

The  
Butterfly  
StoryBook  
2023



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

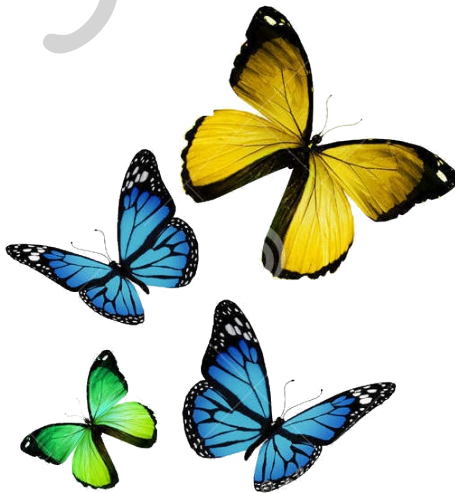
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## The New Kid

By Amir Baharani  
Aged 10

Montessori School  
Sint Maarten

It was the first day of school and there was a new kid in class. His name was Joshua. He was short, skinny and shy. The other kids started calling him Four Eyes because he wore glasses. I felt bad when the others made fun of him, so I sat with him at lunch to make sure he was okay. I was his first friend. He was nice and interesting.

The next day at recess, I invited Joshua to play basketball with us. The other kids were still making fun of him. As I shot a hoop, I realized Joshua was shaking and crying. The kids were making fun of his basketball skills.

After a few days, everyone could see that Joshua was uncomfortable in big groups and didn't like loud noises. I knew I had to stand up for him and help him make friends. I decided to invite Joshua and everyone else - even the bullies -- to my birthday party so they could find a way to get along.

It was a Saturday morning, and we were going to catch some waves at Le Galion Beach. On the boat ride to our surf spot, the boys were roasting Joshua.

"I can't wait to see him fall," they said. "This is going to be hysterical."

When we anchored at Le Galion, we got our surfboards ready, and Joshua and I jumped straight into the water. One of the boys was scared of the big water, so Joshua showed him how to paddle out and catch a wave.

Joshua was a great surfer! He surfed some waves and did a pop shove-it and a 360. We were all impressed.

The boys had new respect for Joshua, and I was happy everyone was getting along. My birthday was a great day, and we all learned an

important lesson: There's something special about everyone. We all have unique qualities and talents to share with our friends and the world.



# The Stingray and the Hammerhead Shark

Written and Illustrated by  
Taiden L. Culmer  
Aged 11

Kingsway Academy  
Bahamas



Once upon a time in the fresh, crystal clear, and turquoise sea of the Bahamas, there lived a fierce hammerhead shark and a gruesome stingray. One sunny afternoon, the hammerhead shark roamed around in his home in the coral reefs. He was stunned when he heard a rapid knocking sound at his door.

When he opened the door, to his surprise it was Mr. Ray. They greeted each other with a fin bump. Mr. Ray explained that he had come to see how the hammerhead shark was doing. They sat down and chatted for a while. Out of nowhere, the hammerhead exclaimed, "I am a better hunter than





you!" They began arguing about who was the better hunter until they came up with a challenge to see who can catch the most animals. Before the first round began, the hammerhead shark said mockingly, "I'm going to win! You don't stand a chance against me!"

Mr. Ray humbly said, "May the best animal win." During the first round of the challenge, Mr. Ray caught a giant grouper and the hammerhead shark caught a ferocious barracuda. The hammerhead shark gritted his sharp, piercing teeth and shouted, "You're going to lose!" His arrogance annoyed Mr. Ray, but Mr. Ray kept calm under pressure.

In the second round, Mr. Ray caught a shiny rainbow parrotfish then released him back into the sea. On the other hand, the hammerhead shark caught a light green sea turtle which was as wide as the



ocean. The score was tied. Both animals were determined to be victorious.

In the last round, Mr. Ray caught a huge, colorful flounder. However, the hammerhead shark couldn't find an animal in sight. He became disgruntled and flipped his tail with anger. His eyes were filled with rage. The clock was winding down. The hammerhead shark swam around frantically, he trampled through the waves, but no other creature was to be found. Mr. Ray had won the challenge. The algae exclaimed, "Hip, hip, hip for Mr. Ray!" The hammerhead shark became so angry and filled with jealousy that he tried to attack Mr. Ray. His silver mouth was stretched to capacity. Mr. Ray looked on terrified.



The hammerhead began to corner Mr. Ray into a blue hole. Mr. Ray cried, "Help, help!" in a squeaky voice.

Out of the clear blue sea, Henry the crab came dashing across the waves. He said in an insistent voice, "Hold your horses, Hammerhead! Not because you are one of the toughest sea animals, does it mean you should be a bully! Furthermore, Mr. Ray won fair and square!"

