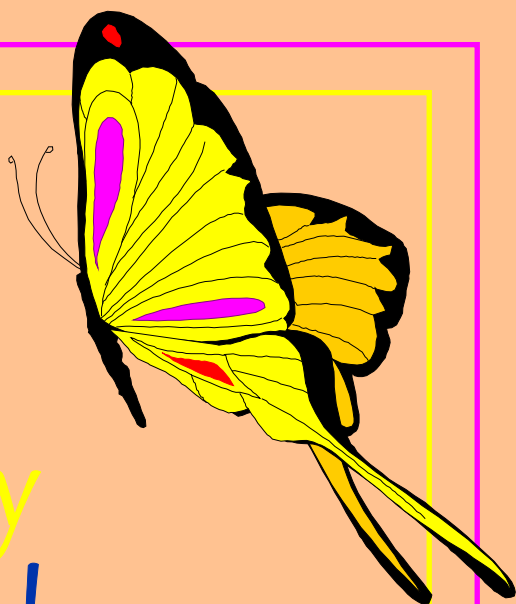


# The Butterfly StoryBook 2015



10 Stories about  
“Lighting Up Lives”  
By Young, Emerging  
Writers in the Caribbean



An award winning project of the  
Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020



## A MESSAGE FOR OUR READERS

Hello!

We hope you enjoy this book of stories written by young authors of the Caribbean Islands.

This book has been produced by Rotarians of the Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020.

Rotarians believe in four important ideas, and we remind ourselves about them every week when we meet.

**TRUTH** - You should always speak the truth.

**FAIRNESS** - Always be fair when playing and working with others.

**FRIENDSHIP** - When you want to help your community by collecting food for those who don't have it, or picking up trash around your school, bring your friends along and you'll have twice as much fun!

**HELPING OTHERS** - It is important to help those around you who are not as lucky as you are. Ask around your school to find out what you can do to help out!

Rotarians meet every week to learn more about what is going on in the world and what we can do to help. We hope you will help to make your community better by studying hard, and doing all you can to help your school and community become a better place!

From Your friends at  
The Rotary E- Club of the Caribbean, 7020

# CONTENTS

This book is published in four languages  
Spoken in the Caribbean region



Hope's Inspiration

Celina Allen 3

Grandma's Surprise



Navarre Donovan 6

A Soup for Two

Zara Garofalo 8

The Girl Who Made A Difference

Adrianna Garvey 12

Rescue of the Kiddy Goat



Savir Gookul 14

Not Alone

Marlie Hughes 16

Lighting Up Someone's Life

Lianna Jones 18

The Reading Club



Ellie Nickason 21

Being Friends

Malena del Olmo 25

The Rescue

Diamond White 28



## Hope's Inspiration

By Celina Allen

Age 11 years

Kensington Primary School

Portmore, Jamaica

The air of nervousness lingered over the classroom and hushed the murmurs of everyone as they fastened their eyes on Mrs. Bolt, their teacher, who clumsily opened the envelope containing the results of their final exam. For most of the class, this was not only their results, but the only route to a successful future. The tension was so unbearable for Sky that tears streamed down her anxious face while she gripped Hope's hand.

Mrs. Bolt finally broke the silence. She read the results of each child alphabetically. "And now for the final name on the list, Sky Williams." Mrs. Bolt cleared her throat and continued, "You have received a 97% average in your final exam." The class erupted in a thunderous applause. Sky embraced her friend, Hope, and whispered in her ear, "I could not have done this without you."

At dismissal, all the students except Sky raced out of the classroom to hurry home and share the great news. Sky stared at the four walls of the classroom as she skimmed through the pages of her memories to where her success all began.

"Class, this is Sky Williams, your new classmate," said Mrs. Bolt. "I want you to be very nice to her. She is new to this school and the community." Brave shouted, "Miss, Bad Man don't talk to

trash. We dump trash." "Enough!" shouted Mrs. Bolt as she tried to quiet the disruptive class.



No one wanted Sky to sit beside them. She was smelly, her uniform always dirty, and she itched a lot. She had no friends and was often seen talking to herself.

