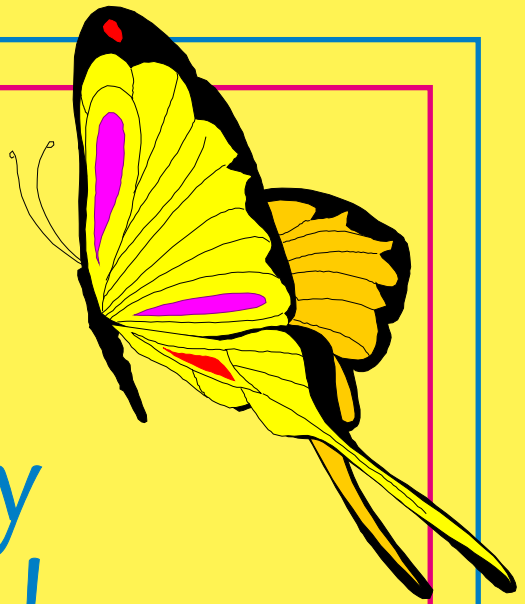


The Butterfly StoryBook 2019



10 Stories of
Doing Good, Helping Others
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

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spoken in the Caribbean region

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THIS IS MY ISLAND

By Jayda Adams

Aged 11

Alwyn Allison Richardson Primary School
Anguilla

Chad the Iguana was fast asleep in a grape tree on the beautiful island of Anguilla when he was awoken by a loud commotion on the beach. "Who goes there, who is on my beach?" he shouted. "Sssh", said his mom, "go back to bed as it is just turtles, sea turtles coming up from the sea". Then one of them shouted, "Your beach? This is my beach, my home". "Who are you?" asked Chad.

"I am Maykela the turtle and this is my island home. Every year I come back to my beach and lay my eggs right here. I was born here, my mother was born here, my grandmother was born here and my grandkids will be born here. This beach is mine and this is my island home". "Mom, is that true" asked Chad. "Yes, Chad it is all true" said Chad's mom. "Maykela's family has been coming here for a very long time, this is their island too". Chad tried to sleep but was sad. "Turtles, on my island" he thought.

Early the next morning Chad headed to his favourite rock to sun. The rising sun in the Anguillian skies was a beautiful sight. Still tired from the disturbance from the night, Chad stretched in the sun to warm his body and closed his eyes to sleep.

Suddenly, he was awoken by the sound of moving feet. "Excuse me, excuse me please", a small voice said. He opened his eyes and saw a most peculiar sight. He saw what looks like hundreds of creatures crawling on by, "What are you and what are you doing here?" he shouted. "Hi, I am Josh the soldier crab". "Soldier crabs!!" Chad shouted, "Do you live here". "Yes, I most certainly do. We have lived here since the beginning of time!" "Ooh" said Chad, "and where are you hurrying to?" "We are going to the sea for the annual, "Shell Exchange Festival," every

year we would march down to the beach and exchange our old shells for new ones because we would have outgrown the ones we have. Well, I got to go. I would want to get the best shell I can a shell that will make me feel proud. See you later" Josh yelled as he got carried away by the crowd.

As, the day moved on Chad thought about his beautiful island home, how much he loved his home and that he would not want to share his home with anyone else. Just then, he heard a most unusual sound. "Who are you he said, and what are you doing here?" "Coo" said the Turtle Dove; "Coo" said she and she trotted around with her head held high. "A pleasant Good day to you" she said. "I am Ariel a turtle dove. Haven't you heard about me? I am the National bird of Anguilla. They sing songs about me and write books about me. This is my island, my home; I am their pride and joy you'll see". Chad looked at her and said "how could this happen."

Chad dragged over to the rock where his mom lay. "Mom, why are all these creatures here in my home land, my island"? "Your island" asked his mom with a smile. "Chad, although other Iguanas have been here for a very long time we are certainly new to Anguilla. We are Green Iguanas we came to Anguilla from other islands carried by the winds of hurricanes on the sea. The creatures here have all welcomed us; we share their food and their land, they made us feel at home here and so you my dear you must do the same and be kind to aaaall you see".

As the sun began to set, Chad climbed up into the seaside grape tree to join the rest of his family. As he closed his eyes to sleep he whispered softly, "this is our island, our beautiful island but this tree belongs to me."

ROY'S HOMECOMING

By Kyshaun Connor

Aged 8

Alwyn Allison Richardson Primary School

Anguilla

As Roy looked out of the plane's window at the royal blue sea and the island it surrounded below, he could hear the stewardess saying; "Please fasten your seat-belts and return your tray to it's full upright and locked position".

In just a few minutes he will be back on Anguilla. He had been away for two years studying in England. He could hardly believe that it had been two years since he had been home. Two years since he swam in the crystal-clear waters, two years since he had climbed Papaw's trees, two years since he has seen his Grandmother Jojo.

He could still smell the Johnny cakes and jacks frying, and could still hear the radio blasting old-time Calypso in the background.

He smiled to himself as he pictured seeing Grandma Jojo dancing to one of her favourite songs. In one hand her ever-present white handkerchief and in the other her wooden-spoon, which she used for a variety of things: from turning cornmeal, to flipping over Johnny cakes, and not to forget the occasional lash on the behind to keep you inline. "Save the rod and spoil the choile", she would say while she shared out punishment.

As he stepped out into the arrival hall, he heard a familiar voice shouting out, "Roy Jones Jr., Roy Jones Jr., come to yo' grandma". It was Grandma Jojo, she gave him the longest, tightest hug ever. "It is good to see you m'dear, Oh, how I missed my little Roy", she said. "It is good to see you too", Roy replied. Come, let's go! And they both climbed into Grandma Jojo's old '87 Brougham, Ole glory, as she called it and drove away.