The hammerhead shark realized that Henry the crab was right. Immediately, he felt guilt and shame and decided to accept his loss. He then apologized to Mr. Ray for his actions. Mr. Ray accepted his apology. They then shook fins, which was a sign of respect. That day the hammerhead shark learned an important lesson. He realized that sometimes you may win and other times you may not come out on top.

Mr. Ray was filled with gratitude and thanked Henry the crab for coming to his rescue. He exclaimed, "I could never repay you for your act of kindness." Henry the crab replied, "Believe you me, I was terrified, but I had to stand up for what was right!" From that day, Hammerhead, Mr. Ray and Henry the crab became best friends. They roamed the seas together and defended other sea creatures from being bullied.



## A Special Delivery

By Tahira Henry  
Aged 9

New Providence Primary School  
Liguanea Plains, Jamaica

Have you ever stopped to think about the true meaning of kindness? Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. The Bible also tells us to show kindness to our enemies and neighbours; to show kindness to everyone.

Melesha Davis is my mother and she is kind-hearted, helpful and cares for others. Mom lives in the community of Barbican in the parish of St. Andrew, Jamaica, with her mother, two daughters and a granddaughter. In our community, the houses are close to each other. On the tenth of January 2017, I fell ill and had to stay home from school. Mom had to stop from work to take care of me. On that very same day, my neighbour, Natasha, who was pregnant was also due to have a baby. This baby was going to be her fourth child. Unfortunately, Natasha was home by herself when the baby decided to be born. A lady passing by heard her calling out in pain and came knocking at our door.

When my mom opened the door, the lady told her that Natasha was in labour. Mom rushed through the door to Natasha's aid and she saw her lying on the bed crying out in pain.

My mom took her phone and immediately called 911. A lady answered and Mom told the lady about the situation. The lady said she could not assist as no police vehicle was available. My mom called the Edna Manley Clinic and when a lady answered, she told her about Natasha's situation. The lady said the clinic did not have an ambulance so no assistance could be given. My mother also called a private ambulance service for assistance. A man answered and my mom also told him about Natasha's condition. The man told her the cost, but neither she nor Natasha had enough money to pay for the service.

Suddenly, Natasha screamed out, "The baby is coming!"

Mom realized the baby was about to be born and she had to act quickly. She grabbed a towel and watched as the baby was making his

way out. She helped Natasha to deliver the baby, but when Mom received the baby in her hands she saw that something was wrong. She told me to run and call a nurse who lives close by. The nurse was Mrs. Gilzene. She rushed quickly over to Natasha's house with me and saw that the cord was wrapped around the baby's neck. The nurse quickly removed the cord, cut it with scissors and then expertly tied the navel string.

The baby began to cry, which is a good sign, and Nurse Gilzene cleaned off the baby and the mother. My mom took the baby from Nurse Gilzene so that she could help Natasha get dressed.

I helped by calling a taxi to take Natasha and the baby to the hospital. Nurse Gilzene, and her husband had to help Natasha get in the taxi. My mom gave the baby to Natasha and gave her money to pay the driver. The taxi then drove away with them. We were so happy because we helped save two lives.

Can you just imagine what would have happened if Mom was not at home that day and if I hadn't been ill? Two lives might have been lost but, instead, Natasha had a bouncing baby boy and today he is five years old and attending school.

I look up to my mom as a role model for being caring and brave. Natasha's family thanked her and the other persons for helping Natasha. My mother says an act of kindness is a blessing from God and that we should never expect anything in return for doing good. She told me that God looks down and smiles at every act of kindness.

I will be kind and caring, just like my mom.



## Stuck in Cayman: The Story of Friendship

By Adelyn Kelly  
Aged 8

Cayman Prep School  
Grand Cayman Sunrise

Long ago, there lived a tiger-corn called Starlight who lived in Royal Kitty. In another Country, there lived a phoenix called Skye. She lived in Blaze.

One day, a magic portal appeared in both countries. The girls were curious so they went through.

Just then, Starlight and Skye landed in a sandy place with crystal clear water and giant palm trees,

"I must be in Cayman!" shouted Starlight.

"Ow!"

"What was that?" asked Starlight "it's coming from that bush". She pushed away the leaves and saw something.

"Hi I'm Skye. What's your name? Do you like worms? What's your favorite colour?"

"I'm Starlight. I don't like worms. I prefer steak and my favorite colour is orange".

"Do you know where we are?" asked Skye.

"Yep. We're in Cayman!" said Starlight.

Suddenly, they noticed the colourful portal closing. It got smaller and smaller until it disappeared. They were stuck in Cayman...

A weird sound appeared from behind them. It was a beautiful white Egret called Elina. "If you want to get back home, you have to solve three riddles. First: "Where there is sand, where there is sea, the longest beach, you won't see me".

