Dyer Literary Magazine

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Our Trip to the Maine Wildlife Park

Thursday morning the Dyer School first graders went to the Maine Wildlife Park. After we got off the bus and through the gate, everyone put their bags on a table so we wouldn’t be late for the presentation about predators. Snack was next for everyone, and then small groups walked throughout the park with their chaperone to see all kinds of animals. Some of the predators were: bears, fox, fischer, cougar, eagles, Canada lynx, bobcat, and a variety of owls.

We learned so much about predators from Lisa, one of the guides and a park ranger. Fishers can eat a porcupine and a Canada lynx. Fishers chase porcupines up a tree, and out onto a branch until the porcupine drops to the ground. When it is stunned, the fisher races back down the tree to bite the porcupine on its nose. Then it flips the porcupine over onto its back and bites the belly. Lisa had a fisher that had been taxidermied and a skull too. We saw the dorsal crest on top of the skull which lets you know it has a very strong bite. Fishers are very fierce hunters: they can bite your hand and break it.

Eagles and loons are predators that live near or on the water. The eagle catches a fish in its talons then brings it to shore to rip it up with its strong, hooked beak. A loon swims after its prey and stabs it with its sharp, pointed beak. Then the loon slaps the fish on top of the water. Finally it flips it around so the fish enters the loon’s mouth head first. Bald eagles and loons are enemies because eagles will eat loon chicks. Every creature needs to eat!
Wildlife biologists band all of the Maine eaglets they can find in the spring. They climb up into the huge nests and put a numbered band around the ankle of the chick. Then when an eagle is found dead, scientists know how old it was, where and when it was born. Last year biologists found a dead eagle on Cobscook Bay that had a band. They learned the eagle was 31 years old when it died. Information about how long an eagle lives in the wild is important to animal scientists.

Lisa shared other taxidermied animals with us during her presentation. We saw an albino porcupine, a bald eagle, a loon, a Canada lynx with paws like mini snowshoes, and the skull and pelt of a wolf. It was interesting to hear about these amazing predators and learn facts about them.

Each small group roamed through the park looking at the animals. We saw mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, and fish. Some of us checked how wide our “wingspan” is near one of the bird exhibits. We’ve been learning so much about living and nonliving things, and it was really unbelievable to see so many different species on our trip to the park.

Jamie, the bus driver, picked us up outside the gate at 1:00 for our trip back to Dyer. We sang songs and talked to friends about the different things we had seen at the park. We’re so thankful the PTA gave us funds to make this terrific trip possible!
“Southend is nothing but houses and people,” cried Phyllis; “it’s no

3-5 grade
Fantasy

This really was not very comforting, and it was the most fortunate thing

at that moment a car stopped at the door.

“Uncle Edward!” shouted Bob, rushing from the room. Phyllis brus
tears so hastily from her eyes that she arrived at the front door almow
as he did, and both flung themselves on the tall, kindly-looking man st
beside the car.
It was probably the worst day ever. Rob couldn't get his mind off the test. Coda (Rob's friend) asked “are you scared?” “No” Rob said “it's just, I didn't study.” “What!” said Coda.

Minutes later

Rob said “I got detention.” “Why?” asked Coda “I didn't get one problem right” Rob said. Coda said, “For how long is your detention” 5 weeks Rob said with a heavy heart. “We will have to Reschedule the fishing trip Rob” coda said.

What Rob didn't know Rescheduling the fishing trip was going to change his life forever.
Her eyes grew wide with curiosity at these words. But she hid...in the worst place possible.

She dove into the bushes were the boy(?) was.

“AAAAAHHHHH!” The surprised boy yelled.

“EEEEEEEEKKK!” Sophie shrieked.

“MAAAAAAAH!” His blue bird(Beatrice?) squawked. When everything quieted down, the boy spoke up.

“Eeerrr-Good day-er-night. I-I’m-my uh name is-um-James.” he stuttered the whole way through, looking around nervously.

“What brings you out here?” Shoot. Sophie is probably going to sell us out!

“Eeerrr-same as you!” she said quickly.
Wielders of Light continued

“Running away from your older sister who wants to throw you off a cliff or maroon you on a ice floe or abandon you in the forest?” he scoffed.

“Yeah, that. Our sisters would be best friends, in fact. She—” I wasn’t listening anymore. I needed to find a way to get away from that boy.

So I had only one choice.

“Heeeeyy, Soph! Ehhh—” "MOM"” is looking for us—” I said through gritted teeth, marching towards her.

I grasped her hand and practically dragged her off.” Nice talk, James!” she called to him.

We ducked behind the statue again. “What were you thinking?!”

I whisper-yell at her. “I don’t know! I guess I—AAAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!”

DID THAT REALLY JUST HAPPEN???
3-5 grade
Mystery

“Southend is nothing but houses and people,” cried Phyllis; “it’s no be
an this place; and oh! Mummie, I do so long for fields and flowers
imals,” she added piteously; and she shook her long brown hair for
hide the tears in her eyes.
“Never mind, darling, you’ll see them one day,” answered
ussell with easy vagueness.
This really was not very comforting, and it was the most fortunate thing
st at that moment a car stopped at the door.
“Uncle Edward!” shouted Bob, rushing from the room. Phyllis bruse
the tears so hastily from her eyes that she arrived at the front door almost
son as he did, and both flung themselves on the tall, kindly-looking man st
side the car.
The silhouette of a man wavered in the distance, he knew that this decision would change his life forever. His wife, his daughter, Zelda, and his two wolves. Of course, his family was not very pleased with this decision, but no matter, it had to be done. He took a deep breath, closed his eyes and through the chaos of Isa calling, wolves howling, and a surprisingly loud bird, he walked into the woods.

