

**Summer 2023**  
**Issue #6: All Together Now!**



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## A NOTE FROM MISS BLAIR



It has been a busy summer at Prescott Public Library!

PPL hosted programs by guest performers; put on library programs like Crafts for Kids, Summer Science, and Family book Club; and had to keep up with logging all the reading minutes from our dedicated summer readers. During all of that, we also held a writing contest.

The #ZINE Summer Contest challenged local young writers to think about friendship and the theme phrase of the Summer Reading Program this year: "All Together Now!" This issue of #ZINE spotlights our first through third place winners and two honorable mentions that submitted to the contest. Congratulations to all our featured writers!

I want to thank our secret judges (some of our amazing staff and librarians here at PPL) for taking the time to put their writing and reading minds to the question of who best met our theme and put their best writing foot forward. You made this process a breeze.

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## **FRIENDSHIP COMES FIRST**

by Adalyn Fox

My mom shook her head. I was losing patience. I took a deep breath and chose my words carefully. "Mom, I've shared a room with Ivy since I can remember. Ivy is literally the worst person to share a room with. Last week, she even spilled slime on the carpet! Imagine if Dad did that, and he never cleaned it up. Would you still want to share a room with him?"



Mom rolled her eyes and laughed. "Fine. I'll talk to dad to see if we can think of a compromise."

"It had better be a pretty good compromise, 'cause not a lot of things are worth more than my own room." I felt accomplished. I had convinced her to talk to dad. She usually just said no and walked away.

When dad got home from work, I was eager to hear the compromise, so I told dad to go talk to mom. When they emerged from their room, I almost tackled them to get answers. Mom talked first, "Okay. We've decided that if you can stop complaining about sharing a room and be nice to Ivy, we will pay for any youth acting program of your choice."

My jaw dropped. "The Campbell Acting Program. I'll be nice to her forever if you pay for that." I smiled. They smiled back. I was delighted. During dinner that night, I made sure to make no rude comments to Ivy.

The next day, I played a game and baked cookies with her. I could tell she enjoyed being friends with me, and I was starting to enjoy it too.

In the months that followed, we became really close. We told each other everything, no secrets. We even created a little catch phrase, "All together now!" It represented how we would always be together and always be friends.

The only thing that I didn't tell her was that I was bribed to be nice to her. At least, that's how it started. Now I deliberately wanted to be her friend.

**Continued on Page 3**

## FRIENDSHIP COMES FIRST-CONTINUED

The acting program was starting in two months, I was as excited as I could be. But I never talked about it to Ivy.

My mom shook her head. I was losing patience. I took a deep breath and chose my words carefully. “Mom, I’ve shared a room with Ivy since I can remember. Ivy is literally the worst person to share a room with. Last week, she even spilled slime on the carpet! Imagine if Dad did that, and he never cleaned it up. Would you still want to share a room with him?”

When Ivy did figure out why I started being nice to her, she was infuriated. “Why would you do this to me? You faker! You liar! Did you ever really want to be my friend? So much for ‘all together now.’”

I didn’t know how to prove to her that I really was her friend. I was heartbroken.

Then it came to me. The acting class. I could quit. I really wanted to take that class, but I decided that my relationship with my sister was more important.

Telling my parents that I wasn’t going to take the acting class was hard, but telling Ivy was easy, mostly because she wanted to be friends with me again. I promised to her that I would never do anything like that again.

I have never regretted my choice to quit those acting lessons, because friendship is more important than anything in the world.





**2ND  
PLACE**

## **THE CYCLE: A STORY IN VERSE**

by Sophia Brown

### **birth**

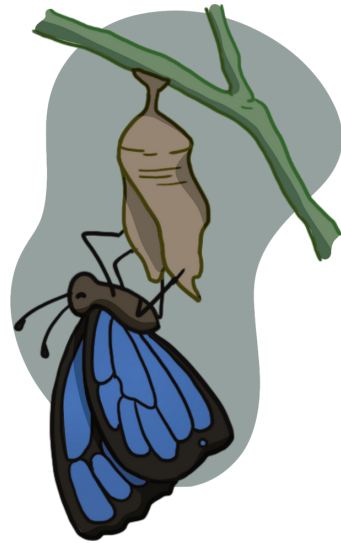
In the beginning lies darkness  
Illuminating the inky depths of the beyond lies the souls  
Like flickering lights of every colors they flit in and out  
As a young soul, I wait  
Waiting is hard, but I find comfort  
In the humming vibration of love and warmth of the beautiful spirits around me  
All together now, we wait