Skye and Starlight put their heads together to think where that could be.

"The beach", shouted both of them in unison. "But which one?"

"I've got it. Ten Mile Beach", said Skye with excitement.

Shaking her head, Starlight said "Not Ten Mile Beach. It's Seven Mile Beach you silly goose".

"Hey, I'm not a goose, I'm a Phoenix", Starlight laughed.

"We better get going you two", said Elina with a grin.

The three landed at Seven Mile.

"You may have solved the first part, but there is a bigger challenge. Let's see if you can figure it out".

"All of this garbage is making me sick" said Skye.

"I've got it", shouted Starlight. "Let's pick up the garbage first and then do the challenge".

As soon as they started picking up the garbage, they heard a chomping sound from beneath them. It burst out of the ground and landed on Skye's head.

"Get it off me. Get it off." shouted Skye in horror.

Then Starlight used her magic to turn the crab into a tiny snail.

"Thanks. Let's keep cleaning".

After they finished, they spotted Elina peacefully drinking a coconut.

"First challenge completed", she mumbled. "Now onto your second riddle. Where the past meets the present, where the old becomes new, you will find the answer to the next clue".

"Maybe it's the London Museum", exclaimed Skye. "We have to catch the plane. Come on!"

Starlight sighed.

The two put their heads together and thought very hard. They went to the Museum. Nothing. Then they went to Heroes Square.

"Look at this," said Starlight. "It's a big fountain with a thousand riddles in it. How do we know which one?"

"I guess you're never going home", laughed Elina.

Suddenly a riddle began to glow.

"That must be it," shouted Starlight.

Skye grabbed the clue.

"Congrats. You found your final riddle. "I am in the water, not under it. There are few of me left, but I continue to grow and my roots still flow'.

"I've got it. It's a worm!" declared Skye.

"Skye, are you hungry?"

"Maybe," she said, while daydreaming about diet cake.

The pair rushed off to the water. They searched high and low, with no luck. Suddenly, they came up to twisty twigs above the water.

"Where are we?" they asked.

"The majestic mangroves", explained Elina.

"Wow! They are beautiful" the two said.

"Beautiful they are, but disappearing they will be" Elina said sadly.

"Man is destroying my home. Soon it will be gone", she burst out crying.

Unexpectedly, a glow comes from beneath the surface. As it approaches the top, they see a shining bright turtle. "You have helped our country". As soon as the turtle goes back down, the mangroves start growing and the portal appears.

"You can go home now. Thank you."

Skye finds a piece of thatch and weaves a bracelet. She gives it to her new friend. "I'm going to miss you. We are quite the team." The bracelet starts to glow and on Skye's wing appears a second bracelet. "As long as you have these bracelets, you will always find each other", says Elina. The new friends hug and go through the portal one by one. They will never forget their adventure, or each other.





## Ted & Daisy's first adventure: Daisy is lost

By Ana Lang  
Aged 7

Cayman Prep School  
Grand Cayman Sunrise

Ted the butterfly is flying down Seven Mile Beach. A dog is being walked by a little girl ahead.

Ted flies to say hello to the dog and lands on her nose! The dog says hello and says, "my name is Daisy and this is my human Maddy". Ted and Daisy then play together on the beach, running and flying around and become best friends forever.

One day Ted flies to Daisy's house, but when he arrives something is wrong. Maddy is crying and saying she's lost Daisy.

Ted decides it up to him to find Daisy and bring her home, but Ted needs help from his Cayman friends; he needs Cayman Kindness!

Ted doesn't know where to look, and he thinks, "I know the beach!", but after flying up and down he can't see her and starts to feel sad, but then he sees Sam the Stingray!

Ted says 'Sam have you seen Daisy? She is missing and we can't find her and we are worried.'

Sam says, "Don't worry Ted, we will find her; I'll search the beach and sea. Why don't you fly into George Town and find Camila the Ching Ching, and she will be able to help you look there."

Ted then flies to George Town and looks for Camila. He finds her by the port.

Ted says, "Hello Camila, Sam sent me, and we need your help. I've lost Daisy my friend the dog. Please, can you help me?"

Camila says "You stay here and rest, I can fly faster and further than you. I'll be back soon"

After some time, Camila swoops down and says, "I've found her Ted, follow me".

Ted and Camila take off across George Town with Camila leading the



way. Then Camila stops and says, "she's here".

Ted then flies in and starts to look for Daisy but this isn't Daisy. Yes, there are lots of dog's here but none of them are Daisy. This is the Humane Society; Camila must have been confused. Ted starts flying home. He is sad, what if he never finds Daisy, what if she is lost forever.

