Sox 0.
First of the runs we go to 2nd.
Cubs 5 Red Sox 0.
Four in the second.
“Here we come!”
9 to 0.
They score 0.
It was a fun inning.
“Ground ball up the middle. Dominic Christiansen, with a side arm throw gets him!”
We get two. It was cool.
They get five with one high fly.
We get four and a good inning.
They get five to end it.
Molly and Tilly Races – The Stories of Two Rats  
_By Elijah LaCour DeLyle, age 8_

Book One: Once upon a time there were two rats. Their names were Molly and Tilly. They lived in my house, not in a wall but in a cage. But one day they got in a good, long fight. After a while, they decided to have a race. The next day they started their race. 3...2...1...GO! Molly went right to sleep. Why? I don’t know but Tilly started running down the stairs. Molly now woke up and jumped on the railing and won.

Book Two: This time Tilly wanted to win so she looked up this new place called Academy. This is what she ordered: she ordered an iPhone 4S and she found out that in every staircase there was a secret passageway. The password was ‘Open Timothy.’ Molly knew where it went. So the next day they decided to race again. They went to the staircase and said, “3...2...1... Go!” Molly tried to go to sleep but because of Tilly’s yelling of ‘Open Timothy’, Molly had a hard time. But then when Molly got to sleep, a secret passageway opened. Tilly ran into it and, as I said, Molly knew where it went. So Tilly went in there, but the first thing she knew was that she was in a river of quickballs. She almost sank in it. After a long journey through the passageway, Tilly got out. She was exhausted and tired, but she was thinking that she was going to win the race, but when she came out, she was where she had begun. Molly jumped on the railing and won the race. Tilly was so mad that she exploded and got shot up to the moon. When she got there, she yelled so loud that Molly had to cover her ears. Then Tilly got blasted back to Earth and bawled for sixteen days straight.

Book Three: This time Tilly ordered something else from Academy. She got a slingshot. The next morning Molly and Tilly had a race. 3...2...1...Go! Tilly got in her slingshot and went back, back, back, back, back x 12. Right before she let go, the rubber snapped and smacked her in the face and instead of going forward she went backwards and through the wall into the bathroom, through the metal into the next room, smack through the wall, slammed into the ground and, because of the momentum, she went through the tree house stump, through the fence, scraped on the road, went through a bigger fence, bounced on a train track, through the fence again and stopped by the road yelling, “OUCH”!!!!!!
When a Man Bought a Bell Tower

*By Finn von Bunau, age 8*

He was a nice man. His favorite color was red. His hair color was brown. He liked his money. In time, he wanted a new house. He found a bell tower and he liked it. He thought it would make a good home. It cost five hundred thousand dollars. But he only had five cents. What could he do if he only had five cents? Well, we will turn the page and see what happens.

So, he went to the bank. The banker gave him a million dollars. (Unfortunately, we cannot go to this bank anymore because it got bombed in World War II.) Then he bought the bell tower for five hundred thousand dollars. “It was overpriced, but it was worth it,” he said. Then the man went in and said, “I like this bell tower house.”

How I Learned Guitar

*By Gaurav Chakravarty, age 8*  
(made in China)

Once upon a time, about two years ago, I started learning guitar. The first chord I learned was C major. It was pretty hard, but I mastered it. Then I learned a few more songs. They were called *Imagine* and *Hotel California*. They were very fun to learn. Oh, yeah, I forgot to tell you that I started with an acoustic guitar. Anyways, I thought about quitting for a year or two; then around eight, I started again. Then I got an electric guitar. It was fantastic! At school almost every day we had a jamming session. It was great! After all that time I started to go to concerts. And here I am now – 8, almost 9 – and I still play guitar.
Disappearing Dog - Book One (an excerpt)

By Pailyn Tayjasanant, age 9

Chapter One – The Beginning

Hi, my name is Elisa. I make lots of inventions. One of my first was a spinner. I got some curlers and some ribbon. The reason I did this was because I wanted to spin my dog, Henry. Right now, I’m bored. “Ruff ruff.” “Be quiet Gazpacho!” Gazpacho is Henry’s nickname. Now that I think about it, I’ve called him lots of things before, like Broccoli, Cauliflower, Wonton, Carrot and so on. Any vegetable name that comes to my head, I call Henry that. I never call him Henry.