I know when darkness is ending  
I feel the wiggle in my soul  
The electricity that zaps my essence into the ribbed cage of a body  
The brief silence as I cross the bridge  
Then brightness, so bright that I must cry  
Like a butterfly from a cocoon whose wings can not yet unfurl  
I wail to the world, a wail of joy and pain  
I am here  
welcome  
Voices whisper; my family  
And the love I feel is whole  
And I am here  
We are here  
All together now, we begin

### **life**

life is a journey, a test  
for what? I would ask  
But no one truly knows, but they pretend  
People are pretenders  
We hide behind faces of our own making  
Influenced by the pain caused by others  
And the joy  
We will change ourselves to feel whole  
But we only become more empty  
Pretenders we are  
All together now, we pretend

A child is the greatest gift to the world  
A child is bright  
A child is knowing  
A child is ruined  
The butterfly that emerges from the cocoon is gone



**Continued on Page 5**

## THE CYCLE: A STORY IN VERSE- CONTINUED

Wings ripped and torn by those in her life  
Maybe that is what life is for  
To grow  
To heal  
And by the end, I can only hope that mine are ready to fly  
All together now, we must learn again

I learned of something today  
They called it: differences  
I did not know of the word until someone pointed them out  
The skin  
The body  
The voice  
But why does it matter?  
I want to scream  
Now that I know of differences, I can only compare  
Comparing is the worst of faults  
When you compare you only find fault in yourself  
I wish to go back  
Back to when I didn't know of differences  
Back when different was beautiful  
Not this  
Not this endless pain of impossible self worth  
All together now, we feel worthless

I have discovered something great  
A friend  
I did not know that such thing existed  
Now I wish to never be without one  
And yet, I still feel there is not anyone  
A friend is a gift  
A friend is always there  
I must just look closer  
Everyone just wants a friend  
All together now, we connect

Oh!  
The most complex of emotions  
Love  
I feel it for all  
Yet I cannot feel it for myself  
I have tried to love so many others  
Now I know