WELCOME HOME, ROY



When we they arrived home, Roy saw that there were people out on the gallery. "Buh hurry up nuh boi!", one of them yelled in a disguised voice. As he got closer, he saw it was his cousin Roger. "Wait a minute dere, you ain't tell me that you weren't coming home for the summer?", Roy asked as he sprinted up the steps to meet his cousin and neighbourhood friend. "Gotcha", Roger said. They all laugh and the two quickly join the others in playing a game of dominoes. Grandma Jojo had thrown him a surprise welcome home party. He spent the night with his friend eating, drinking, and chatting about days spent at the beach swimming, fishing and racing boats, made out of cork with sea grape leaves as the sails.

The next morning when he woke up, he could hear Grandma Jojo singing in the kitchen and could smell the Johnny cakes frying. He got up and wash his face, brush his teeth, and went into the kitchen to have breakfast. He had Johnny cakes with cheese and two cups of bush tea. "Aaah! The breakfast of champions", he joked as he put his empty cup down. "Thank you Grandma Jojo", he said. "You're welcome my choile" she replied.

Just then, there was a knock at the door. "Inside!" Roger said and opened up the screen door to let himself in. "Mawnin' Grandma Jojo! And how are you today?", he asked, as he helped himself to some breakfast. "Choile look me here, holding on by grace alone", she answered. What's up boi, glad you came back after so long", said Roger. "You ready to meet some new friends? we are going to the park to play some cricket, would you like to come and join us", he asked. "Of course,", Roy answered. He got up, got dressed, kiss his Grandma Jojo goodbye and the left.

He spent his summer days playing cricket, dominoes, swimming, fishing, and of course, making boats out of cork, with sea grape leaves as the sails.



KINDNESS

By Jahzara Dawson
Aged 10

St. George's Primary School
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

A while back, I got a little lesson in kindness. My friend and I were sitting on Cane Garden Bay beach eating sea grapes, when a goat dashed over and snatched hers. Instead of offering her mine, I laughed at her. I feel it is needless to say, she got upset and we got into a stupid argument about if she was overreacting or not.

That incident ruined our whole hangout. I went home, mad at myself for messing things up, just when we were starting to have fun.

The next day at school, I told her I was sorry and asked if we could meet up at the beach again, but sadly, she told me no. I begged and I pleaded until I couldn't anymore and just gave up. She didn't study me the whole day. When school was over and I got back home, I rushed to my phone and called her to try again. Once again, I was turned down. I didn't know what else to do. I decided to sit down and think. After about an hour of thinking, *I finally* got it! I put my plan into order and prayed it would work.

I went back to school the Monday, really nervous that it wouldn't work, but it was too late to back down now. It was already happening. When she opened her bag she found an anonymous note that told her to look in her lunch kit. When she did, there was a ziploc bowl with saltfish and johnny cake (her favourite food) and underneath the bowl was a note that told her I was really sorry and that this was to make up for it. It also instructed her to meet me outside the cafeteria and so she did. She bolted down the stairs and hugged me so tight I think she broke my spine.

She stopped hugging me and laughed and told me that she forgave me, then went right back to hugging me. Before I knew it we were back on the beach where the conundrum first began. I asked her if she only forgave me for the food and she said that it was because she knew I was really sorry because of how hard I had tried, "but I'm not going to lie," she joked, "it's partially for the food."

The moral of this story is every chance you get, be kind. You can lose people who are very important to you if you are not careful. Some people are easily hurt and you don't know how certain things will affect them. It can happen when you do something that was meant as a joke but actually impacted someone in a horrible way. So, try to avoid pushing a person's buttons to the best of your abilities. If not, you could upset someone very near and dear to you. And let's be honest, we all want to bring out the best in others, so just be kind.

THE LOST TURTLE

By Jayden Dilbert
Aged 10

Edna M. Moyle Primary School
Cayman Islands

One sunny day, a girl named Charity was going on a hike. She was very tall, with brown eyes, and skin as smooth as silk. She was standing in a large field not far from the beach. She looked all around her, feeling peaceful as she listened to the sound of the waves in the distance.

Suddenly, across the field, she saw light coming out of the ground! She slowly walked towards it. As she got closer, she saw a silver and shiny well with writing on it. She stood by it then the well spoke, "Here, take this seaweed and put it inside of the bucket and spin the wheel until it stops." So, Charity did as she was told. Then she felt the bucket moving.

In a flash, she pulled up the bucket. When she looked inside, she saw a baby turtle. Looking closer, she noticed that the baby turtle was hurt. It had a deep cut on its neck. She was so surprised but felt she had to do something, so she pulled the rope to bring the bucket out of the well. She reached into the bucket and took the turtle out. She hurried back home, hoping the tiny turtle would not die along the way.

When she arrived home, she took the turtle inside the house to show her family. Her mom looked at the turtle and said, "Oh my! Poor little turtle. Let me get some supplies to clean this cut." So Charity's mom went and got some cotton and a bandage. She cleaned the cut on the turtle's neck and gently wrapped the bandage around it. The little turtle looked so happy.

Afterwards, the family all came together to eat dinner. Charity's brothers, Leyton and Peyton, were holding the turtle. They took it and put it into an old fish tank that they had in



their bedroom. They made sure the turtle looked comfortable and then went to eat dinner.

"What should we name him?" asked Peyton during dinner.

"Hmmm, I know! Sammy!" replied Leyton.

"Oh, I like that! It is perfect!" exclaimed Charity's mom. From that day onwards, Sammy became part of the family.