Chapter Two – My Great Idea

I’m looking on my computer for good ideas for inventions to make. “Ugh!” I said. “My computer doesn’t work.” I thought for a little moment. “Ah ha!” Bok Choy looked confused when I said that. I should make a computer that never runs out of battery. “New and improved,” I announced. So I made a diagram. Then I came across a blank. “It has to charge something... But wait, it could be so big that if you use it for one year straight, that’s when you have to charge it!” I announced to Lima Bean.

Chapter Three – The Problem

I was just finishing up my diagram when suddenly the lights went out, then turned back on. Cabbage had disappeared. “Oh no!” I screamed. I started pacing. My mind was practically racing. “Oh no! If he disappeared because I keep calling him vegetable names, I’m really sorry. Broccoli, I’m really sorry,” I said while pacing around my room. I packed up some shirts, underwear, pants, dog treats, dog food, and shoes in my suitcase. I went into the living room with my suitcase, telling my mom, “We need to take a road trip.”

“Why?” my mom asked.

“Bean Sprout has disappeared.”

“OK, we’ll go tomorrow.”
The Serval

By Serena Peters, age 9

Once upon a time there was a serval. Her name was Rachel. She had no friends and she really wanted one, and that is where the story begins.

Rachel decided she would go on an adventure to find a friend. She decided to go north. Soon night came along, and she had nowhere to sleep so Rachel had to keep on going until she came to a large rock. On the top of the rock there was a house. She had to get to the top of the rock because she was really tired. She climbed and climbed but when she got to the top it was morning, but she was still tired, so she knocked on the door of the house. A dragon answered. Rachel screamed and ran! She ran down the rock. She looked behind her. The dragon was chasing her. She saw a very thick bush. She soared through air and landed in the bush. The dragon went by without seeing her. Rachel turned around; there was a serval behind her.

"What's your name?" Rachel asked.

"Camille. What's yours?"

"Rachel. Do you want to be my friend?"

"Yes."

And they lived happily ever after until one day while they were going on a walk, they noticed the dragon on the path, so they started to run.

"Wait," the dragon called. "I just want to be your friend."

Rachel remembered what it was like to have no friends. She said, "Yes."

They all went back to the dragon's house and lived happily ever after.
The Race, Chapter One
By Vivek Punn, age 7

Once upon a time there lived a boy. His name was Gaurav. He was eight years old. One day there was a new student in his class. The new student loved racing and so did Gaurav, so the next day Gaurav said to the new student, “Do you want to race?”

“Sure,” said the new student.

The next day Gaurav learned that the new student’s name was Mace. Gaurav asked Mace if he would race with him. Mace said, “Yes, tomorrow we will race.” All night long they practiced.

The next day Mace said, “I am ready. Where are we racing?”

“I don’t know,” said Gaurav. “Let’s think about it. Oh, I know, we’ll race from the jungle back to here.”

“I am not ready to race yet,” said Mace.

“Then we will race next week,” said Gaurav. “Let’s practice all week.”

On Saturday Gaurav ran 20 miles. On Sunday Mace ran 20 miles, too. Sunday was the big day. They got ready. When they were all ready, they saw a stranger. The stranger looked weird. He was covered in brown, and he had a staff, and he rode a lion. He had long hair, too, but he was very quiet. The next day they saw him again but the next week they didn’t, but the lion was there, which meant that the lion didn’t belong to the man. The lion chased them back to school so they couldn’t race that week. The next week was summer break so they could do it then.

In the middle of summer break, they camped in the jungle. The next day Gaurav got ready, but he couldn’t find Mace. He searched the jungle but then he remembered that he was too scared to sleep in the jungle...

(continued in Chapter Two)
The Adventures of the Discoverers
By Nina Ulaganathan, age 8

My name is Natalie, the Newt. This is the story of how I made friends with a panther named Penny.

One day I was walking through the forest to find a book. I found a cave and went inside, but there wasn’t a book in sight. Instead, there was a bunch of panthers. Thankfully, they were asleep, except for one. It tried to catch me, but it didn’t because it thought that I was cute. It asked me what my name was. I said that it was Natalie the Newt. The panther said that her name was Penny. Then Penny said, “You better get out of here or you will be breakfast. Quick!” “See you on Sunday at the fields,” I said.