During the lesson on heroes in Social Studies, Mrs. Bolt wrote the words of Paul Shane Spear to introduce her lesson. "As one person, I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person." Hope wrote down the quote and was inspired to "light up" the lives of her classmates

one life at a time. During lunchtime, she went into the bathroom and heard sobs. It was Sky. She hugged her and dried her tears. Sky felt comfortable to share with Hope the death of her mother and the struggles of her father to find a job. Hope invited her home to have a bath and a freshly cooked meal. She shared with her some of her clothes, school supplies, and snacks. Hope's acts of kindness began a friendship between both girls. Every day she brought lunch for Sky and helped her with her schoolwork. Sky transformed from a shy, glum student into a confident girl. The class now accepted her, except Brave. He saw her as the perfect target to bully, and once again proved the shell of a boy that he was.

Both Sky and Hope sat under the palm tree in the schoolyard enjoying their lunch. Brave walked maliciously to Sky, ripped the gold watch from her hand and trampled on it. Sky burst into tears. The watch was the only thing she had to remind her of her mom. While Sky sat on the ground in disbelief, trying to fix the broken watch, Hope firmly gripped Brave and quizzically asked, "Do you know what is respect?" "No Smarty Pants. Care to share what's respect?" he asked jeeringly. "Well it's when you show by your behavior that you think someone or something is important," responded Hope.

"You can tell that to my Dad who comes in every night drunk and slaps my mom and me across the face." Brave looked around and saw everyone staring at him as the tears streamed down his face. Hope held his hands and said in a calm voice, "Maybe your dad doesn't think he is important in your lives, so show and tell him that he is."

Hope and Sky helped him to write little notes to his dad to reaffirm his importance. Brave's dad gradually transformed and quit his alcohol addiction. This impacted Brave, who started to show respect to his peers.

With all the excitement, Hope did not realize Sky was not with her until she got to the school's gate. She went back to the classroom and found Sky sitting in deep thought. She interrupted her, "Sky, aren't you going to share the great news with your father?" "Certainly," smiled Sky, "Hope, you are a candle that consumes itself to light the way for others."



## Grandma's Surprise

By G. Navarre Donovan

Age 10 years

Isabella Morris Primary School  
Road Town, British Virgin Islands

It was five and a half weeks after school closed for the summer, and all the children in Carrot Bay were getting tired of their toys. Al and Valerie were two of the most bored children in all of Tortola. "This is the last straw that broke the camel's back," barked Al, as he angrily threw a rock into the roaring ocean. "It truly is," concurred Valerie, who always agreed with everything her older brother says.

Al was just about to go on a rampage when he had a brainstorm. "I know!" chirped Al. "We'll surprise everyone in the village!" "How?" questioned Valerie. "Val, haven't you ever felt sorry for all the needy people in Carrot Bay?" answered Al. "Now we'll be able to help them!" "Ok, let's do it!" chirped Valerie, all eager to get started.

That same afternoon, the two ran home, got out some construction paper and got a schedule together. "So, who's first?" asked Valerie. "Grandma!" retorted Al. "Oooh, I like her!" cooed Valerie. They were just going to call their mother when they heard the screech of brakes. "Yippee! Mommy's here!" "Okay, Val. You ask Mom if we can go to Grandma's house, while I get something for Grandma."



After they got permission, and Al got something for Grandma, they were off. Their grandma lived three blocks away, but they knew a shortcut. When they finally reached, their grandma was sleeping, which is what they wanted. They knew that Grandma always kept her key under the Welcome mat on the porch. When they unlocked the door and sneaked in, they carefully placed the present on her nightstand and then sneaked out.

When Grandma woke up, she saw what they had brought - a flower pot with flowers! She always wanted one of those! She called all of the neighborhood to figure out who it was, but didn't find out. Only two people know who it was, and of course they are Al and Valerie. And as far as I know, they are still surprising people.



## A Soup for Two

Zara Garofalo

Age 10 years

St. Ignatius Catholic School

Grand Cayman

Happy and healthy. We were together. She was cuddling me. We shared our secret smile. I wrapped my arms around her ... but then I woke up ... and she wasn't there.