Years later, there came a terrible storm. Everywhere was flooded and Charity's home was destroyed. The fish tank where Sammy lived was washed away by the storm and Sammy along with it...

Sammy was taken by a strong current and brought out into the open ocean. He got scraped by a razor-sharp rock and started to bleed. The blood drifted through the water and, suddenly, two hungry sharks appeared in the distance.

"Please don't eat me!" Sammy whimpered.

"But we haven't eaten in days and you are the perfect meal for us," replied one of the sharks.

"Please, just help me get back to my family. I am no ordinary sea turtle, I live on land and if you help me, I will make sure that my family finds food for you," Sammy said desperately.

"Yeah right!" said the other shark laughing. "Nice try little turtle, but you are going to be our dinner, come here!" The sharks started chasing poor Sammy who was trying his best to outrun them.

Just at that moment, Sammy heard a boat. He looked up and before he could figure out what was happening, he was snatched up into a large net! Sammy was terrified and knew this was going to be the end of him. Suddenly, he heard a familiar voice, "Oh Sammy! There you are! We were so worried about you!" Charity grabbed Sammy from the net and hugged him tight.

Sammy looked at Charity and said, "Actually, do we have some food we can give them?"

Charity looked at Sammy in shock. "You want to help them?"

"Yes," said Sammy, "I feel bad for them. They haven't eaten in days. Just give them what scraps we have."

So, Charity threw some bread and fish into the water. The sharks gobbled them up and then turned towards the boat.

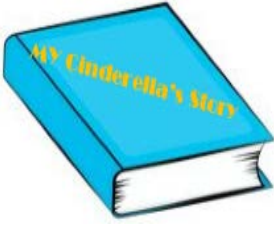
"Thank you, Sammy, for your kindness. No one has ever done that before. We hope you can forgive us for wanting to eat you."

"Of course," said Sammy, "If you ever need more food, just come back to this spot and there will always be food waiting."

The sharks replied, "Thank you so much. How can we repay you?"

Sammy smiled and said, "You already did. You didn't eat me."

With that, they all swam away and lived happily ever after.



MY CINDERELLA STORY

Written and illustrated by Mikage Che Naveah Dorcelus

Aged 9

Ruby Labega Primary School

Sint Maarten

Rayna has never been invited to a party, not that she would have gone since she had nothing to wear.

Every year, the grade six students attend a party at the Starlight Diner and this year, her class would be the envy of the other classes. The girls in her class spoke of nothing but the party. However, Rayna's thoughts were on her mom, who lay sick at St. Ann's Hospital. The cancer was back, and like before, it changed everything. Her dad worked two jobs to help with the medical bills and she had so much more to do at home—cleaning, cooking and washing the dishes.

Rayna secretly wished that she could go to the party, but dismissed that thought and continued her chores, with just enough time to complete her homework and take a quick shower. She grabbed the sandwiches she prepared for herself and her father and rushed down the hill, not even stopping when Mrs. Thomas inquired about Lizzy, her mom. Her dad was waiting for her at the bus stop so they could visit her mom before he went to his second job.

Rayna's father could barely keep his eyes opened on the bus. He looked so weary. She snuggled up to him and held him very

tightly as if to squeeze the exhaustion out of him. Without saying a word, he reassured her with a kiss on her forehead.

She greeted the receptionist who smiled at her warmly and ran to her mother's room. Her mom looked so small but always gave her such a big hug. Nurse Chai came into the room and overheard Rayna's mom telling her how sorry she was that she would not be going to her class party.



Nurse Chai's daughter, Sylvia, was in the same class as Rayna. Rayna thought the party was not a big deal, considering all her parents had to deal with. Nurse Chai informed them that visiting hours were over.

Meanwhile back at home, Sylvia couldn't decide whether she would wear the dress her mother bought her or the one that she received from her godmother. Nurse Chai arrived at her home, she told her daughter about the conversation she overheard in the hospital room and informed her of what the family was going through.

Sylvia's mom reminded her of how fortunate she was and much to her surprise, her daughter suggested giving one of the dresses to Rayna.

It was Friday, the day of the party. Everyone but Rayna was talking about this grand event- makeup, dresses and other party related things. Since it was Friday, Rayna would meet with Mrs. Thomas after visiting her mom and they would go to church for prayer meeting as usual. As she expected, Mrs. Thomas reminded her that if she believed and prayed, her mom would get better. Her parents thought the same. Rayna did not

believe because she had prayed so many times before and her mom had not been healed. This she would never admit to anyone.

As Rayna arrived home from school the phone rang. When she heard Nurse Chai's voice, she assumed something was wrong and began crying. Nurse Chai assured her that nothing was wrong but she and her dad had to be at the hospital right away. At the hospital, her mother and the nurse had this smile so at least whatever it was she thought had to be good. "Mom what's going on?" Rayna enquired. "Well, Nurse Chai has agreed to be your godmother," Mom responded. She and her dad exchanged a confused look. The nurse took her by her hand and lead her to the nurse's quarters, where she was transformed into Cinderella. She walked into her mother's hospital room and her parents were in tears, though her father quickly wiped his tears away.

Sylvia's mom drove them to the party and though Rayna was afraid that something would go wrong, the night was magical!

It's been two weeks since that wonderful night. Rayna's mom is showing signs of improvement and Mrs. Thomas said it is God's work. The doctors think it is the new drug, but it really doesn't matter because in a few days her mom will be home. Thank you God, hats off to the doctors and kudos fairy godmother. She has started a diary. The details of that magical night are written in it. Who knows maybe one day she will tell you about her Cinderella Story.



