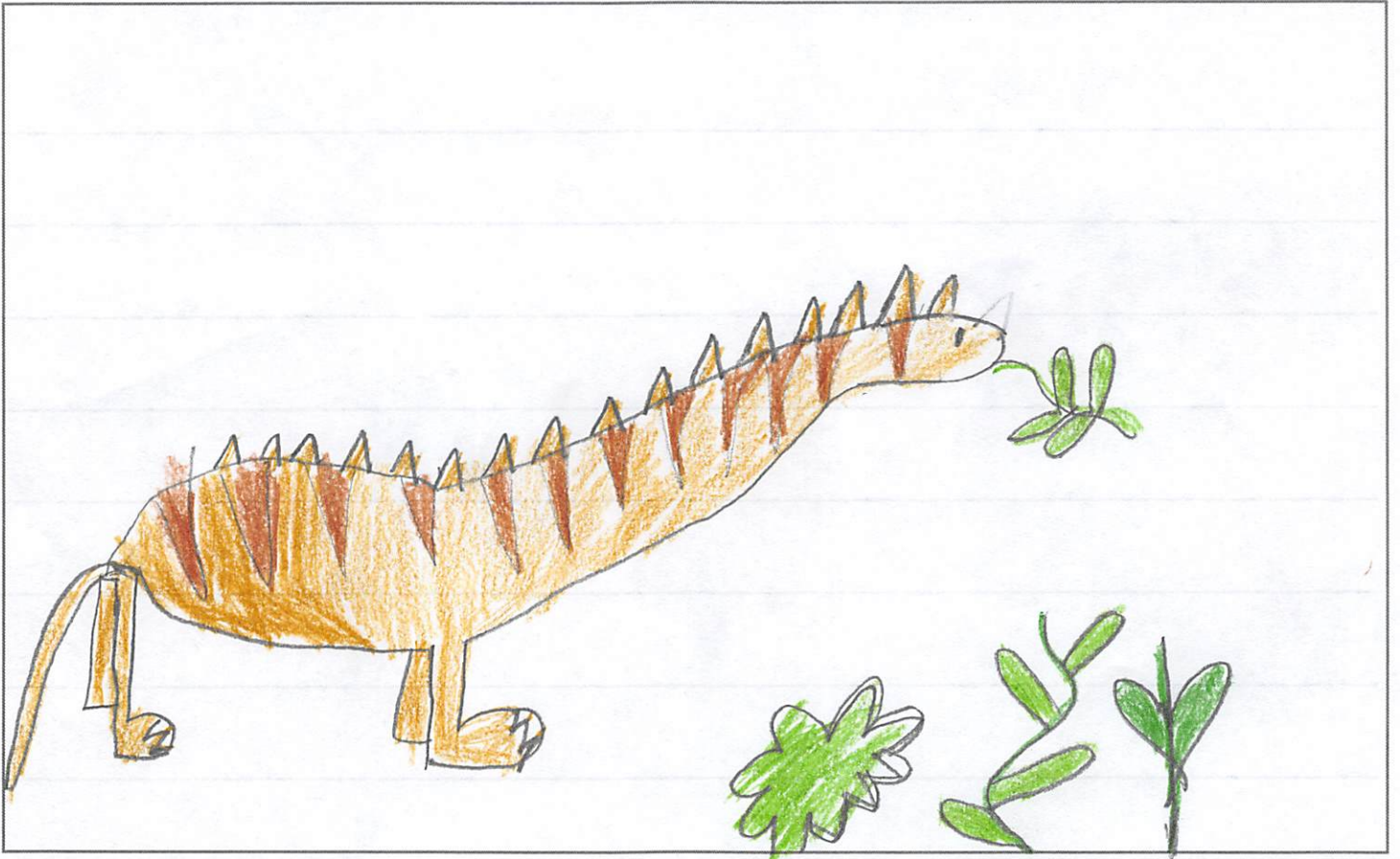


Dippel the Diplodocus and his friends are trapped. They got trapped because another dinosaur trapped them in a cave. Days go by and they are super hungry. Then Dippel asks, "guys can you help me push through this wall?" They pushed with all their might then Dippel started to feel hopeful and... they broke out!



Then they go hunting for food, they only eat plants. All of a sudden Dippel sees the dinosaur that captured them in the cave! Then Dippel says "Ok guys we have to sneak up on him and act like a team."



They work together and soon the  
bully dinosaur ran away and he never  
bothered them again. Dippel and his friends  
lived happily ever after.

# **A Hole in the Shadow**

By: Nathaniel Chiu

“Mom, Kai pushed me!” Ella exclaimed.

“It was accidental, and by the way, Ella, you know Mom’s not even at home right now,” I said, rolling my eyes. “Mom and Dad are at dinner with the gift card we got them for their anniversary.” We had just moved from Pearl City to Manoa in Hawaii, so we were busy unpacking. However, it happened to be our parents’ anniversary. Ella and I bought them a gift card for one of the fanciest restaurants in town so they could enjoy their night. After I finished unpacking most of my belongings, I searched for my pet cat, Noodles. He had mysteriously disappeared in the house.