There she lay. She lay alone in her dark, gloomy room. The only light was from the blazing sun coming through the window. Chrissie clung onto her stuffed rabbit like it was the only thing she had left.

"Chrissie!" Aunt Angie called her into the kitchen. She had taken Chrissie in as her own when her parents had died. Aunt Angie is caring and sympathetic towards all living things.

"Good morning, sleepy head!" she laughed. "I'm making your favourite lunch today - coconut soup! However, last time I made this, we ran out of coconuts. Would you go get some from the beach?"

"Okay, I'll be back soon!" Chrissie called from the door, and she set off.

On the pebble path, toward the beach, Chrissie began to sing a Caribbean song to her parrot, Tiki. Flowers danced to the music. The wind whistled along. In the distance, the waves crashed

among rocky beaches. Palm leaves reached out and brushed Chrissie's smooth skin. The trees enveloped her as she continued to walk.

At last, Chrissie arrived at the beach. She hurried to where all the coconut trees stood. Since Chrissie had done this many times before, she was extremely good at climbing. She shimmied up the tree trunks and grabbed six coconuts - which was more than enough for two people.

As Chrissie slid down the last tree, she heard someone shouting. Who could it be? Why were they shouting?

Chrissie ran hard. She was desperate to find the voice. All of a sudden, she stopped in her tracks. Someone or something was three feet ahead of her. Chrissie crept closer, quietly. When she got a better look, she could see that the shadowy figure was a lady. The woman turned around. "Hello there!" she said with a smile.

"Uh ... hi ... my name is Chrissie. Are you okay? I heard you shouting from over there." Chrissie pointed to where the palm trees stood.

"I am fine. I just tripped over a rock. My name is Mary-Anne. Pleased to meet you!" Mary-Anne held out her hand.

"What are you doing out here all alone?" Chrissie asked.

The lady somehow looked older as her smile faded. "I live here."

A homeless lady, Chrissie thought. She felt so bad for her. Always having to search for food or build a shelter at night. Chrissie winced at Tiki's claws in her shoulder, but continued to think. Ever since she moved in with her aunt, Chrissie had been miserable about losing her parents; meanwhile this lady didn't have a family at all.

Chrissie broke the silence by saying, "It was very nice to meet you; however, I must get these coconuts to my aunt!"

They waved goodbye, and Chrissie hurried back home through the trees and bushes. She had a plan. Her aunt was waiting for her when she got there. Together, they made the soup (delicious as always) and Chrissie told Aunt Angie about her encounter.



"Well Chrissie, I think we should let Ms. Mary-Anne have a taste of this soup. After all we have plenty extra!"

So Chrissie and her aunt packed a basket with apples, water, and, of course, the coconut soup. Back to the beach Chrissie went, but not noticing the nature around her, as she was excited to see Mary-Anne.

The woman was still there when Chrissie arrived. "Mary-Anne! Mary-Anne!" Chrissie shouted. With a startled look, the woman searched around.

"Chrissie? What are you doing back here? What is this?" she asked, accepting the basket.

"It's my aunt's coconut soup! We decided to share it with you! I felt really bad that you had nothing to eat. So we can eat together!"

"Oh that is so kind, dear. You've made my day!"

Together, they sat in the Caribbean sunlight, sipping the coconut soup. The waves tickled the sand as the clouds watched from above.

Chrissie had found a friend to share stories with, and the stories would last forever.

## The Girl Who Made a Difference

By Adrianna Garvey

Age 11 years

Naz Children's Centre

Montego Bay, Jamaica

Once upon a time, there was a girl born in Jamaica named Stacy. Although she was not rich, she still dreamed of making her island a better place. She worked very hard for a 10-year-old. After school, she would be sure to do something kind for other people, like taking out the garbage for her elderly neighbors, picking up litter in the school yard, mowing the lawn for the one-legged uncle, or donating money she saves from her allowance to the people on the street.