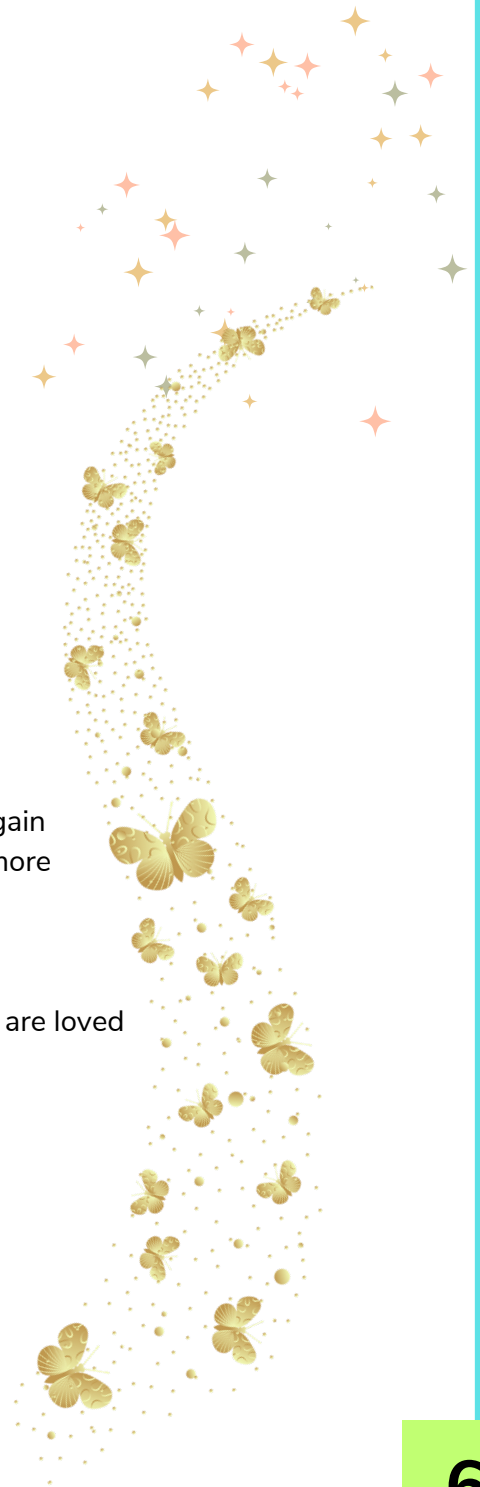


## THE CYCLE: A STORY IN VERSE- CONTINUED

I cannot love without loving me first  
Only then can I provide love for others  
And I love to love  
All together now, we love

### death

I don't want to go  
Why have a life only to lose it?  
I feel such pain  
Such sadness  
I don't want to let go of this  
Those I have gained  
Those I have lost  
Now I will be lost too  
Yet,  
I start to feel something else  
Something I have never quite felt fully  
Relief  
A cool rush that eases my aches  
Heals my wounds  
Patches my sorrows  
I have done enough  
My wings are finally grown  
I am ready  
All together now, we depart  
OIt's a funny thing  
When life comes to end, darkness greets me once again  
The brightness fades as the bridge is crossed once more  
On the other side I cry  
Even as a soul, tears slip and fall  
Becoming scattered stars in the sky  
Glimmering light that reminds those below that they are loved  
My soul feels lighter  
The darkness like a hug  
The warmth of the souls around me  
welcome  
They whisper  
And surrounded by those I love, I feel joy  
Everything is a journey  
And now perhaps, mine will begin again  
But for now  
I just want to be here  
All together now.





## A SIMPLE WORD

by Millie Nyman

This was the day that anything exciting or interesting started in Emily's life. It started with Emily playing volleyball with Cami. "Oops, that was a bad hit!" Emily cried. The hit was so bad that it flew over the fence. She had started out the gate as fast as she could, when the ball started rolling across the road. Emily recovered it successfully, and ran back through the gate again. Cami and Emily successfully passed it back and forth two times when Carter came strutting up.



"You're playing volleyball without me!" he exclaimed.

"Come on over." Cami invited.

"Let's play Smash Face," Carter suggested. Smash Face was one of Emily's favorite games. It wasn't one-hundred percent approved of by the adults, but it was really fun trying to hit people with the ball. As soon as they started playing, Emily ended up in the middle.

All the others who had gathered to play were chanting practically in unison, "Bump," There was a pause, "Set." The ball was flying straight towards Cami. "Spike" She spiked it very well, right towards Emily. Emily was terrified, the ball was coming towards her. And she needed to catch it. She put her hands up to deflect the ball. Then BAM the ball hit her hands and flew up. In a moment of brilliance, she grabbed the ball expertly as it came down, and... she caught the ball! Everyone in the middle cheered.

As Emily walked into the house ten minutes later, she still was smiling. There was Aiden, tall, 6'4, very intimidating, and nice. He said, "Hi."

Emily's stomach knotted up momentarily. She had meant to ask him a question that regarded him and his wife, and this was one of her last chances to do it. She supposed that she was lucky that it was Aiden that was here today, rather than his wife, Dixie. Dixie was not only scary and intimidating, but also even more scary. She threw her nerves and butterflies out of her stomach. Then she asked, "Can I work at your store?"

Aiden replied, "Yes, maybe, um, yeah, Dixie likes having young people help her, plus we don't have to pay you as much!"

\*\*\*\*\*

So Emily ended up going into the store, All Together Now, to ask Dixie herself. (Because Aiden didn't even answer her really, and it sounded like Dixie was in charge.) Right when she entered the store Dixie perked up, and Emily's heart started pounding. Dixie started "So ya want to work? You can start right now if you want."

Continued on Page 8



## A SIMPLE WORD- CONTINUED

Emily was a little taken back and hesitantly said, "Um."

