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# VOICES

*A Creative Journal by Program Participants*





### Fairy Tale Dream

On a dark and stormy night, I was walking through the woods. I was with my friends and we saw some fun animals. One of my friends tried to feed the animals. As he was feeding the animals I looked up and saw dark clouds in the sky, and they were looking back at me! And out of the clouds Peter Pan appeared and began flying towards us. Before he could reach us, Captain Hook showed up.

My friends and I watched as Peter Pan and the lost boys battled the pirates on the ship inside the cloud. My friends and I then jumped in a boat that was on the nearby swampy lake. Much to our surprise the driver of the boat was

Cinderella sitting on a bail of hay wearing only one shoe. Cinderella had to hurry to get us to where we needed to go because she was about to turn into a pumpkin.

We told Cinderella we were sick of this dark place and she needed to get us to St. Croix. She dropped us off in the middle of the tropical forest. They couldn't believe their eyes, right there in front of them was a five-star Italian restaurant. They sat down and were greeted by the Scarecrow. After they ate a huge meal, the Scarecrow led us down the yellow brick road. At the end of the yellow brick road was my house. Inside my house, I fell asleep in my bed. What a crazy dream!!



## Short Stories (written by participants in quest classes)

### The Mermaid's Gold

Hello. I'm JaneMarie. You might be surprised to know that I live and work miles and miles under the sea. While this might sound exciting to some of you, I am bored and am always hoping to find myself on a wild adventure. Everyday, I get up, drive my spaceship underwater car to work, sit in an office all day and take orders for oxygen tanks. After work, I drive back home, cook myself dinner, read the daily paper, and catch up on the news of the shore people via channel 7 news. Some days I really miss living on the shore, and almost forget why I left. Then after a bit of daydreaming, I take a long hot shower, brush my teeth, put on my pajamas and hop into bed to do it all again the next day. Sounds exciting right? I didn't think so!



One day on my way home from work I decided to stop by the local grocery store to make some dinner. I was so hungry on my way home from the store that my stomach was growling like crazy. I was so distracted by my growling tummy that I missed a turn and found myself in a part of the sea I was unfamiliar with. Suddenly I noticed something shiny in front of me.

The closer and closer I got to the shiny objects the clearer it became. I couldn't believe my eyes, there in front of me was a group of mermaids swimming and laughing. They were so beautiful. The mermaids stopped me and asked me if I would help them find their gold that was stolen from them. They explained to me that a man of the shore had found out about their secret mermaid lagoon where all their treasure had been buried. He stole all of the gold and destroyed the lagoon. If they didn't get the gold back their father would be so angry and banish them from the sea kingdom forever. As much as I didn't want to, I agreed to travel to the shore to find the mermaids' gold for them. In return the mermaids promised me that I could keep enough of the gold to live a long happy life without ever having to go to that boring job again.

As I made my way to the surface and to once again put my feet on dry ground I couldn't help but be scared. Well, excited and scared. I wasn't sure where to

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## Short Stories (written by participants in quest classes)

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begin my search for the gold, and then I saw it, right in front of me was a huge sign reading "TOURS!" What better way to search the island for the mermaids' gold than with guided tour. The tour guide was a young man named Maverick that had lived on the island his whole life. The first place he took me on the tour was the local forest preserve. He warned me though to stay close because of the dangerous animals that roamed the forest. The deer on this island had razor sharp teeth. As we got deeper and deeper into the forest, the light around us got dimmer and dimmer. We decided that it was too dark to carry on, so we stopped to build a fire, and what's a campfire without some s'mores. As we sat enjoying our s'mores, I noticed something sparkling behind a large tree. But also behind that same tree were two huge deer with their sharp teeth shining in the light of the campfire. How would we ever get to the mermaids' gold now? Then suddenly I had an idea. I told Maverick to heat up as many of the marshmallows as he could. As soon as we had enough hot melted marshmallows we threw them at the deer. The deer became angry and started to charge at us. But, my plan worked, the deer weren't going anywhere, their hooves were stuck to the ground in the gooey marshmallows. Maverick and I were able to snatch the gold and run away. I was so excited to get the gold back to the mermaids.

Once we got out of the forest, Maverick and I got in my underwater spaceship and headed back under the sea to return the mermaids gold. It seemed like everything was going to work out. Then all of a sudden we came to a halt. A giant octopus had attached his tentacles to our ship, and he looked hungry! We were so scared, not only would he eat us, but the gold would be lost all over again. This time Maverick had an idea. We would head to the surface with the octopus attached to our ship, everyone knows that the giant octopus is afraid of the sun. As we got closer and closer to the surface, he slowly let go of our ship. Phew, he finally let us go and we were free. Maverick had been so brave during the attack, I realized that he was my handsome prince and I gave him a huge smooch right on his lips. Someday, I would marry this man, but for now, we had to return the gold. We searched and searched for the mermaids until we finally found them napping in the under the sea garden. They had blended in with all of the beautiful sea flowers that we hadn't noticed them at first.