For all her generosity, people she helped would reward her with smiles and gratitude. She loved to help and make others happy, even when her friends at school laughed at her. Sometimes, she would see the naughty boys riding bikes down the hills turning over the people's garbage and littering the streets as they passed by. Stacy would talk to them and tell them what to do and what not to do. Believe it or not, sometimes they listened and took the responsibility to clean up their mess. But sometimes they got so annoyed that they shouted "Shut up!" and rode right past her.

Stacey didn't give up. She couldn't quit so easily. Another thing she enjoyed doing was to lighten the days of other people. In her neighborhood, most people are pretty grumpy. Her closest neighbor, Mr. Anderson, barely came out of his house. In fact, she never saw him smile until she visited him. Most times, Stacy

would go over to his house and describe to him all the wonderful colors of the evening since he was blind and could not see. He would listen attentively, then share stories with little Stacy of the wonderful places he has seen in the past. Her favorite one was when he went to the Emancipation Park. He said it was beautiful. There were pretty pink, purple, yellow and red flowers. It was filled with peace and quiet only to hear the sweet sounds of chirping. The sky was beautiful and blue, not a cloud in sight. He would visit the park every day. That story Stacy enjoyed. From that moment on, you would see more and more smiles from Mr. Anderson. Thanks to Stacy, boring old Mr. Anderson turned into sunshine and rainbows.

Because of Stacy's kindness and courage, everyone praised and thanked her for her kindness and helpfulness. She was the girl who made a difference.





## Rescue of the Kiddy Goat

By Savir Gookul

Age 9 years

St. George's School

Road Town, British Virgin Islands

One good Sunday afternoon, my neighbors Rhea, Pooja, Pedro and I were playing in our parking lot. It is very spacious, and we usually have a lot of fun riding our bikes and scooters.

Suddenly, we heard a noise and thought something fell down, so we ignored the sound. After a few minutes, we started to hear a goat bleating, so I went to check if everything was okay. When I went down the hill, I saw our landlord's goat but I didn't see her kiddy. I looked carefully through the thorny bushes and I saw something move. I thought it was a snake, but it started to bleat and I realized it was the kiddy. It was tangled between the bushes. I yelled for my friends and they came running. We carefully separated the thorny bushes from the kid. We finally got him loose, and when he ran out of the bushes, he stumbled and fell. There was a huge thorn in the hind leg. It was bleeding!

My friends and I ran to the kiddy. We carefully lifted him and took him to the landlord. We watched while he gently pulled the thorn out. Then he cleaned the wound and wrapped some bandage around it. I asked him if I could do anything else, but he thanked me and said no, that I had done enough and he was very grateful. I ran and told my parents what had happened. Everyone called me a hero and I liked that!

So I started to do a lot of things for random people. Every time I play in the parking lot, I keep an eye on the goats. As well, I keep a pack of bandages in my pocket. I make sure people don't litter, and I stop arguments. I enjoy keeping an eye on people and saving them. I like to be a HERO for people and save the day!

## Not Alone

By Marlie Hughes

Age 10 years

First Impressions Primary School

Tortola, British Virgin Islands

It was cool and windy day, and three girls named Becky, Zariana, and Vicky were walking on their way to school. The girls soon passed Mrs. Epperson's house, an old woman who lived in town. "Good morning Mrs. Epperson," Vicky greeted Mrs. Epperson proudly. As the girls passed her house, they began to mutter amongst themselves. "Don't you guys notice how lonely Mrs. Epperson is?" Zariana said shivering. "Yeah, she never gets visits from anybody," Becky pointed out. "Maybe we should visit her one day," Vicky said. "Yeah," Becky and Zariana said in unison.

When walking home from school the next day, Becky said, "Okay guys, I've made up my mind. We'll visit Mrs. Epperson on Sunday, and spend some time with her so she wouldn't be that lonely." The girls agreed they would visit Mrs. Epperson on Sunday to see what was going on. Sunday came quickly, and the girls hustled to Mrs. Epperson's house. Unfortunately, she wasn't there, but the door was mysteriously open. The girls walked inside to see the dreaded life Mrs. Epperson was living: dishes not washed, clothes all over the place, objects all around the house. "Okay, I'm so glad we came here. Mrs. Epperson needs a lot of help," Zariana pointed out. "We should come here tomorrow afternoon and help her clean up," Vicky suggested. "I think every afternoon would be better. This could take a while," Becky said.