Dixie replied, "You would be hanging up clothes, tagging shoes, and doing other random stuff." Emily suddenly started panicking. What was she getting herself into? It was a cute shop, but she would have to stay with Dixie and, .....Dixie kept on talking, "And ya know, like no movies while you are working. Stuff like that, also when you work with Aiden, no naps! My niece was working and Aiden found her napping. He rarely gets mad, but he did then. So..."

Emily was doing her breathing that she had been taught before. In, out, in, out. It was funny how such a short lady could be so scary. Dixie was literally her height, and didn't even have big muscles. But Emily blurted, "Yeah, I would love that."

"So, do you want to start right now?" Dixie asked.

"Sure, I guess I don't have anything else to do right now,"

"Ok, then start hanging this bin of clothes!"

Throughout the bin of clothes she found things she wasn't quite sure of, like the girl's 9 month dress. Because it didn't seem like there was a place to put it. She ended up putting it in the 6-9 month section. But she didn't want to ask Dixie, that would be scary. It was about eleven a.m. when a particularly pretty lady came into the store. Trying to push down her fear she said, "Hi." Then she came behind the desk, where she was hanging clothes, and where Dixie was at the cash register checking someone out. They started talking like old friends. Dixie explained, "Kate this is Emily, she started this morning."

Kate smiled this really genuine smile, and Emily liked her immediately. She found out that Kate liked volleyball as much as she did and that her favorite band was also the Beach Boys. Kate also had a way of teasing that made Emily feel welcome.

Throughout the next couple of days, Emily was warming up to Dixie after all, she had a way of being one-hundred percent honest, when she shared her opinion. It was intimidating and really awesome. But Dixie was there to help her grow. Dixie taught her how to work at the cash register only the second day, and tried to teach her all the codes she needed to know. As Emily learned more, All Together Now started to feel like home. But Emily was still looking forward to working with Aiden rather than Dixie...

It was a Wednesday afternoon. As Kate was passing her, Emily was tagging a bag of diapers. She was writing '52 dipers'. Kate remarked, "There's a 'A' after the 'I'."

Emily, a little embarrassed, replied, "Oh, got it." and quickly fixed it.



## A SIMPLE WORD- CONTINUED

Only a couple hours later, Cami's mom came in. She said hi to Dixie before she noticed Emily. "Oh, do you work here?"

Emily smiled, "Yep."

Cami's mom asked, "Are you a hard worker?"

Dixie pitched in, "Surprisingly, yes." Emily was feeling a little weird after that comment. It must have been because she didn't sleep well the night before.

Then Kate commented, "But she can't spell!"

Cami's mom exclaimed in mock surprise, "You can't spell!"

Emily loved Kate, but that hurt. She went back to her work. Throughout the last couple of hours, Emily was a hive of angry wasps inside. When she went home that night, her aunt asked if she wanted to go back to Texas with her. Emily went.

Her time in Texas was amazing. She loved hanging out with her cousins, and the bright green trees were beautiful. When she was in Texas, though, she had a little regret that she had abandoned Dixie, Kate and that wonderful little store that she loved. Her aunt asked her one day, "Do you just want to stay here for the rest of the summer?"

Emily was surprised that her answer came so easily, "No, I want to go home and work, if Dixie will let me."

So Emily endured the 15 hour drive back. The whole drive back, Emily's excitement grew more and more. The hour she got home, she went to the store to apologize, which she never did. She was opening the door, but then- it was locked, very tightly. She examined the door, every inch, and found one sign. 'Out of business.' In a panic, she called Dixie, but it went straight to voicemail. Emily had a wave of bitter sadness. The best thing in her life was gone. The possible friendships were gone, forever, and because of one word, diapers.



# THE FLYING WONDERS

by Lily Gifford

Once in a place between the Multiverse there was a girl named Uma, who was a Multiverse hero. She had a Team and in her team was Minou, Lupa, Ami, and Bato. They were called Flying Wonders. Uma was the leader of the team so the others always listened to her and cared about what she had to say. All of them have normal lives on different earths but they had watches that beeped when there was danger.