Suddenly Ted heard crying and a woof. He knows that bark anywhere, it is Daisy, but where is she? He is looking around and suddenly he sees her; she's on the roundabout. How did she get there? He flies down calling her name "Daisy, Daisy is that you?"

Daisy shouts back, "Ted, you found me, I got lost and I got stuck here. There are too many cars, I can't move".

Ted says "Be brave Daisy, we can do this together. I will lead the way."

Daisy stands up to follow, with Ted by her side she feels she can do anything.

Then he flies just ahead of her and they wait for no cars and make a dash across the road. All the time Ted is telling Daisy that, "You can do it!"

Once clear of the roundabout and safely across the road and walking home, Ted tells Daisy all about the friends he met and the adventure he had been on, trying to find her.

When they get home Daisy barks at the door. They hear running and suddenly Maddy has opened the door Saying "It's Daisy, she's come home. Oh, Daisy, I've missed you!"

The two cuddle and play and Ted flies home shouting back to Daisy, "See you soon Daisy for our next adventure!"

## Mr. Linden's Library

By Marisa Miller  
Aged 10

Cayman Prep School  
Grand Cayman

He had warned her about the book. Now it might be too late.

Two weeks ago, Ally Robinson was playing in her backyard with her two siblings. The young girl was only 10 years old. She had long blond hair, blue eyes, and was very kind and respectful. She had an older sister named Raya, who was 14, and an older brother named Adam, who was 12. They all enjoyed sports, reading, and most of all, having fun. Reading was particularly special because it taught them how to imagine.

The Robinson family had just moved and were getting settled. Ally and her siblings weren't thrilled about the move. The only positive thing about it so far was that they were just a few streets over from Mr. Linden's Library. They decided to go to the library together for their first visit. When they entered, it was not anything like what they expected. There were vines and weeds creeping up the walls and they saw eyeballs in jars. An old, short, eerie looking man appeared in front of them. It was Mr. Linden! Ally asked him if they could look around. He told them that they better follow what he said or else they were not welcome. They all agreed. After a few minutes, Ally came across a book that caught her eye. Its title was, The Book of Imagination. She decided to take the book home and went to check it out of the library. Mr. Linden warned her that the book had magical powers and was not a book to mess around with, but she decided to take it home anyway.

Ally started reading the book and loved it, but was so tired from the eventful day that she fell asleep. That very night happened to be a full moon, and vines started growing out of the book, covering Ally. The vines made loud crackling noises every few seconds. Raya and Adam woke up and met in the hallway. They moved toward the door of Ally's room, very concerned. They swung open the door and ran to

wake her, but in the blink of an eye, all 3 of them were sucked into the book!

The next thing they knew, they had landed on a beach, just a few feet away from vivid, crystal blue water. Brightly coloured parrots were flying by, and palm trees swayed in the cool breeze. What seemed like a beautiful dream was ended though when they heard sobbing coming from somewhere close by. It was a pirate! Ally decided to go up to the crying pirate and ask him what was wrong, even though her brother and sister warned her to stay back. "Hello sir, why are you crying?" she asked. "My parrot has hurt his wing and I don't know what to do," the pirate replied. "Well, maybe we can help you," Ally said. "You would do that for me?" the pirate asked. "Yes" replied Ally, "because someone very wise taught me that helping people is the right thing to do". Ally got some leaves and twigs and made a cast for the parrot's wing.

"Thank you so much!" said the pirate. "Is there anything I can do for you in return?". "Well," said Ally, "can you help us get back home?" "To get you back home, we need to find the ingredients for the wishing spell," the pirate told them. "What ingredients do we need for the wishing spell?", the three of them asked together. "We need iguana scales, silver thatch, and a parrot feather," replied the pirate, "and we need to collect them before sundown, or you will get stuck here forever!"

"Ok, let's go get those ingredients for the wishing spell then!", Ally said. They walked for miles without finding anything. Luckily, after 4 hours, they had found some iguana scales and silver thatch, but no parrot feathers. They were running out of time and were getting very worried. "Wait a minute, what about your parrot?" asked Raya. "Oh my gosh!" shouted the pirate. "We can still get you home!" They took a feather from the pirate's parrot and put it with the iguana scales and silver thatch. "Thank you," said Ally as she gave the pirate a huge hug. "A wise person told me that helping people is the right thing to do", said the pirate. Ally, Raya and Adam wished the spell and ...







## The Unusual Day at the Park

By Felix Reid  
Aged 9

Cayman International School  
Cayman Islands

One normal autumn day in America, a little boy named Jack went to the park. He loved to chase leaves that had fallen off trees through his favorite tunnel. He always goes through this particular tunnel, but this time something seemed a little different. There was a bright light at the end of the tunnel as bright as his little brother Jimmy putting a flashlight into Jack's face in the middle of the night. It just sucked him in. He was getting pushed around like he was in a wave just as it broke. As soon as his stomach recovered from the swirling, he suddenly realized he must have gone through a portal.