DESTINED TO BE KIND TO OTHERS

By Shandrigia Marsham

Aged 7

St. Joseph Primary School

Sint Maarten

Stacey-ann has an Albino disease. She has pale skin, blonde short hair and blue eyes. She was born on St. Maarten, both of her parents are from Dominica. She lives in Dutch Quarter with her mother and her 2 brothers because her father walked out of her life when he found out that she had inherited Albinism. Stacey-ann attends the Oranje Primary School in Philipsburg. Before she leaves for school in the morning, she has to walk to French Quarter with a bucket on her head to fetch water for her family to bathe with. When she returns, she has to feed the animals and get her younger siblings ready.

When she is finished, she walks to school with the other kids from her neighborhood. Every day, Stacey-ann cries on her way to school because she is bullied at school, and she is afraid to tell an adult about what is going on in school.

One day during snack time, the bullies came by her desk to tease her about the way she looks and her the color of her skin. She started to cry and ran out of the classroom and into the bathroom. Her classmate Destiny followed her to the bathroom to see what was wrong. Destiny reassured her that everything will be alright and they returned to class.

They sat down together and Destiny took out her food to eat. She saw Stacey-ann shaking her bag out with a sobbing face. Destiny asked Staceya-nn what was wrong ?, she said, "I don't have anything to eat because my mother lost her job and doesn't have money to buy food." Destiny felt sad for Stacey-ann and offered her half of her peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

After school Stacey-ann and Destiny walked home together. When Destiny got home she explained to her mother about the girl who was being bullied and who didn't have any food to eat. When Stacy-ann got home, her mother asked how her day at school was. She lied and told her mother that everything was good, but deep down inside she really wanted to burst out in tears and explain to her mother what has been happening in school every day.

The following day, Destiny waited for Stacey-ann by the school gate and handed her a cup of bush tea and a tuna sandwich. Just then the bullies came and threw her sandwich on the floor and threw the hot tea on her clothes. Destiny put up a fight and protected her friend. The bullies were scared of Destiny and never harassed Stacey-ann again. For the rest of the school year, Destiny secretly made sandwiches for Stacey-ann.