Today Uma was in the yard playing with her puppy when she heard a *Beep Beep Beeeep!* Uma jumped to her feet and ran to her shed and went to the base to see what was happening. It was a giant squid that was attacking a large city. The others had just come in when Uma was walking out calling, "There is a giant squid attacking a large city." They went into that universe and Bato tried to smash the squid with a boulder like it was a piece of paper. Minou and Lupa tried to wrestle it down but it threw them out of the way. Uma called the others together and said, "Guys, we can not defeat if we attack one at a time we need to do it all together now." Then with a mighty roar the five kids charged at the squid and threw it into space.

The End



# A SNAKE

by Jairo Mariscal



## CHAPTER 1

If you couldn't tell by the picture I'm a San Francisco garter snake named Alex. And I have no idea how to make friends it's hard. I can't ask my mom or dad. As a snake I'm on my own as soon as I hatch so no mom or dad. But getting back to friends I don't really have any friends unless my food counts. Which is mostly fish earthworms and some bugs. But I always eat them hmm...I don't think you eat friends.

"Hey there," said a frog.

"YIKES!"

"Sorry didn't mean to scare you," said the frog.

"Scared what are you talking about?" I asked. Who's he to call me scared? I thought.

"Well you jumped."

"I'm a snake I don't jump," I grumbled. He didn't seem to hear me and hopped away. That's when I saw the perfect home so I got a closer look. It was a log a perfect log.

"Nice don't you think?"

Startled I looked around and saw another San Francisco Garter snake. "This is my home," said the other snake proudly. "But you can have the log next to this one." I looked next to the log and sure enough there was another log smaller but in good condition. "I'm Brandon," said the other snake.

"Alex," I answered.

"Nice to meet you Alex and I'd love to stay and chat but I'm busy bye." And Brandon left so Alex settled in to the log next to Brandon's log. Brandon seems friendly. And with that I fell asleep.

**Continued on Page 12**



## A SNAKE- CONTINUED

### CHAPTER 2

It has been a whole week since I moved here. My new friend and neighbor Brandon is really nice. It might have been easy to make a friend, Ok okay it was easy so I was wrong no big deal. It isn't my fault garter snakes are social.

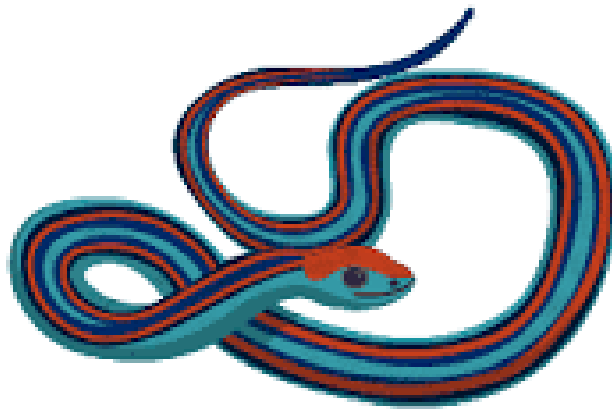
If you're a snake with a lot of friends then you're probably a garter snake.

"Good morning!" "Good morning!!!"

It's the birds again even Brandon agrees they are noisy. And speaking of Brandon he said that he had his meal for the week and that we could do something fun. I think it's a great idea we are going to go fishing. Yes believe it or not we fish but not with a pole.

"OK ready to go?" said Brandon.

"Yes lets go." it wouldn't be honest to say I wasn't excited.



It has been a great day we went fishing and Brandon gave me a tour of his part of the woods which was fun. The leaves on my log are all together now. I also met a red sided garter snake named John who actually lives close by. So no I have two friends Brandon and John. Today was happy but also worrying we heard that there is a fox in the woods it was reported by a frog yesterday. A fox is bad foxes eat garter snakes!!

"Alex where are you?" Its John what's he doing here.

"There you are Alex. My home is now not safe to stay in, All the snakes in my part of the woods have been evacuated cause of the fox. I was wondering if I can move in with you and Brandon."

A fox but if it's in Johns part of the woods it can't be far from here and John needed somewhere to day the log is big.

"Ok you can stay here there are three rooms in the log anyway," I answered.

"Thanks."

**Continued on Page 13**

## A SNAKE- CONTINUED

"Brandon can show you the third room."

"Ok thanks again."

Still a fox I had better be careful.