Later that night Isa rummaged through the towers of books that threatened to fall at any moment, she had been searching for hours on end, not being able to find it. *Maybe August took it …… but, no but its Ivy’s, he wouldn’t take it. Would he?* Isa tried to think of another reason, but she knew that that was the only possibility: her husband, true love, had taken her daughter’s only connection to the outside world. The only thing that connected the whole family….. Was gone. Just simply gone.
“Ahh, I love the graveyard, so quiet and calm. There’s no drama or people crying, just lost lives and secrets waiting to be unlocked”. The day had suddenly gotten really foggy and sorrowful, it was like the weather had known what had happened. Jack couldn’t see much in the fog, so it was very hard to tell where he was going. He saw something. For a second he thought that it was just a shadow, but then he looked again he saw a man. The man was tall and he was bending over. Jack was curious so he crept a little closer. Then he noticed that he was digging a hole. It seemed normal at first, but then the man jumped into the hole. Jack thought he must have fell, so he ran over to help. When he looked into the hole the man was gone. This amazed Jack as he was only digging for a short amount of time. At the same time he was also frightened because it was very peculiar for a man to disappear into a hole. Or for a man to disappear at all. Jack was so scared that he nearly sprinted to his house which was very odd for Jack because he spent most of his time watching star wars or playing video games. Once he got home he went straight to his bedroom because he was so flustered of what had happened. He decided to keep quiet for now, but who knows how long he’ll hold out.
3-5 grade
Realistic fiction
Once there was this girl named Ivy. She lived a happy life, had lots of friends, went to a good school, and was one of the smartest kids in the 6th grade. But everything changed just last summer… Her grandmother, who she’d lived with for several years, died. And she dreaded thinking about it and her dad got a new job…in Maine. Once she found out she started yelling at her mom and dad. “How could you do this to me?!” Ivy screamed.

“Honey calm down it’s not until next school year!” Her mom said trying to calm her down.

“No! I don’t care! All of my friends will miss me and I will miss them!” Ivy yelled.

“Ivy Ann Blackwood! You do not raise your voice at me! If you do one more time you are grounded!” Ivy’s mom yelled.

Oh how Ivy HATED being grounded! They had this rule in the house where if your the youngest which was Jasper who is 10 and Ivy is 12 you should only have your phone taken away. And if you were the oldest you would stay in your room and have your TV taken away and your phone! So Ivy stopped arguing with her mom.

“Alright I’ll go” Ivy said.

“Good now pack your bags.” Ivy’s mom said.

Ivy went upstairs and started packing. As she was packing her last box she saw a poster that her friends made and it said “Good luck at your new school, Ivy! Love Carrie, You’re the best! Good luck! Kylie.” And then after she read all the names and saw her best friend that she knew since she was 4 and it said, “I can’t believe i’m saying goodbye to my best friend! Astrid. And that made her start crying but she quickly stopped and went downstairs and put her stuff in the moving truck.

It took 8 horrible hours to get to Maine. But finally they made it. It didn’t feel right to Ivy moving to a new place it felt like millions of 1,000 pound weights are on her shoulders. And starting 7th grade was even worse. She has to make new friends and meet new teachers. And trust me she was already scared.
3–5 grade
Historical fiction
It was August 14, 1969. This day was the first time *humans* went to the moon. People all over the world were biting their fingernails while watching this miraculous event. Cameras had been set up on the moon so scientists and viewers could see what was going on. Phhssssssss..... The astronauts’ space shuttle opened, and they stepped out, bouncing onto the zero gravity planet. People gasped. They were shocked that humans had stepped foot into a weatherless, airless environment.

People watched wide eyed as the astronauts took out the flag and stuck it in to the ground as a symbol that the U.S.A. and humans had been the first ones there; or so they thought. A half an hour later as people started turning of their televisions, because they were getting bored or had to leave to go someplace, the astronauts kept exploring their new planet, (the live thing still being on television though).

Suddenly as the astronauts were looking around an ugly khaki brown colored creature with many legs and tongues waddled over to the men. Once they caught a glimpse of what was staring at them they jumped back, bouncing onto the dusty ground. As they were laying the “alien” stepped towards them, and proceeded to *lick*, with all of its tongues one of the astronaut suits with the man inside. The man getting licked stayed frozen while the other ran, well bounced away. The alien stopped slurping the suit when a strange noise that sounded like, grrrooolllllalalalalalalalalalalo was called out. The creature ran away with its many, many legs.

To this day we can’t figure out what kind of animal is, and many people regret turning of their T.V.s for this crazy occurrence.
Poems
Dyer school, Dyer school,
where all the teachers are awesomely cool.

Because of the fun,
that’s never done,

to think you’re unlucky you must be a fool.
Mrs. Blakemore
Noticing Frost

In the time between the sunrise and the bus I walked toward the woods. A glorious white bird lifted from the tree and I stood frozen but trembling like ripples on the lake.

Note: This poem is a Golden Shovel poem. A Golden Shovel poem takes one line from a poem and then uses each word in that line as the last word in each line of a new poem. The line of poetry I chose was “between the woods and frozen lake.” It comes from Robert Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”. If you want to read more Golden Shovel poems you can check out One Last Word by Nikki Grimes. It is a novel in verse written using Golden Shovel poems.
-All about the editors-
All about the editors (continued)

Darla  
Fun fact: She drove cross-country from LA to Maine!

Lea  
Fun fact: Her first word was Obama!

Mateja  
Fun fact: Favorite book is Walk Two Moons.

Lucy  
Fun fact: Likes to invent “stuff”.

Mckenna  
Fun fact: Favorite book is Nevermoor.

Mrs. Blakemore  
Fun Fact: Her first sentence was, “I can do it myself.”
Goodbye until next year!

Have a good summer!
– The editors