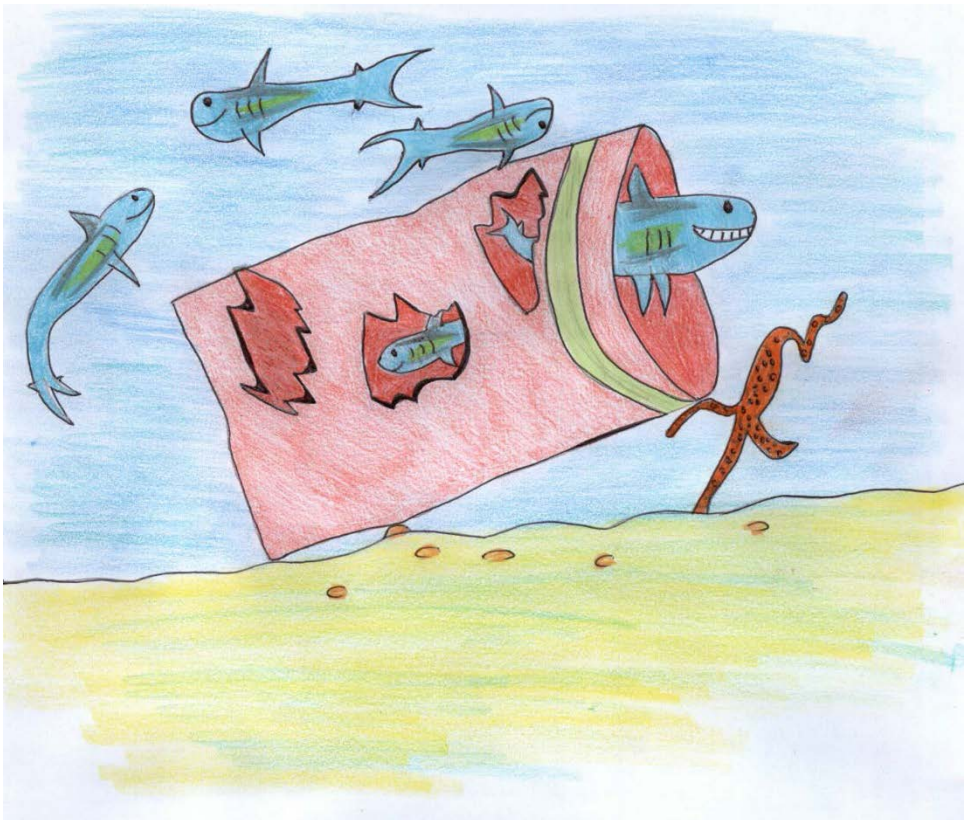
SAM'S UNDER SEA ADVENTURE

Written and Illustrated by Oliver J Porter,
Aged 8

Cayman Prep and High School
Cayman Islands

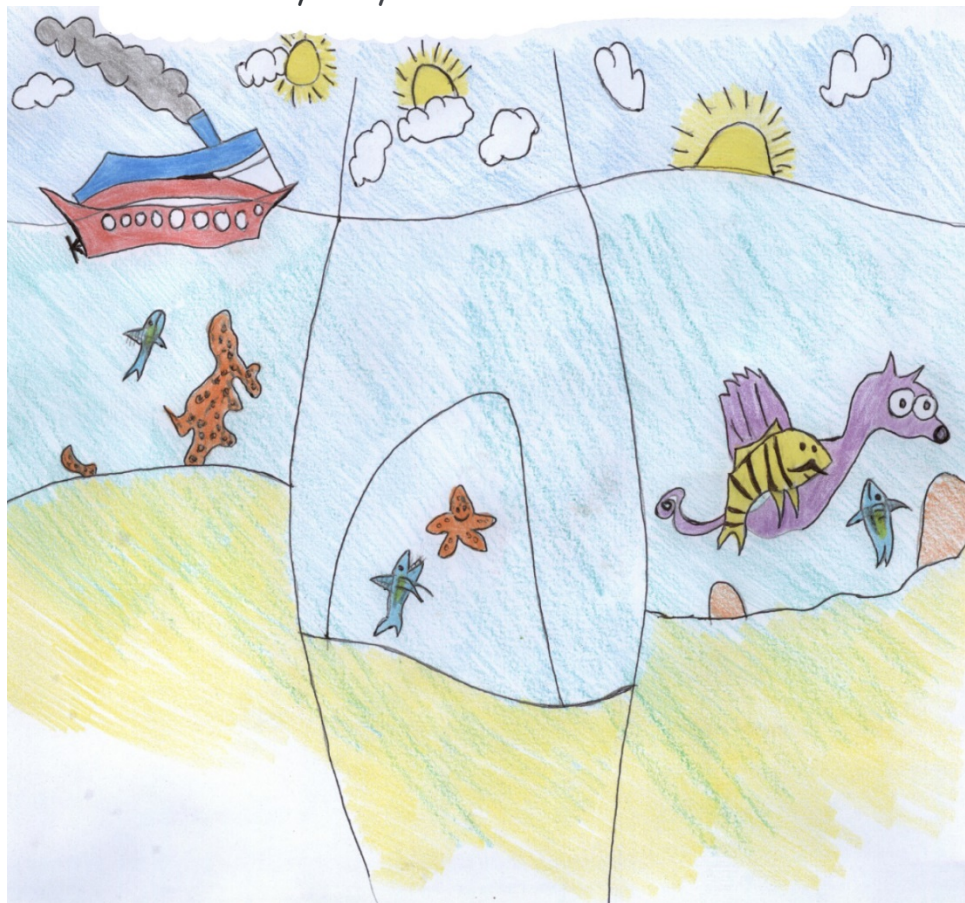
Under the sea, just off Star Fish Point in the Caribbean Sea there lived a striped parrotfish called Sam. He lived in an abandoned red bucket which a child had left behind one day. Sam lived with his family; his mother and father, his brother, Jake and his baby sister, Dilly.

One day Sam the fish was looking for fun. Other than watching the boats go by, he wished he could find something to play with or go out with one of his friends. He tried his best looking for Timmy Turtle his best friend.

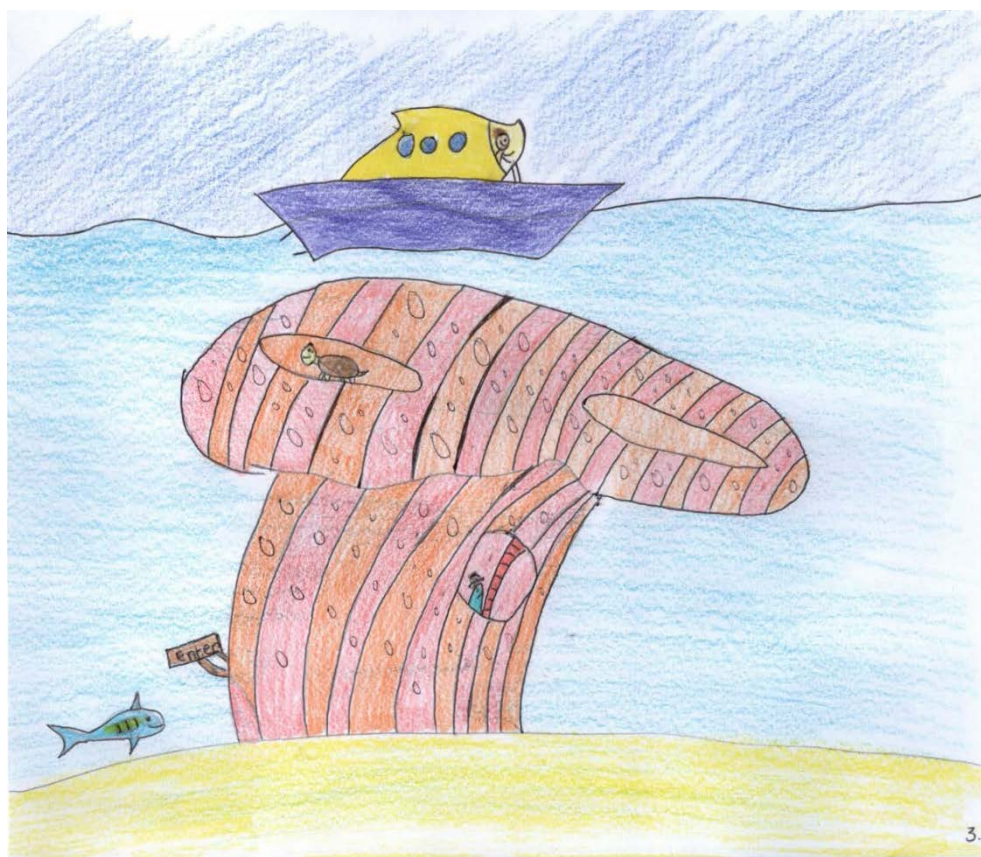


He swam over to see Sidney the Star Fish to ask if he had seen Timmy. Sidney said "No not at all I have not". Next up at the coral reef Sam swam into - no really he actually swam right into Mr Sergeant Major Fish who was out riding his seahorse. "Easy there young Sam!" said the Sergeant. Sam asked the Sergeant if he had a clue where Timmy could be. The Sergeant said "He might be at the top of The Great Coral Tower."