After school the next day, the girls hurried to Mrs. Epperson's house to start working. Mrs. Epperson was upstairs sleeping, so the coast was clear. The girls started on the first task - the clothes. "Okay. First we need to clear out the clothes to see where the dresser is," Becky

suggested. The girls folded the clothes and found that the dresser was upstairs. The girls finished the task in no time. They also washed the dishes until they were as shiny as a newly polished pearl. The next afternoon, they cleaned other rooms and put objects in their rightful places. Soon the house was spotless. "Well I think we're finished here," Zariana added. "I don't even know if we're in the same house!" said Becky. The girls left the house and walked home.



The next morning Mrs. Epperson was speechless; her house was shining! Then she noticed Becky, Vicky and Zariana outside on their way to school. "You three girls, did you do this?" Mrs. Epperson asked in a soft voice. The girls nodded. "Why?" "Well, we saw you were in need and you couldn't help yourself, so we did." Becky explained. "Well, thank you," Mrs. Epperson said softly.

The girls grinned from happy that they'd When other students heard what Zariana, for Mrs. Epperson, it others who are less fortunate than they are.



ear to ear and felt helped Mrs. Epperson. from their school Becky and Vicky did inspired them to help

## Lighting up Someone's Life

By Lianna Jones

Age 11 years

Kensington Primary School

St. Catherine, Jamaica

Matthew and Mark Wilson are two brothers who live in Portmore. Their family is not wealthy, but they have loving parents who work hard to provide a comfortable home for them. For the past few months, the boys realised that their friend, Johnathon, was no longer participating in class discussions and activities. They also noticed that Johnathon's uniform was untidy, his shoes were dirty, and he had an unpleasant odor. He was, therefore, a target for ridicule by other children because of his appearance.

One day, the brothers decided to ask him what was wrong. He was not very open at first, but they decided that they would be friendly to him until he decided to speak about his problem. Johnathon finally told them that his mother had died and that he was living with his older sister who did not pay him much attention. The boys were shocked at the unfortunate news. They tried to make him feel better by offering him their sympathy.

Their minds could not focus on anything else that day after hearing of their friend's plight. That evening, they told their parents about the situation and asked their advice. Imagine how happy they were when their parents told them that they were willing to assist their friend!

The boys then packed some of their clothes and toys in a bag for Johnathon. After getting their parents' permission, they decided

to speak to their teacher, Miss James, about the situation. The following day, the boys' mother visited the teacher and they contacted Johnathon's sister. They learned that she was quite young, only nineteen years old. She worked in a fast food restaurant and had to work late at nights for very little money.

Later the boys' parents told them that they had decided to allow Johnathon to come to stay with them, as his sister was unable to care for him properly. They had a spare room so they could more than accommodate him. They were shocked but happy at the news. A few days later, they all went to Johnathon's house to collect his things. When they arrived home, the boys excitedly took Johnathon to see his room. His eyes opened wide when he saw the comfortable room decorated with his favorite superheroes. The boys had also made a poster that read "Welcome Home Johnathon" and placed it on his pillow. Tears came to his eyes when he saw it.



Gradually Johnathon's behavior began to change, as he started to attend school early, in clean fresh clothes, and now had

parents to assist him with his homework and projects. His grades began to improve, and he started participating in class again. Eventually the bullying stopped. All this happened because Matthew and Mark were willing to show Johnathan kindness.

After the Wilson boys realized the difference they had made in Johnathan's life, they decided to regularly donate some of their things to charity. In fact, this became a practice of all three boys. At school, others began to respect and look up to them because of their kind deeds. Many children like the Wilson boys live in Jamaica and even in the wider Caribbean. They may not have some of the privileges that children in wealthy, developed countries enjoy, but they can still influence their country and the world by showing kindness and respect to others.

There are also many children like Johnathan in our schools and communities who do not have anyone to care for them. Some may come to school looking untidy. Some do not have enough school books or lunch money. Many do not have supportive parents to assist them with their homework, and as such, they get poor grades. This makes them feel sad, and leads to low self-esteem.