When he looked to his right, he saw a big blue crystal-clear ocean, his feet were covered in sand, and he was suddenly feeling rather hot in his jacket. As he turned to the left, he noticed a big sign saying "Welcome to the Cayman Islands" and then he knew exactly where he was. He had landed in the Caribbean Sea! He knew very little about this place because he only learned about the Caribbean islands in history for about a week in 4th grade at his primary school in New York.

"Ahhhhh a critter" Jack screamed loudly as he felt a creature that looked like it came straight out of Jurassic Park, running across his right big toe.

"Excuse me, I am no ordinary critter! I am one of the national animals of the Cayman Islands, the creature exclaimed. My friends call me "Bluey" and I am a Blue Iguana... an endangered species, if I may add".

Bluey continues: "I am not sure how you even got through the secret portal. None of your American species have ever made it through before, but now that you are here, why don't I teach you a bit about the Cayman Islands, so you can get an A+ for your next history exam". Jack answered, slightly confused, "Now that I am here with no idea about how to get back home, I may as well make the most of it. Thanks for your kind offer, Bluey." Jack felt welcomed and was

getting excited about their excursion.

"To start, let's take a walk across this beach, which is called 7-mile beach. This is one of the Caribbean's best beaches, in case you didn't know," Bluey said proudly.

"Wow, this is so beautiful, but I am getting a little hungry from all the walking. Could we grab a bite to eat somewhere?" asked Jack. "Why don't we catch some fish and cook it with traditional Caribbean spices?" answered Bluey. "Yum, I love fresh fish", said Jack. "That sounds amazing. Let's go!"

"Ok we will start at George Town harbor", Bluey said. "Sure", Jack replied, and off they went to catch some fish. Soon they were at the harbor, and they caught two snappers and one tarpon. Then the fishermen asked: "Hey, do you little dudes want to come on a trip to cook these delicious fish? We could have a barbecue at Starfish Point". "Sure!" Bluey and Jack replied at the same time. "Let's go", said a fisherman who took them past Stingray City to Starfish Point. Over there, Bluey introduced Jack to his friend who knew the way to the Botanical Garden.

So, off they went to see all sorts of historical plants and animals. "Wow, I never imagined the Cayman Islands being this cool," Jack said. At the gardens, they went to see the endangered iguanas. Bluey and Jack heard one iguana calling them. He told them to go to Pedro St. James Castle and that's where they were headed next.

It was so cool because Jack got to learn about Cayman culture and history by looking at models of houses from the olden days and saw a play about how the owners of Pedro St. James lived. Just before sunset, Bluey brought Jack back to the beach where they started and said the portal was behind the bushes. Jack went through it and Bluey said "If you ever want to come back, you are always welcome my friend! And I hope you now get an A+ for your next history exam."

I was inspired by how kindness brings people together. Especially, when making people feel welcome in a new place, always be kind and you will get a friend in return.

## BVI - the Global Melting Pot

By Zuri Samuel  
Aged 11

Joyce Samuel Primary School  
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

"Cockadodoodoo!" Hinata slowly wakes up to the brightness of the sun. "Ugh, why is it so bright!" shouted Hinata, as she got up from her bed to go to the window. "Did someone get a new car horn or something, and why is it so bright?" Hinata was not used to the sun being very bright and to the noise she was hearing from outside. "How am I supposed to get used to this? Tortola is nothing like Japan."

In Japan it was always foggy and due to that, there was barely any sunlight in Japan. You wouldn't really hear roosters either, especially Tokyo. "COCKADODADOO!" "WHAT IS THAT SOUND?" Hinata screeched right before her Mum walked into her room. "Hinata get ready for school. I heard you in your room late at night. What were you even doing?" "I'm not used to the time zone in Tortola. Tokyo is 13 hours ahead from it," replied Hinata. "Well, I know it's hard, but I know you will get used to it soon," replied Hinata's Mum. Hinata is a black girl, with black hair and dark streaks in her hair. She also has beautiful curly hair. Hinata has dark brown eyes that sometimes look black due to lighting. She is from Japan but does not have an Asian skin color because her dad is black. Her dad is from Antigua and her mom is from Japan.

When Hinata got to school, everyone was having fun laughing and playing together. Then Hinata remembered how lonely it would be to move to a new school, especially if it was in a new country. When Hinata got to class, and everyone looked at her and started whispering, then a girl went up to Hinata, "Hi! I'm Zuri. I heard you were new around here. Do you want to be friends?" asked Zuri. "Yes please, I'm Hinata", Replied Hinata. "Wow! Your name is pretty, just like you!" Zuri exclaimed.