Sam was scared because divers and the tides make The Great Coral Tower dangerous for sea creatures. Sam knew he would need to be brave to find his friend. He suddenly saw Timmy ahead of him and called out to him but Timmy couldn't hear him because of the noise of the boat above them. The swirling water sucked Timmy away from Sam.



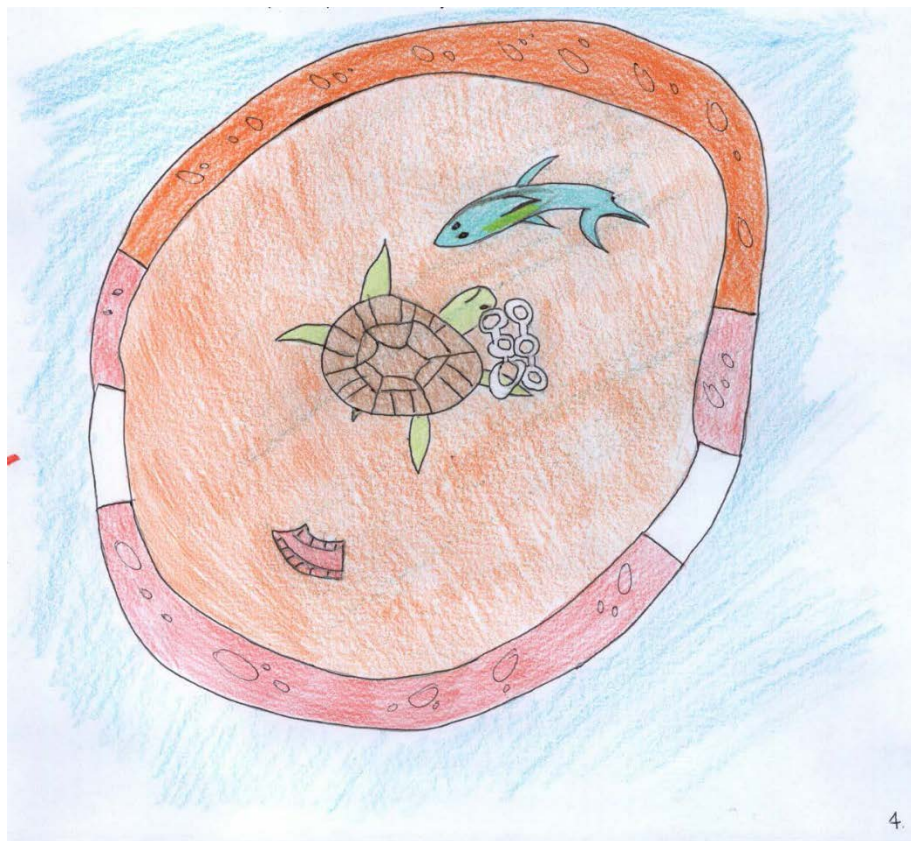
Sam swam to catch up with Timmy but he was at the top of the coral tower. Sam saw a sign saying "No Sea Kids Allowed at the Top of the Tower". It is known to be dangerous. Sam lost sight of Timmy. Luckily the boat moved away and Sam was able to swim safely again. But it was still not safe and the guards were coming up. Sam could hear the guards come up so Sam hid in a hole. "I thought I heard something" said Guard 1. "Me too!" said Guard 2. "Phew" said Sam as the guards swam past into the storage room.



Sam was able to swim up the smooth staircase of The Great Coral Tower after both guards were out of sight in the storage room so he could look for his friend. Sam called out for Timmy.

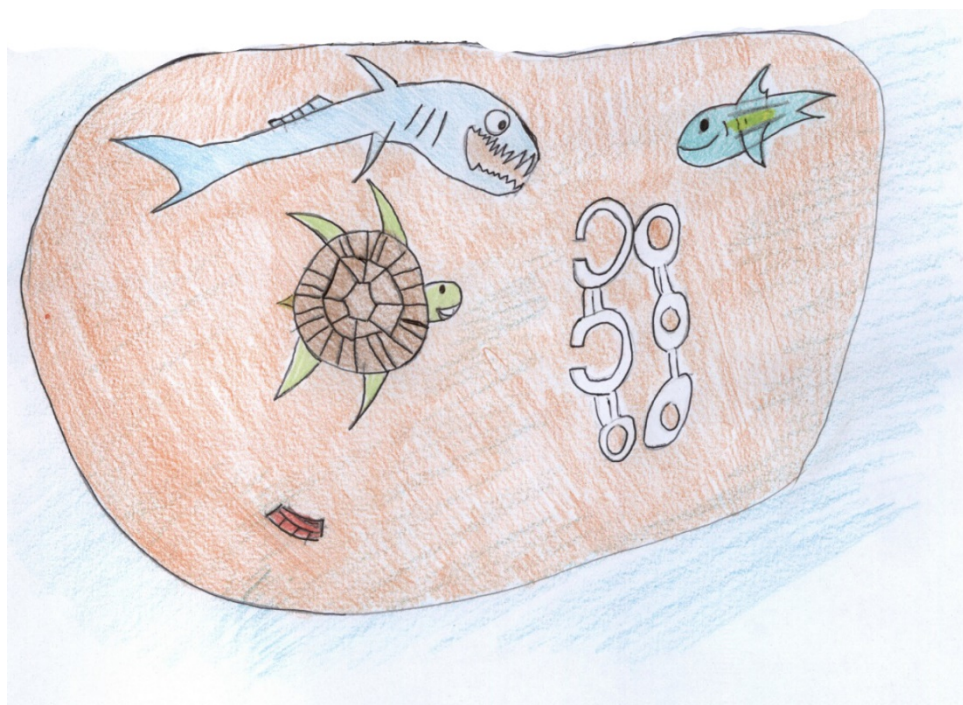
He could not see him and it was getting dark. He knew the Great Coral Tower would shut at 9.30pm and he did not want to get shut inside it for the night. He had to find Timmy before it was too late!