Some may not even attend school at all, but are at our stoplights, begging or wiping windcreens. We should not shun them or bully them because of their differences. We may not be able to take someone into our home like the Wilsons, but we can make the world a better place and light up someone's life by doing simple deeds of kindness.

What can you do to light up someone's life today?

## The Reading Club

By Ellie Nickason

Age 9 years

Cayman Prep and High School  
Grand Cayman

Cayman Prep students, Mia and Becky, chattered in class when they should've been listening. If the teacher hadn't signalled silence, they might never have used that opportunity to help brighten the world of others.

Their teacher started handing assignments out. Mia read the paper and passed Becky a sticky note. It said, "Can I work with you?" The assignment was about a volunteer work project to help light up the world of others with acts of kindness and respect. Becky grinned and wrote back "Yes."

That day after school, they walked over to Becky's house. "So what do you want to do the project on?" Becky asked.

"Well," Mia started, but her phone beeped and interrupted them.

"Ugh," Mia grunted. "Grandma says I have to get the groceries, so bye." Mia said.

Talking about Mia's grandmother gave Becky an idea for the project. "Wait! Why don't we read to the elderly? Elderly people are often lonely, and I bet reading to them would light up their lives."

"Brilliant!" Mia exclaimed, and jogged down the path, waving to her friend until she was out of sight.

Once Mia arrived home and unpacked the groceries, she asked her grandma to help pick out some books that the elderly might like.

They looked everywhere for books - in her grandma's bookcase, at the public library, and at Becky's house. In total, they picked out 58 books. After all that work, they were exhausted, so they fell asleep easily and dreamed lovely dreams.

When Mia awoke, she stuffed the books into several knapsacks and went to Becky's house. Since it was early in the morning, Mia started throwing some pebbles at Becky's window to wake her. Becky showed up with massive bed head at the window, and Mia beckoned her to come outside.

When Becky came outside, Mia showed her the books she had gathered. "Oh, hold on! I have some too." Becky rushed inside and came out with a large bag filled with books.

The girls then went to find Jerry, Becky's 18-year old cousin, and also her next-door neighbor. He opened the door with a large cup of coffee in his hands. "Hey, Jerry, we heard you are an amazing driver. Will you give us a ride to the Dolphin Ridge Nursing Home?" Jerry looked taken back by how fast Becky talked, but he agreed.

Fifteen minutes later, they were standing at the front desk of Dolphin Ridge, explaining their project to the receptionist, and asking if they could read to the elderly.

"Wow, girls, what a great idea and great thing to do! Yes, you could start right now," the receptionist named Lisa replied. "There is a woman named Pattie who loves classics," Lisa said.

"Great, we'll go grab our books," Mia exclaimed and ran to the car to get the books. Lisa then showed the girls to Pattie's room. They picked out Pattie's favorite book titled *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery and set to work reading.



They read the first five chapters and then Pattie interrupted and said, "You have read me a lovely story but I must take a turn and tell you my story." Pattie then told the pair what it was like to grow up in her homeland, Jamaica, long ago. For the first time

in her life, Mia realized the importance of communication between the youth and the elderly, and how rarely it happened. She realized that not only had she brightened Pattie's day, but Pattie had brightened hers too.

Over the next few weeks, Mia and Becky returned to read at Dolphin Ridge. They read to many elderly people, but their favorite was Pattie for the stories she would tell.

After they submitted the assignment, they still kept reading to the elderly. One day after school, Mia invited Becky over to her house. They wrote a letter to the Minister of Youth and Culture asking if they could have \$500 to start a club to read to the elderly. A few weeks later, they were excited to receive a cheque from the Ministry.

They used the money to print posters, buy more books, and create a website. The club was such a big success that eventually the government recognized it. The reading to the elderly program spread nationally and then globally.

Now, Mia and Becky's story ends here, but this may be where yours starts. How can you help brighten the lives of others through an act of kindness?