Suddenly, she stopped speaking to see Hinata looking sad because everyone was giving her weird looks. "Class! Can I have your undivided attention, this is Hinata she's new here please don't look at her like

that!" shouted Zuri in a stern tone. "Sorry about them. They are like that sometimes," stated Zuri. "It's ok I think I can get used to it...," replied Hinata. Soon lunch came and Hinata sat by Zuri's seat to eat lunch with Zuri. Everyone had things like salt fish and dumpling, rice and chicken, plantain and green banana, macaroni pie, normal cutlery and things like that, while Hinata had chop sticks, rice, fish, chicken and yakisoba (a type of Japanese noodles).

Everyone was looking at Hinata's food, wondering what it was. Zuri felt bad for Hinata. "Is that a Japanese Bento Box?", asked Zuri. "Yeah", said Hinata. "Can I try some?", asked Zuri. "Of course! Can I try some of your food?" asked Hinata. "Yeah of course!" replied Zuri. Everyone watched Zuri and Hinata share their food happily. "WOW! This really tastes good!" said Hinata in a surprised tone. It was the first time Hinata had tried saltfish and dumpling. "I know, my mom made it! And your food is AMAZING!" replied Zuri.



A few more weeks passed and Hinata got used to everything that had happened in the school. Zuri and Hinata became close and Hinata even taught Zuri some Japanese because she always wanted to go to Japan and learn Japanese. Some people still wouldn't talk to Hinata because

they still weren't used to a "foreigner" in their class, Hinata didn't care. As long as she was with Zuri and some of her other friends, she knew she was fine. Soon culture week came, and on one of the days the children had to bring cultural food to school. Hinata's mom did not know how to make fungi and fish, so Zuri took hand of that and asked her mom to make two boxes of fungi and fish and then gave one of the boxes to Hinata early in the morning. "Thank you so much Zuri. You are helpful!", said Hinata. "You're welcome!", Zuri replied. "Anything to help a friend out!"

Zuri made a day where Hinata and her would bring their national food to school. Zuri would bring fungi and fish to school, while Hinata would bring her Bento box full of the stuff they'd eat in Japan. A few years later, Hinata and Zuri graduated happily. Hinata even promised to bring Zuri to Japan.

Sample

## Befriending the Chickcharney

By Lena Seligman  
Aged 11

Lyford Cay International School  
Bahamas

"So watch out yinna chirren, if you run into a Chickcharney you won't be comin' back!" Papi cautioned over crackling flames. Family bonfires were the best part of summers in Andros! Papi kept us enthralled! Grammy was tough, but she had a smile as sweet as her pawpaw chutney. "Don't you go scaring the chirren!" she winked!

I spent my days perched in my favourite ironwood tree. Birds were everywhere all the time, exploding with different colours.

A rare wind blew that day. Gusts advanced through the leaves and thrust me from my branch, twisting, tumbling, falling, floating. I lost consciousness and came to the mangroves, bruised and disorientated. Panic-stricken, I thrashed through the muddy water, running to and fro, but the thick red roots entrapped me and blocked my vision. I collided with a skinny root sticking out of the water, and was knocked on my back again!

I lay dazed, until a rustling sound from above roused me. I squinted and a strange creature came into focus. It was about three feet tall with red feathers, long, bony legs and demonic-looking red eyes. I shuddered and knew at once that it was a Chickcharney! The creature let out a gravelly laugh. "Well mudda sick! If it ain't a no broughtupsy little child wandering in my sacred land!" "Please Mr. Chickcharney, don't hurt me!" I pleaded. The creature threw his head back and guffawed. I noticed that the feathers on its chest were cropped and dirty, and when I looked into its eyes as it settled, I saw loneliness. I instantly took pity on it. I took to my feet slowly, this time with a newfound resilience. "Mr. Chickcharney, I'm lost and I need you to help me."

"After that crazy wind, I'm bout' as lost as you are right now!" the Chickcharney retorted. "Besides, all Bahamian folk ain't exactly my perfect picture. My type has been 'round here longer than yours and



you all act like this whole island's yours!"

"You have to learn how to respect other people and their groups!" I said, trying to sound calm. 'Besides, nobody truly owns this island. It's here for everyone alike! Come on Mr. Chickcharney, I'm starting to like you! Let's find our way out together!" I said, summoning my confidence. It was the first time I had ever led an expedition! The Chickcharney and I navigated our way through the twisted vines together, taking care for each other's safety.

It was grueling, but we supported each other and persevered.