When Sam got to the top of the tower he found Timmy. Timmy was yanking at plastic because a six-pack ring had come in through the window of the tower and tangled up all Timmy's fins and his head. Sam tried to help Timmy but he was stuck. Timmy said "help, help!" in a nervous way. Sam needed help because this was not a job for one Sam. He can't do that by himself. "I will come back with help" Sam promised Timmy.



Sam swam as quickly as he could down to the bottom of the tower, being careful to avoid the guards. He knew who could help. He went to find Barry the Great Barracuda and explained what had happened to Timmy. Barry said "we had better hurry, I could use my lucky sharp tooth to snap the plastic.

Together the fish swam back to the tower and up the smooth staircase. They saw Timmy. Barry tried his hardest to get his tooth right through the plastic. Sam tugged at the plastic to help free his friend. Suddenly the plastic broke and Timmy was free!



The guards came in but Timmy was laughing so hard because he was so happy to be free. Barry told the guards what had happened and they were taken to hospital where a nurse the friendly nurse shark checked Timmy over. Timmy had some tests and the nurse said he was OK to go home.

Sam, Timmy and Barry learned their lesson and were much more careful in future.

THE GRATEFUL MONGOOSE

By Sho'Nique Powell

Aged 10

Lockhart Elementary School

St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

This little mongoose was very shy, kind, and helpful. He loved to help keep the environment clean. He wasn't much of a talker, but he was very nice and quiet. This is his story.

"Mommy, Mommy," the twins cried out, "tell us a story!"

"All right my little pumpkins," mom replied. "Once upon a time, there was a mongoose and he was stuck on top of a roof."

"How did he get up there?" the twins enquired.

"To gather and pick up trash to keep the neighborhood clean." Mom replied. "He knew that the high winds had blown the trash on the roof. This could make the guttering full with garbage and then go into the cistern when it rained again.

Mom continued, "He was forgetting that he was scared of heights, he saw the trash on the roof and got busy cleaning. He was not aware he had gone so high. When he realized how high he had gotten, he froze and started to panic."

The twins started to cry. "Will he get hurt? Will he stay there forever? What is he going to do?" They were anxious to find out.

Mom looked at them with kind eyes and was surprised that they were so concerned for the mongoose's safety. "Calm down a little and I will continue", she said. "The mongoose looked around and saw an iguana laying on a tree close by."

He called out, "Iguana, iguana, I climbed up too high and I'm really frightened."

The iguana shouted back to him, "If you come over to me on this tree, I can help you down."



"But I'm scared to move from here!" Cried the mongoose.

The Iguana had an idea. Last week when he was in the schoolyard, he learned a song from the students in music class. He began to coax the mongoose with the song "Sampolo" lyrics by Bill Lamotta. Iguana sang, " Sam-po-lo---ma-ma call-in' you...." Mom continued, "slowly Mongoose began to move towards Iguana in the tree. Soon he was easing himself down the tree and was soon on the ground." The twins who were holding their breath, released it slowly. They now wanted mom to sing the song again. After singing, mom continued with the story.

The next day was a beach picnic and all the animals were there. President Hummingbird for the Environmental Club walked over to Mongoose and thanked him for risking his life in keeping the environment clean. Mongoose was amazed, and told her that it was nothing, and he enjoyed keeping the neighborhood clean. The Club then presented a fruit basket to Mongoose's surprise, which he shared with Iguana. Mongoose knew that you have to be grateful to those who help you.

THE PERSONAL ASSISTANT

By Raju Saunders

Aged 10

Angel's Academy

Abaco, Bahamas

Ms. Ferguson held the test papers in her hand and said "Boy, I ga cut ya hip! You better get these grades up! You think I is play! All this money on school fee!" Her son Raju ignored her because Ms. Ferguson was having Ms. Valencia move Rajus' desk to a new spot in the class, right next to her desk. Raju then became upset because he was being moved away from his classmates and would feel left out of the group by sitting away from them. Raju then walked out of the classroom and went to sit in the car. When he arrived to the car he got so frustrated that Raju started to cry and think about how he wouldn't be able to play around with his friends or pass messages to them during class.

The next day as Raju got ready for school, he was very nervous. All he could think about is what his friends would say because he was sitting next to the teacher and how Ms. Valencia would be staring at him during her lessons and calling him first to answer questions. As they arrived to the school Ms. Ferguson explained to Raju that he would itting next to the teacher because he doesn't focus on his work during class. He hopped out the car and walked to class. Raju placed his bag on his hook and grabbed his book and slowly walked to his desk. "Raju!" Miss Valencia called, Raju's heart was beating quick. "Grab the math books from the shelf and give them out to the class". Raju gulped with fear as Ms. Valencia stood in front of the class with her hands on her hips and watching him closely. Scared by what she may say Raju tried not to look at her. "Attention class, Raju is my PERSONAL ASSISTANT also known as my P.A. from now on and will sit next to me!" He was shocked, she made it seem like a reward, and not a punishment.

It was better than he could have imagined. He was her assistant. By sitting next to her he could hear her better; none of his friends would speak to him and distract him. He wrote down all his homework, he remembered his assignments, he got questions right! His grades went from C to A. He was so happy, his friends couldn't believe how he was getting everything right. He looked forward to going to school.