### CHAPTER 3

Wow time flies by. John has been here a week. And it's cold. Soon it will be time to hibernate. We've been alerted about the fox moving closer. Something doesn't feel right. And that's when I heard it a low growl. All the sudden a fox leapt out of the bushes.

"YIKES!" I was slithering as fast as I could but the fox was faster. I saw a hole in the stump of a tree so I hid under it. It wouldn't last long. "This is it" I thought. My scent glands are starting to smell a natural defense but the fox didn't care. And that was when I heard it, the sound of more snakes. Brandon and John are trying to get the fox away I realized. And I joined in. Finally the fox gave up and left. I couldn't believe it.

"You ok?" Brandon and John asked at the same time.

"Thanks to you I am," I answered. "Lets go before it comes back."

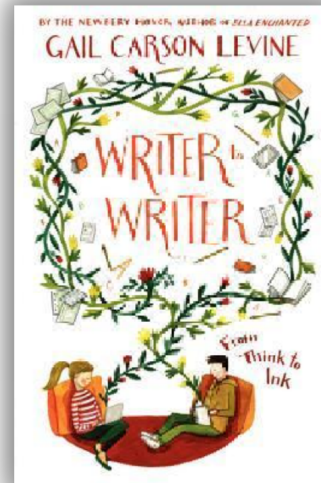
So we left. I learned something these last couple of months. I thought the secret to a happy and healthy life is friends and I will never forget that.

THE END

**Check out these cool books with advice from famous authors take your writing to the next level!**

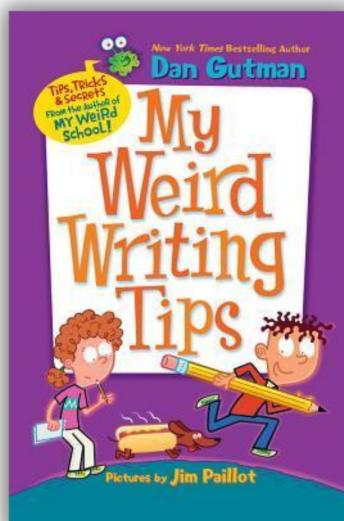


*Writing Magic*

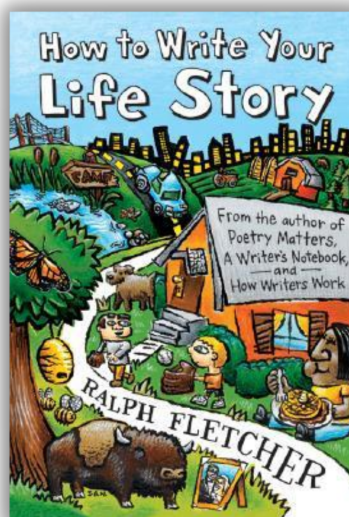


*Writer to Writer*

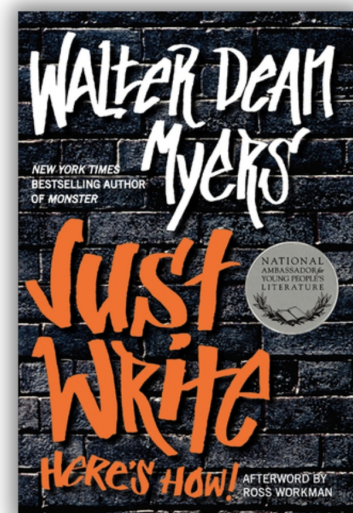
by Gail Carson Levine



*My Weird Writing Tips*  
by Dan Gutman



*How to Write Your Life Story*  
by Ralph Fletcher



*Just Write: Here's How!*  
by Walter Dean Myers



## FEELING INSPIRED?

### **Check out The Write Spot: Youth Writing Club!**

Hey tweens and teens Write Spot has changed it up.  
Now open to any aspiring writers in grades 5 through 9!

Join Miss Blair monthly for writing tips, out-of-the-box writing exercises, and the opportunity to talk about writing with other like-minded writers. Explore genres, styles, and fancy words while you grow as a writer in this collaborative club!



The Write Spot will meet the last Wednesday  
of the month from September-May  
at 4 pm in the James Activity Room

Register online, at the Youth Desk,  
or call 928.777.1537