“Ella, do you know where Noodles went?” I asked.

“I don’t know where your little cat went,” Ella huffed, obviously still mad at me. Suddenly, I heard a scream. I whipped around and saw that the wall Ella was leaning against had collapsed, and Ella had fallen into a hole. There were several rooms within this space. But, it was too dark to see my sister.

“Ella!” I called out. There was no answer. I was worried. I needed to find Ella, quickly. I climbed down into the hole. It looked as though no one had been in there for at least a century. I wandered around, not paying attention to my surroundings. Then, I heard something that brought me back down to earth.

“Kai?” a voice yelled. I walked in the direction of the voice, hoping it would bring me closer to finding Ella.

“Hello?” I called. “Ella?”

“Over here!” the voice shouted. I saw a small figure in the darkness. I ran for what seemed like forever when I finally reached it.

“Ella?” I said, breathlessly, “is that you?”

“Yeah,” she said urgently, “quick, come with me!” I followed her into a cave that was dirty and abandoned. She started a small fire using old pieces of wood. We warmed our hands and discussed what to do next.

“So, how should we get out?” I asked.

“Can we get back through the hole?” she replied.

“Not an option,” I said, “we fell down too far.”

“Wait, Kai, what if Mom and Dad come home and find us missing?” she asked, starting to panic.

“It’s okay, Ella, we’ll find a way out,” I said, trying to calm her down.

“What if we never get out!?!” she cried, bursting into tears.

“Let’s take a short walk,” I said to distract her. We walked together down a small staircase to see if there was anything we could use to get out.

“Kai, look!” Ella exclaimed, wiping away her tears, “there’s a sign that says ‘Solve the puzzle in 10 minutes and you shall be free. Fail the challenge and stay here forever.’ Uh oh, looks like we could be spending a long time here.”

“Let’s try the challenge,” I said. “It could be our only hope to get outta this place.”

“Agreed,” she replied, “let’s do this.”

We stepped on a dusty start board to begin the challenge. An automated voice recited, “let the games begin. Use the clues and break free.”

“Alright.” I said, “My clues say ‘A container had 20 ounces of liquid in it. Someone put this in it, and it weighs less now. What is it?’ and ‘Where might you stay instead of a hotel?’”

“Hmm,” Ella said, “Mine are weird, they’re ‘A three letter word used almost everyday, but is never thought of as very important.’ and ‘I follow you around in light but come nightfall I am gone. What am I?’”

“30 seconds left,” the automated voice said.

“Hurry, Ella!” I said urgently. Time passed but we hadn’t solved the puzzle.

“What could it be?” Ella said frantically.

“3... 2... 1... time is up,” the automated voice said. “Unfortunately, you have failed the challenge.”

“Noooooooooooo,” we yelled.

Ella started crying, “We’ll never see Mom or Dad again.” Suddenly, we heard a faint meow. Ella stopped crying, and we looked around.

I gasped, “Noodles, you’re back!” Noodles slowly crawled out toward us from a *hole in the shadows*.

We ran toward Noodles, wiggled through the hole, and rolled into our grassy lawn. Just then, our parents’ car pulled into the driveway.

“What are you doing on the grass?” Mom asked.

“We had a great adventure,” Ella said, “By the way, Mom, Kai pushed me.”

But Kai wasn’t listening. He was still thinking about the answer to the puzzle, as Noodles nuzzled against his leg.

Aarush Rachakonda

Grade 7

“Okay class, before you leave, keep in mind that there will be a new kid joining us for public speaking tomorrow,” said Mrs. Silver. Just as Jacob was about to sprint out of the class like the rest of the kids, Mrs. Silver lowered her glasses, pointed to him and asked, “Jacob, do you mind giving the new kid a tour around the school tomorrow?”

With a groan, Jacob replied, “Okay, fine I will.”, as he walked out the classroom. Jacob didn’t want to do it, but like the rest of the class, his speech score was borderline failing due to low creativity and bad responses to topics. He needed to do this for participation so he accepted. Jacob ran to his blue striped car as his blonde hair was flying in the air from the wind.

The next day Jacob went to school in the sunny sky and during speech class, he saw someone new sitting at the desk next to him. “That’s probably the new kid”, he thought to himself. Jacob then dragged himself toward the new kid and asked for his name.

“My name is Ralph,” said the new kid, “I’m super excited for our public speaking class. I loved it in my old school.” Ralph looked small and had messy brown hair, with dark eyes, and wore a baseball cap.

“This class is pretty boring,” said Jacob as he sat at his desk. Just right then, Mrs. Silver walked into the room. The class became quiet and Mrs. Silver wrote the assignment on the white board. The assignment was to pick your favorite outdoor activity and make a speech about it to present in a few weeks. “Easy,” Jacob thought to himself, “I’ll just do football like everyone else here.” Mrs. Silver told the class they had the rest of the period to work on the speech, and she wanted the speeches to be creative.

Suddenly, Ralph turned to Jacob and said, “I’m going to do my topic on swimming!”

“I’ll do football, I guess.” replied Jacob unenthusiastically.