After three weeks, when Ms. Ferguson came to see Ms Valencia to see how it was going, Raju was proud to hear the report given. Ms. Ferguson held the test papers in her hands and was proud at how well her son had done. She hugged him and said 'I knew you could do it, if you focused'.

Raju said he realized that being a student wasn't all about how much fun he could have, it's about being focused and concentrating on the school work! It was agreed that Raju's

desk would be returned to its usual spot in the class and that he would have to keep his grades up. He was now aware of what he did before, and knows what to do now so he wouldn't have any problems.

Raju continued doing a great job, he respected the wishes of his mother and teacher and he became an example of a great leader to his friends by becoming an A+ student. He is a better student than ever before.

CAYMAN KINDNESS

Written and Illustrated by Amiya Tahal

Aged 10

West End Primary School
Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands

Crash! Boom! The sounds of the boat crashing into the reef from a huge wave! The boat bow got damaged. The boat started to take in water. Sam and Joe were so afraid. "Oh! what are we going to do?" Sam asked in a tough voice. Joe calmly said, "Sam, put on your life vest and we will swim to the little island ahead." So, they quickly put on their life vests and swam to the shore line of the little island.

There were several people who were running towards Sam and Joe, as they got closer to the shoreline, to help them out of the water. Sam and Joe were safely rescued. They were so tired from swimming, they lay on the sand and looked up at the sky. Sam said, "Thank you, thank you for rescuing me!"

Sam and Joe had been sailing from Cuba to Cayman Brac to visit their aunt Marsha for three days. All their clothes and supplies were damaged in the crash, and they had nothing to eat or wear.

One of the men who helped rescue them, by the name of Bobo, told them they could stay in his tiny blue Cayman style house with the thatch roof on the Bay. Sam and Joe were so excited and very thankful for Bobo's help. They said, "Ohhhhh, that would be soooo good."

Sam and Joe walked towards the tiny Cayman style home. As they got closer, Joe said, "Ohhhhh boy Sam! This is a nice island-style home. I like it." They quickly rushed into the home and looked around with excitement.

Bobo went to Star Island Restaurant close by and got them some great food for dinner; they had fried fish and fritters

CAYMAN KINDNESS



and a bottle of sorrel drink. Sam and Joe ate their belly full, and Sam said "Ohhh, dinner was great! I never had such kindness from anyone in my lifetime." Joe said, "Bobo, I can't stop thanking you for helping me."

Sam and Joe spent the night on the Bay in the tiny home. When they woke up the next morning, Sam said, "Joe, I had a good night's rest. I slept like a baby." Bobo came to visit them and brought some nice Cayman-style oatmeal porridge for breakfast.

Later on that morning, Bobo took Sam and Joe to Bluff View Store to buy some new clothes. Sam was so excited he started to sing and dance. Bobo also took Sam and Joe to Tibbetts Enterprises to buy some snacks. They were so happy! When they returned to the tiny home, they both had a change of clothes and they were dressed very fancy.

Aunty Marsha was on Grand Cayman for that day. She later returned from Grand Cayman and visited them in their new-to-them tiny Cayman-style house on the Bay. She was so happy to see them. She brought them some conch soup, turtle stew, and some swanky.

They all went out on the sand and had dinner; it was so beautiful out on the Bay. It was dark, but Sam and Joe had found a lamp and took it with them to give a bit of light. They sat there chatting, and Aunty Marsha told them old-time Caymanian stories.

The next day, Aunty Marsha brought them two thatch hats, a basket, fishing rods and hooks, and soldier crabs so that they could go fishing. Sam and Joe went walking on the Bay, and they met up with a fisherman named Sheldon. They told Sheldon they wanted to go fishing because their Aunty Marsha gave them some fishing rods, bait, and hooks, Sheldon told them "Sure! no problem. I can take both of you out on my boat."

Sam and Joe were so excited, they ran towards their new tiny Cayman-style home and told Aunty Marsha that they met Sheldon and he would take them fishing. They asked Aunty Marsha why Sheldon offered to take them fishing. Aunty Marsha was so happy. She smiled and said, "Son, it's called Cayman kindness" and she allowed them to go fishing with Sheldon.

Sam and Joe returned several hours later with a basket of fish. They told Aunty Marsha they would like to give some to the people of Cayman Brac because "they were so kind to us, and they don't even know us." So, they gave some away and cooked the remainder.

They had steam fish and dumplings with lemonade made from civil oranges. Dinner was delicious! After dinner, they all went on the Bay and were wondering how they would return home. Aunty Marsha said, "Don't worry. I will ask Cayman Airways for two tickets for both of you to return to Cuba. Sam and Joe exclaimed, "Really, Aunty. Are they going to help us?" and Aunty Marsha said, "Son, this is what Cayman kindness is all about!" They were so excited, and sure enough, two days later, they were on a flight to Cuba. They waved bye to all the kind people they met on Cayman Brac.

When Sam and Joe returned home to Cuba, they told all their friends and families what had happened to them, and how the Cayman Brac people were so kind and helped them.

They later sent Aunty Marsha, Sheldon, Bobo, and all the other people they had come in contact with a Thank You card.



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.



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

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

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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

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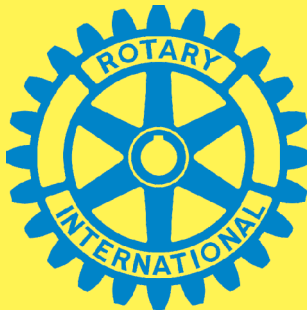
St. Thomas II

***SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE EARLYACT CLUB OF ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL***

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



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