"You holding up okay?" the Chickcharney muttered several hours later. "Yes Mister Thank you!" I smiled. He answered, "No need to call me Mister! Friends don't need titles! Speaking of such, I never learned your name?" I took this in. The Chickcharney considered me a friend! Before I could respond a crashing wave dragged me under. My mouth filled with saltwater. I fought frantically, but the unforgiving water engulfed me.

Suddenly, I felt a sharp nip on my shoulder and began to rise upwards at speed. When I surfaced, I saw the Chickcharney with a small piece of cloth from my T-shirt in its beak-like mouth! He had saved me from the depths. Biting the sleeve of my other shoulder firmly, the Chickcharney hauled me through the water with all of its might. I bobbed up and down like a boat through rough waters. Soon enough, a dot appeared on the horizon. The Chickcharney propelled us into the air over the forest filled island. Slowly, the area grew more familiar, and the Chickcharney soared down.

"How can I ever repay you? You saved my life! You brought me home!" I blubbered. "There's no need for that! In fact, I am repaying you, my friend, for showing me how to be my better self. You, my friend, have given me your trust, kindness, and served as a guide!" We were interrupted by a din from behind! I turned and was overjoyed to see my siblings' faces, bathed in candlelight. When I turned back, the Chickcharney had vanished. My youngest brother handed me one of Grammy's hand-made candles and we ran through the forest leaving wafts of pineapple driftwood in our wake. The trees thinned out, and

saw Papi and Grammy sitting around the bonfire gazing into the flickering flames, with their bowls on their laps and ours neatly laid upon our tree trunk stools.

"So chirren' what story?" Papi asked with a mischievous grin. "Well, actually, tonight I have a story!" I grinned back.



## Space Crash in the Caribbean

By Olivia Tumilty  
Aged 9

Red Bay Primary School  
Cayman Islands

A flash and a bang reverberated up and down Seven-Mile Beach. "What's that Bobo," said Elijah Bodden to his friend Trinity Ebanks. "Beats me!" said Trinity, "Maybe it's just a thunderstorm starting". Trinity and Elijah had been having an evening swim and were just packing up to ride home when the sound and light filled the now dark night sky.

Elijah and Trinity looked to the sky. Just over George Town they saw something hurtling towards South Sound. "Is it the mosquito plane," said Trinity. "I don't think so," said Elijah. "He doesn't fly at night. It also seems to be spinning, planes don't spin".

The spinning object dropped out of sight and there was a thud that shook the ground. "Wow, what was that, Elijah?" shouted Trinity. "I don't know but I wanna find out Bobo. Let's go". Trinity and Elijah jumped on their bikes. Helmets on, lights on, and they were peddling like they had never peddled before. Just south of George Town they could see the smoke rising and in the distance they could here sirens wailing, but they were going to be the first on the scene as they had watched the object crash nearby.

The coconut trees in that part of South Sound had been flattened. The friends turned off South Church Street and started making their way down a small road that led to the crash site. They stopped about 100 meters from the object. The object was glowing green and red. The smoke continued to rise. "What do we do now Elijah," said Trinity.

The initial excitement was now replaced by a sense of fear. "Should we go closer Elijah. What if someone is hurt and needs our help. We gotta go see if they are OK. We got to be Cayman Kind!"

Elijah and Trinity approach the crashed object. It was clear to see now that it was a disc and its metal exterior gleamed in the

moonlight as the green and red lights flashed. "Is this a space craft," whispered Elijah. "I th... th..... think so," stuttered Trinity, as they cautiously approached the object.