The next day we made a tree house. Since I was so small I only put the nails in. The tree house turned out great. It was our secret hideout. Every day we planned a time and met there. We played Hide and Seek. I was not easy to find since I was so small. Sometimes I would get lost. We had so much fun and wanted to be friends, best friends, and we were. We had a fun time.

One day while we were playing Hide and Seek, a big bear came. It was coming towards me. I was really scared. I was afraid it was going to step on me. Luckily, Penny, the Panther, grabbed me and took me home. I thanked her and thought ‘not every panther is bad.’

We stayed best friends for a long time.

Candy Land
By Kaia Flores, age 7

Chapter One – An Adventure (an excerpt)

One day there was a boy named Michal. Once he was playing a game called Candy Land. He saw a portal and went through. He saw lots and lots of candy. He saw a mint chip on the ground. He started to eat it but then saw his hands. He saw that he had turned into a gingerbread man. He said, “Where am I?” and he started to worry.

The next day he felt better. He sat down on a brownie, and then started to eat it. He found a gingerbread house. He ran to it and started to eat it. Then he swam in a chocolate ocean and drank a little. After that he made a snowman out of ice cream. He ate the snowman; his favorite part was the hat! He loved it because it was made of black licorice.
The Time Helen Told Me a Story
By Nakai Brock, age 8

So this is how it goes. Helen’s grandchild was moving. He had a humidifier and the humidifier was shaped like an elephant. He liked it so much that he named it Elefanre. He was about two, and he was moving with his mom and dad to New Mexico. His dad was already there. He could not bring his humidifier on the plane but he really liked his humidifier. So his mom called his dad and told him to get the same humidifier and his dad said, “I’ll try.” When he got there, he went in his room and saw his humidifier and he thought that humidifier had gone to New Mexico and into his room and waited for him.

Fodur, the Blue-Nosed Reindeer and the Quest for the Nose
– (an excerpt)
By Mace Drobac, age 9

Once upon a time, there was a reindeer named Fodur. He loved hearing stories about his uncle Rudolf. “I want to be like my uncle when I grow up,” Fodur said.

“That’s not possible,” said his mother. “He had a red nose. You have a blue nose."

Suddenly, BOOM! A bomb had ruined the house. Then two figures appeared.

“We are here to protect our world from devastation, to unite all the fruits within our nation, to denounce the evils of truth and love, to extend our reach to the stars above,” they said.

Bob! Bobita! Team Evil blasted off at the speed of light.

“Surrender now or prepare to fight!”

Fodur stared at them. “You’re evil,” he said. “You’re just an apple and a cantaloupe!”

“That’s not the point!” said Bob. He jumped up to Fodur and grabbed his nose. “We have the nose! Let’s go,” he said.

Bob and Bobita jumped into their cucumber canoe and paddled away.

“My nose!” cried Fodur. “How do I get it back?”

“You must travel to the Land of Ice,” his grandmother told him. “That is where your nose is.”
Poetry

Love and Fun
By Thandapani Chandrasekaran, age 8
Love and fun
Make other people happy
Even Hafiz

Friendship and Courage
By Thandapani Chandrasekaran, age 8
Friendship and courage
Make people love
And live in peace

Yellow
By Elijah LaCour-DeLyle, age 8
Yellow is the color of the sun
Yellow is in the middle
Of red and blue
Yellow is the color of daisies and sun dew
Yellow is like a good sweet meadow in the wilderness
Yellow is the egg yolk in an egg
Yellow is the color of the stars
And yellow is mixed with lava.

Black
By Faroz Aghili, age 8
Black is the Hydra
Fighting Hercules
And black licorice.