## Being Friends

Malena del Olmo

Age 9 years

Giffit Hill School

St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

Once upon a time, there were a bananaquit and an iguana that once lived on a small beautiful island in the Caribbean called Groovy Island. One day they met at a grassy hill and started talking.



"How are you on such a fine day?" asked the iguana. "I'm good," replied the bananaquit.

So they talked and talked and talked until it got dark. Before they left, the iguana asked, "Do you want to be friends? You are very kind."

"Sure! I would love to be your friend," the bird smiled. So they became friends.

The next day, the bananaquit woke up in her large nest and told her dad about the iguana.

"I met this really nice iguana! He was really interesting and he wanted me to be his friend," said the bird happily.

"Awesome! I'm so glad," said the dad.

So they had yummy sunflower seeds for breakfast and watched the news.

"This just in! The mayor made a new law that other animal species can't be friends. Thanks for watching," reported the reporter.

"Oh no! I have to tell iguana!" cried the bird.

The bananaquit flew out of her nest and got very tired and took a break. A few minutes later, she started flying again until she got to a very tall palm tree, which was the iguana's house. She finally arrived after those few minutes. She told the iguana about the news.

The iguana felt it was terribly unfair and he said, "This is unfair! We need to change this! But how?"

After a few seconds, the iguana yelled, "Oh! I have an idea! We can show the mayor how many animals don't like this law. I'm sure we can get a lot of animals."

So they both went around asking all the animals. By the time it got dark, almost the whole island was interested! The iguana knew it would be a good idea. All the animals went, following the iguana to a dark, dark forest to go to the mayor's spooky office.

They arrived, and the iguana explained, "Mayor, can you please just listen? Imagine if a hurricane passes by and everything is a disaster! We need all animals to help so we can make a better clean-up and replanting and building. We need teamwork. Just think about it."

"I didn't think it was a great law, because I haven't made a law before and it was the only thing that popped out of my head. I wanted to see how it would turn out. I guess you have a point. I guess if it is so unfair, I will change it. I guess I was a little harsh and dumb anyway. Sorry," said the mayor in a not-so-grumpy way.

The whole island went wild! They celebrated with a feast with yummy food and fun games. And so, the iguana and the bananaquit were the best of friends and got to travel to many places together, do cool activities, and they all lived happily after.



## The Rescue

By Diamond White

Age 9 years

Prospect Primary School

Grand Cayman

"Wow! I did not know that stingrays didn't have any teeth," James exclaimed as he read a fascinating book about animals. James went to his father and asked if they could go to Stingray City the next day. The next day, the swimming clothes and towels were packed and the boat was ready. They started to sail down a narrow canal. James sat on the bow of the boat. As it sped down the light blue waters of the Cayman Islands, the boat gleamed in the sun, and James sang "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

After a while the boat stopped. "We're here!" a voice boomed out of the cabin. The boat engine stopped running. The only noises were the cry of birds and the waves slapping gently against the boat. James went into the hull of the boat to change his clothes; soon he came out with a bright blue-and-black swimsuit complete with goggles and flippers. "Here I go," as he jumped into the warm blue water. Gray stingrays waded past him. His father watched from the boat.

James went under the water and saw the stingrays. Their sleek bodies looked like wings, and their pointy tails waved peacefully as they moved through the water. Suddenly, a small, light gray stingray approached him and spoke to him saying, "I have lost my mother and father. Can you help me find them?" James was puzzled and looked at the tiny stingray in disbelief. He quickly swam over to the boat and told his father, "I just saw a stingray

that spoke to me." His dad laughed and said, "You must be hearing things. Go back and swim with the stingrays." James looked out at the water, deep in thought; but in the middle of thinking, the same little stingray popped out of the water and shouted, "Help me!"

"See, I told you the stingray was talking. We must go and rescue his parents." His father said, "Why should I?" "Because they are endangered," James replied. "I read it in my book."

The stingray swam beside the boat as it directed them where to go. "This is as far as I know," said the stingray. Suddenly James saw a piece of paper flying in the sky. It landed right at his feet. "Hey look! A map!" shouted James.

A red line was drawn across it. "Maybe if we follow the red line, we will find the boat." "Great idea!" exclaimed the stingray.