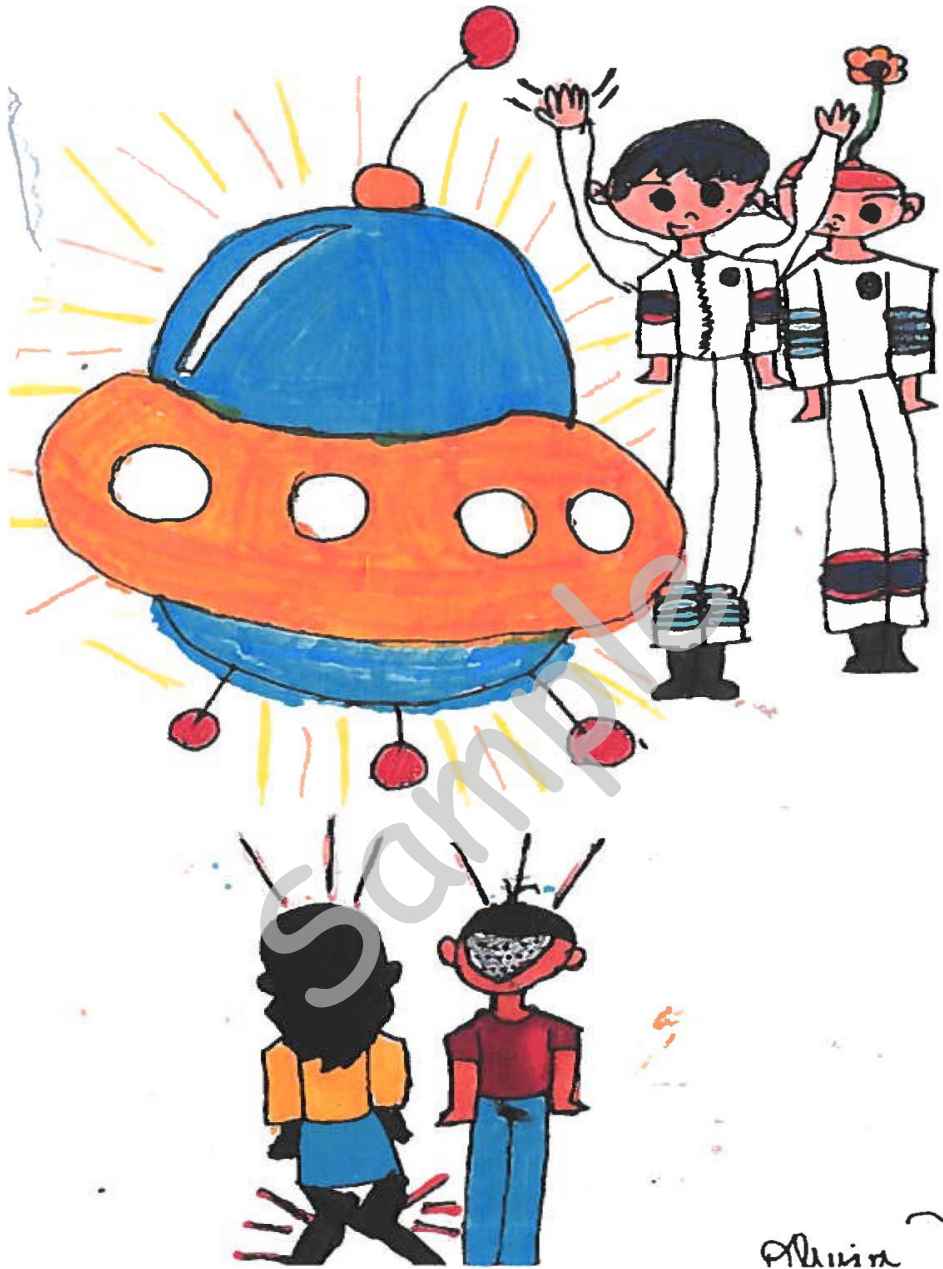
As they neared the gleaming object, with its green and red flashing lights the smoke cleared. With a hiss a door opened, and floating metal steps extended downwards. The friends froze and held their breath. "What now!" said Elijah. Two 7 feet tall humanoid figures descended the floating steps and came and stood in front of Elijah and Trinity. "We have come from the future, time traveled from the year 2181. We are on a mission to save mankind from destroying the earth and themselves. Many years ago, we had to leave the earth when the climate crisis worsened. My name is, I-told-u-so, and this is Oh-no-we-knew."

I-told-u-so continued, "We can save the earth if everyone starts doing something now. We need to stop burning fossil fuels and recycle. We were sad to hear Cayman has stopped recycling glass. We all need to stop using plastics, polluting, and exploiting the world's resources. It's not too late, but all humanity and countries must act now to save our beautiful planet, animals, marine life and coral reefs."

Oh-no-we-knew talked in a very deep and serious voice, "You must bring this message to the world. We were on our way to speak with the Governor, Mr. Roper, but our ship is damaged, and we must get home. Can you, Elijah and Trinity, take this important message to the world?" asked Oh-no-we-knew.

I-told-u-so smiled at the children and said, "You can help us complete our mission and save the world."

The two friends, with their mouths open nodded their heads in amazement and agreement. They knew their mission. They knew everyone's mission.



Alvin T.

## OUR THANKS TO PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

### **Anguilla**

Alwyn Allison Richardson Primary School  
Orealia Kelly Primary School

### **Bahamas**

Kingsway Academy  
Lyford Cay International School

### **Cayman Islands**

Cayman International School  
Cayman Prep and High School  
Red Bay Primary School

### **Jamaica**

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### **US Virgin Islands**

#### **Saint Croix & Saint Thomas**

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### **Sint Maarten**

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### **British Virgin Islands**

Alexandrina Maduro Primary School  
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Tortola

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Liguanea Plains

North St. Catherine

**SINT MAARTEN**

St. Martin Sunrise

St. Martin Sunset

**UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

St. Croix West

St. Thomas



## 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 us at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/9515/>



The young authors who  
contributed to this book of stories  
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 is made possible  
by the generosity of  
The Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020