They were so happy to have their gold back, and in return they gave me enough gold so I would never have to worry about going back to that boring job ever again. And the best part of the whole story, Maverick and I had the most amazing wedding ever. We had champagne, steaks, cake and lots and lots of gold. And we lived under the sea happily ever after.



## On winning the Athlete of the Year Award at the 2014 Special Olympics Banquet

Linda Shuh

I was really surprised. I enjoy all the sports I've done since I've been here at Lambs. I plan to continue all the sports that I enjoy because they're fun. My friends were happy that I received the award. A lot of people have complimented me on the award I got this year. I was so happy to get it. It reminds me of a lot of good things in this world.

They gave it to me because I had good sportsmanship and being the Athlete of the Year is a big step in this world. Ginny Luptak was a very good coach. She said I had good

attendance. They all agreed that I should get the award, which was a great thing. I'm sorry my mom wasn't there, but she looked down on me and was very proud. My brother and nephew, David and Nick, were glad I got the award too. My brother said it's a big thing in my life that happens once in a blue moon. I always dedicate the games to my mother, my brother and my friends.

Special Olympics means a lot to me. It's a great opportunity. This year we have some new things like a softball team - the Lambs Legends. I'm very satisfied with Special Olympics - the summer games, winter games and fall games.

The trophy is very nice looking. It's a beautiful Lambs Farm logo that has stars on it. It reminds me of my gold medals. It's very special in my world. I'm really happy to have it. It will always be a treasure to me.

I enjoy being around people at Special Olympics and I like to be around friends. Special Olympics is a hobby for fun and to win.

Remember - hard work and practice.

## **On working at Trader Joe's**

Mary Volz

I went for my interview on Wednesday 3/25/14 at Trader Joe's. I got accepted right away and started on 4/23/14. I have been there ever since and I am doing a good job.

## **Lambs Farm**

Brayanna LaConte

My name is Brayanna and I started working at Lambs Farm on November 25th, 2013 and I really enjoy being here and meeting new friends and doing Special Olympics. I joined seven sports including track & field, softball, bocce, swimming, bowling, field hockey and basketball. I went to state with Lambs many times for softball and field hockey and it was so much fun. For basketball I went to Carthage College many times and it was awesome seeing the team playing basketball.

I work at the Magnolia Cafe and Bakery and my jobs are to cashier, bus tables and setting up banquets for different groups. I am having the time of my life being at Lambs because I get to work with staff and they help me focus and stay on task.

## **My Life**

George Nelson - as told to staff

I am from Elgin. I live in Green-field and I like everyone I live with like Tim. I am excited to go on trips with Quest and see new things. I like my job at the Work Center. When I am at home I like to listen to WRMN on the radio and watch the news and weather reports.

## **What I am Thankful For**

Ellyn Burns

I am very thankful for being who I am. I am also thankful for being here at Lambs Farm. Yes, I love my family and yes, I do love the Lambs Farm family as well. I do love my Stone apartments family too. I love my friends a lot. I love my rec staff, and I love my dietitian. My friends are very important to me in general. At least we have water and food to eat and a roof over our heads.

### The Dedication of Spock

2nd in command  
Quiet in strength  
Had big eyebrows  
Ears of length

If he cleaned your house  
It'd be an 11  
10 being Vulcan  
1 being Human

Furious and ferocious  
Not his rhyme  
Friendly and serious  
All the time

He respected opinions  
Anti - emotional  
Logic over feelings  
Never took Tylenol

He lived long  
He prospered  
He always explored  
And now he knows

If there's anything more. . .

### Jude

I played "Paperback Writer"  
On Christmas Eve  
My friends sang carols in harmony  
I stayed home to eat

Some others went to Temple  
On Hanukkah  
They sang there as well  
I can play the harmonica

All this joy?  
For all these presents?  
If your buying for me  
I like coins of the Presidents

My relatives gave me money  
And a Bears trash can too  
Now the money's all gone  
And my nieces and nephews

What happened to the presence?  
You know, the excitement and smiles  
Those things on our faces  
That glow in a child

Is it all in the garbage?  
Like plastic and paper?  
What's with this sad song?  
And what makes it better?

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