So they sped and sped. After a while, they caught up with a boat. The little stingray recognized the boat, and told James. James shouted to a man on board, "Hey you! Give those stingrays back. They are endangered." The man was wearing a red shirt, had a thick black beard, and looked very mean. He refused and sped off.

"We will have to chase him," James said. His father put the boat on the highest speed. "We are running out of gas," James said as he picked up the red bottle with the extra gas and poured it in. Suddenly a sputtering sound came from the man's boat and it came to a complete stop. James' father dialed 911. "We have a

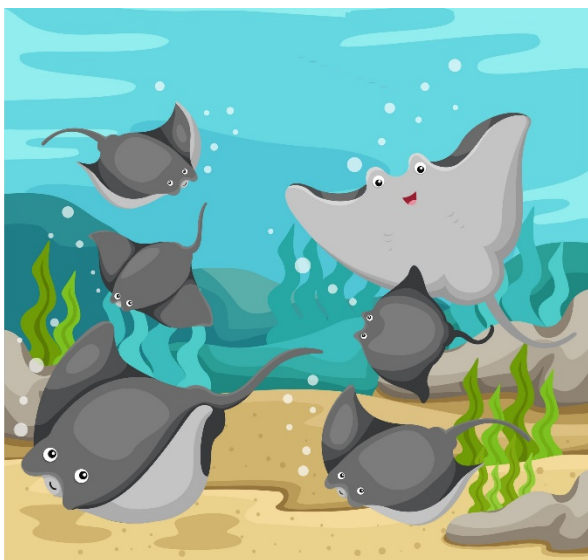
smuggler here; he is taking away the stingrays from Stingray City."

Soon the police arrived. "What proof do you have?" asked one of the police officers. "It's all because of this baby stingray here," started James, but he was interrupted.

"That man stole my parents! I am sure of it," said the baby stingray, to the surprise of the police officers. The police officers searched the man's boat and found two stingrays in a large white ice cooler filled with water. "I did not steal those stingrays. I don't know how they got here." The police arrested the man and took him in for questioning.

The baby stingray thanked James for believing in him, for being his friend, and helping rescue his parents. "There is one more thing I need to ask you. Can you take us back to Stingray City? You see, we love living at Stingray City where we entertain all the people who come to visit us daily. We love lighting up their lives."

"Sure," said James. So the three stingrays trailed behind the boat as James and his father guided them back to their home at Stingray City.





## WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotarians are 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.

Our differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable.

## WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

Our distinct point of view and approach gives us unique advantages:

We see differently: Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.

We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues—and find unique solutions.

We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.

We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe.

## HOW DO WE WORK?

Our impact starts with our members—people who work tirelessly with their clubs to solve some of our communities' toughest challenges. Their efforts are supported by Rotary International, our member association, and The Rotary Foundation, which turns generous donations into grants that fund the work of our members and partners around the world. Rotary is led by our members—responsible leaders who help to carry forward our organization's mission and values in their elected roles.

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

We've been making history and bringing our world closer together for over 100 years. Since forming in 1905, we've taken on some of the world's toughest challenges and helped a wide range of international and service organizations—from the UN to Easter Seals—get started.

**Learn more about Rotary at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)**

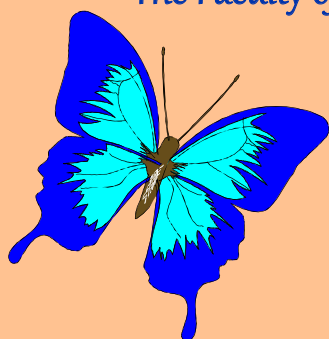
The young authors who contributed  
to this StoryBook have  
received a gift of books in recognition  
of their efforts.



We have printed this book so that children  
worldwide have an opportunity to read the stories



The publishing of this book in four languages made possible  
by the generosity of  
The Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020  
The Pearson Foundation  
Educa Vision, Inc  
The Jamaica Reading Association  
Professors and Students at  
The Faculty of Applied Linguistics, State University of Haiti



Cover design by Drawing The Line