“Why did you say it like that?” asked Ralph

Jacob said, “Everyone else is going to do football, so I won’t pick hiking, which is the one I want to do. It’s going to be weird if I’m one of the few people not doing football. I don’t really want to do my topic on football.”

Ralph said, “Then don’t. It’s fine if others are doing something different.”

“Whatever, I’m still doing my topic on football.”, said Jacob as he started to write. After a few minutes, the public speaking period ended. Jacob then went in front of the school to show Ralph around. When Ralph arrived, Jacob slowly went around the school and showed him classrooms and important buildings. After they finished, Ralph asked Jacob if he’s still going to do his topic on football. Jacob replied with a yes and Ralph seemed disappointed and asked Jacob if he could come over to his house to help Jacob. “Okay, sure,” said Jacob and handed Ralph his address. After the day ended, Jacob went home and soon after Ralph was at his house too.

Ralph said, “Hi Jacob! Do you want to do your speech now, I already finished mine.” Jacob nodded and handed Ralph his sheet. After a few minutes of reading it, Ralph said, “why is your speech so dull and lacking information?”

“I don’t really know much about football.” said Jacob

“Why can’t you change your topic? Mrs. Silver said she wants the speeches to be creative and different.” said Ralph.

“I’m just scared to make my speech different. It will be more normal if it’s the same as others.” said Jacob.

“So,” said Ralph, “it’s okay to be different, other people might change too if they see you Improve.”

“Okay, sure I’ll write about hiking.” replied Jacob in a dull voice.

Ralph said, “Just try writing a little about it. It will be so much better!”

Jacob started to write about hiking and for the first time, Jacob actually felt happy while writing his speech. He enjoyed writing about something he truly enjoyed and not what everyone else was going to do. He put lots of description and showed all his emotions he feels while hiking. Jacob loved talking about the views and how accomplished he feels after a big hike. After Jacob finished he showed Ralph his speech.

“Wow, nice improvement, it’s so much better! I’m sure Mrs. Silver will love this speech. You can get an excellent grade on this.” said Ralph.

Jacob thanked him as Ralph left. Jacob felt so happy. He actually made a speech about something only he likes. He realized that he doesn’t have to fit in with other people’s interests. That night as he went to bed he felt happy and ready to present. The next day, Jacob got up earlier than usual and got ready quickly. Even his own parents were surprised, when Jacob told them he was excited for an assignment in public speaking. He felt nervous too. Jacob felt a mix of emotions about presenting. He was still a little scared that other kids might judge him for not doing football. While Jacob was thinking of the bad outcomes, his stomach turned into knots.

After Jacob’s parents drove him to school, Jacob yanked open the front door and ran to his speech classroom.

“Wow Jacob! You’re here early.” said Mrs. Silver

“Yeah, I’m excited for this assignment! I think my speech will be good.” replied Jacob

Mrs. Silver said, “Okay, hopefully it’s an original idea and not what most other people do.”

After about fifteen minutes the rest of the class arrived. As Jacob saw Ralph walking to his desk next to him, Jacob said, “Thanks for the help!”

“Your welcome, now your speech has some uniqueness to it.” said Ralph. As the class settled down. Mrs. Silver asked for any volunteers to go first, and Jacob shot up his hand. She then, of course, picked on Jacob to go. As Jacob walked up to the class, he felt scared; however Ralph’s smile of encouragement helped him. At the front of the class, his legs were shaking, but then he remembered what Ralph said yesterday about being different and that gave him courage to recite his speech. As Jacob presented his speech, everyone in the room was surprised. Mrs. Silver was surprised at how descriptive Jacob’s speech was. She thought that it would be about football like everyone else.

The other kids in the class except Ralph, were surprised and they all thought Jacob was going to do his topic on football like everyone else. When Jacob finished he got a high five from Ralph for doing such a good job. After an hour had passed by, everyone's speeches were finished. Everyone in the class did football except Jacob and Ralph. As Mrs. Silver passed out everyone's grades on the speech, most people got low scores because their speeches were all the same, except Jacob and Ralph. When Jacob opened his grade up he was surprised at his grade. Jacob exclaimed, "Yes! Thanks Ralph for helping me get a 100! This really boosts my grade."

"You're welcome, good job on your speech!" replied Ralph.

"Good job Jacob!" said another student. "I thought you would do your speech on football like us, but you did it on hiking! I didn't think you had the courage to do so! I actually wanted to do volleyball."

"Thanks," replied Jacob, "I couldn't have done it without Ralph. Next time you should do your speech on something you like!"

The student replied, "I'll try to". Happy, the student went back.

Ralph said, "Tell other people to do so too. It's okay if they are different, it won't matter if they're different." The student nodded and did so. Everyone in the room was now talking about what the next topic was going to be and how they were going to change up their speech.

Mrs. Silver saw Jacob thanking Ralph for helping him, and then Mrs. Silver said, "Hopefully, how Ralph inspired Jacob to make a unique speech will make you do the same." Ralph smiled as she said that. The class nodded and talked about what they actually wanted to write their speech about. The students were talking, smiling and waving their hands in the air to show their new topic. For once, in the classroom people were going to express their individuality.