Green
By Serena Peters, age 9
Green is the color of blooming spring
It sounds like birds when they sing
It feels of a gentle breeze blowing by
It's sometimes bitter, sometimes sweet
It smells like a rose
Green is luck.
Red
By Kaia Flores, age 7
Red is the light.
Red is an apple.
Red is your favorite color.
Red is a parrot.
Red is your clothes.
Red is paint.
Red is your shoes.
Red is a fox.
Red is a flower.
Red is a trike.
Red is wood.
Red is a marker.
Red is a lunch box.
Red is sunglasses.
Red is an eraser.
Red is a building.
Red is an ant.
Red is a nail.
Red is a leaf.
Red is lava.

Black
By Mace Drobac, age 9
Black is evil, sinister and dark.
He's like a bird of prey, or a shark.
He smells like charcoal, tar, and smoke.
He smells so bad he makes me choke.
Black tastes burnt cookies, gross and hot.
It makes me gag a whole, whole lot.
He feels like a monster that avoids your sight.
He sounds like dark silence, endless night.
Black's a menace, cold and gray
He shows no mercy so they say
Here he comes! Come run and hide.
Here's a room, let's go inside.

Yellow
By Faroz Aghili, age 8
Yellow is Zeus throwing
His thunderbolt
At the Titans.
Haiku

I have a big leaf
It has a lot of colors
I have two of them.
~By Vivek Punn, age 7

I have a baby
Her birthday is in summer
She is very cute.
~By Vivek Punn, age 7

Winter is so nice
And snow covers everything
I enjoy winter.
~By Serena Peters, age 9

Summer is the best
Summer is for mint ice cream
And cherry soda.
~By Faroz Aghili, age 8

Winter is the ice
And my birthday’s in winter
And huge snowball fights.
~By Faroz Aghili, age 8

Red is a sizzling burning kill
Red is the only fox or hound
That will make red.
~By Dominic Christiansen, age 8
More Colors

Blue is the color of the waves
It leads to deep dark caves
It makes me calm
I can hold it in my palm
Blue is the color of the sky
In it the birds fly.
~By Nina Ulaganathan, age 8

White is the cloud with the angels and it’s sweet
I can smell it.
White is peace.
White is silent in the woods.
Red and white make pink like they are brothers.
~By Finn von Bunau, age 8

Green is the grass swinging back and forth.
Green is the plants meeting the ants.
Green is a bean rising from the ground.
Green is the scene of the vivacious leaf.
Spring is the moss rising from the grass.
Spring has fully sprung and we are having fun!
~By Gaurav Chakravarty, age 8
and Vivek Punn, age 7

Yellow is a little bird
Yellow is like a lemon
Yellow feels like a summertime breeze
Yellow tastes like a wonderful taco
Whenever you see yellow
You should always sneeze.
~By Pailyn Tayjasanant, age 9

Green is the lawn, wide and wet
Green is the parrot, nice but stubborn
Green is the color of the forest
Green is the color of a stem
Green feels peaceful, like the breeze
Green is the color of ripening fruits
Also the color of new life
That’s what green is.
~By Ryan Jiang, age 9
Quality Personifications

Creativity went to the meadow and made a crown of leaves and flowers.
~ By Serena Peters, age 9

Humor was happy and then he got hurt and then he got a bandaid and then he got happy.
~ By Thandapani Chandrasekaran, age 8

Friendship went to the park, he saw another person, and he gave him a gift.
~ By Paityn Tayjasanant, age 9

Friendship went to the park and made friends with a homeless man.
~ By Gaurav Chakravarty, age 8

Power was in the ocean, and he created waves with Poseidon.
~ By Faroz Aghili, age 8

Humor walked into a theater and made everyone laugh.
~ By Mace Drobac, age 9

Peace is a happy tree that lives at the playground.
~ By Finn von Bunau, age 8

Awareness went in a rocket and saw the moon.
~ By Dominic Christiansen, age 8

Kindness did fundraising for children in need.
~ By Nina Ulagathan, age 8

Creativity drew a picture using different colors.
~ By Ryan Jiang, age 9

Strength went to the circus and picked up 100 elephants.
~ By Nakai Brock, age 8

One day, humor went to a park and told a joke and made everyone laugh.
~ By Elijah LaCour-DeLyle, age 8

Kindness was walking and he found a frog and took the frog and went home so he let the frog go.
~ By Vivek Punn, age 7

Courage was sad but brave because she moved from North America to Naomi. Then she got some new friends.
~ By Kaia Flores, age 7