

YEAR 3-4 CATEGORY

Year 3-4 Winner: Lucy Boyd [Trinity Anglican College, Thurgoona]

Title: *Fall of Doom*

Have you ever loved something so much that if it were hurt or injured you would do anything to save it? I have and the fear of losing it gave me super human strength.

'Yay we're going to the farm!'

Mum had just announced we were going to my grandparent's farm and the best thing was, my puppy Posie was coming! Posie is the cutest thing ever. She has cute black fur, a tiny little moustache and a sweet personality.

Not long after we arrived, my parents and grandparents went into town for supplies. So it was just me and Posie. I love exploring the farm and I was excited to show Posie. Off we went. Up the hills, along the river and over to the pine trees beyond the cow paddock. Posie was loving all this space and freedom.

We were having so much fun exploring when Posie disappeared right before my eyes. I raced ahead and saw that she had fallen into something that looked like an old mine shaft. I heard yelping. Surely she had broken a bone with a fall down a hole that deep. I was freaking out. If you collected all my sweat, it would fill up a whole pool. "What do I do?!"

I ran to the shed to find a ladder, I hated leaving Posie alone like this. Anyway I was looking all over the shed and I couldn't find a ladder anywhere but I had to keep looking. I was about to give up until I came across a rope. It's not quite a ladder but it will do especially when Posie is trapped in a mine shaft.

I ran like I'd never ran before. I was sprinting so fast I felt like I was flying. My heart was pounding. It almost felt like I was sinking into the ground.

I was finally there. The yelping had stopped, actually there was no sound at all. My fear expanded.

I was trying to figure out what to tie the rope onto. Luckily one of the pine trees was close enough to tie it onto but the problem was the drop was massive. I took a deep breath and tried to swallow my fear. Down, down, down I went hoping Posie was still alive.

Thud! I had slipped "Ouch"

The pain was killing me but I had to keep going for Posie. Fortunately, Posie only had a few scratches. I limped over to her and tied the rope around us and pulled. My arms were aching, my hands were burning but somehow I managed to scramble us out of there. We made it and once we did Posie gave me a big lick.

We struggled back to the house and found that mum, dad and my grandparents were home. I was so happy to see them. They were shocked at the sight of us. I limped towards them all scratched and bloody.

I sobbed as I felt their arms wrap around me.

When I explained I was as surprised as they were. Did I really do all this? Was I really this brave?

I guess this whole story just goes to show how much I love Posie.

Year 3-4 Runner-Up: Anabelle Spinelli [St Patrick's Parish School, Albury]

Title: *Little Pelican*

The sound of waves crashing against the rocks woke me up. I was laying there in my bed looking at the time and it read 6:30am. *Way too early for a Sunday morning* I thought, so I woke up at 7:15am.

I slipped my legs out of bed and my feet hit the warmth of the carpet.

When I got to the kitchen, I made myself a bowl of cereal and tried to finish it quickly, so I could take my dog Maisie for a walk. I love Maisie with all my heart, she is my best friend.

Me and Sophie (my older sister) like taking Maisie for walks along the beach. We are lucky that we live near the beach. I love the beach, it makes me feel very calm.

We started walking along and found the strangest thing in the grass.

A baby pelican. It had an injured leg and was about 30cm long. She looked as sad as the calm ocean. I really wanted to keep her but Sophie said, 'No way. Why would we be dumb enough to take it anyway!'

I felt like crying, I tried to hold it back but a tear rolled down my cheek. We then started walking back home, but I dawdled all the way.

That night I cried myself to sleep. I was so upset that I couldn't keep that pelican. She was so cute and I felt really sorry for her, lying there in the grass, injured.

That was it. I was going to go get the baby Pelican. I slowly and quietly crept to the window on the other side of the room. I then cautiously pulled back the curtain to see if anyone was coming back from the early morning surfing club. There was no-one there, so I jumped out the window. Luckily my room is on the bottom floor of our house.

I sprinted along the beach with my hopes up that she was still there.

I took my torch out of my pocket and very carefully looked through the grass for her. I walked and walked and searched and searched until I found a little white head peeking out.

Streams of happiness ran down my cheeks as I very gently picked her up and hugged her. I was going to name her Lucy.

I had decided to take care of her. I knew it was a huge job to take on, but then I didn't realize just how huge it was.

As time went by Lucy got bigger, and it became harder and harder to keep her a secret.

One day I told my family about Lucy and I had to let her go away.

I ran to my room to get Lucy and ran back to where my family were standing on the beach. Then I let her go. She ran up and started flying. 'Bye Lucy,' I called out, with my cheeks flooding with tears. What worried me most of all was that I didn't know if she was going to meet her family or come back to me.

Year 3-4 Runner-Up: Lily Peachey [Trinity Anglican College]**Title:** *Where Did the Leaves Go?*

Lia and Lilac are friends. They are on an investigation to see where the red, orange and yellow leaves went.

"See you later Mum!" Lia said as she shut the door behind her. "Now to get Lilac," Lia said to herself. Lia ran for the door bell and rang it. There was an answer, it was Lucy, Lilac's mum. "Hi Lucy, is Lilac able to play?" Lia said. "Yes she is" Lucy replied, "I'll get her now." "Thanks Lucy" Lia said. "Hi!" Lilac said. "Hi!" Lia said. "We are doing an investigation to see where the red, orange and yellow leaves went," Lia whimpered. "I'm not trying to be mean, but it's not such a big deal" Lilac said. "Are you crazy? If there's no leaves we can't make leaf angels." Lia looked like someone pulling her hair out.

"Hey, what's up little Sis" DJ said. "Where did you even get a name like that?" Lia blurted out. "Oh Lia, my name is DJ because my actual name is Dan and my middle name is Jay so, I like being called DJ." "OK, fair enough" Lia said. "Well, I better get back to chopping trees down, see you soon!" DJ said as he walked off.

The girls went into the woods and saw a little stick hut. They opened the door to the hut and there was someone in it. She came out of the hut and said "how can i help you?" "Who are you?" Lilac asked as she looked confused.

"I'm Mother Nature. I control seasons, leaves, and everything that is a part of nature."

"Oh, OK, uhm...Mother Nature, can you tell us what happened to the beautiful yellow, orange, and red leaves? They have suddenly disappeared. Do you know what happened to them?" Lilac asked. "Yes. I do. But before I tell you, come inside and have a cuppa with me" Mother Nature kindly asked. Both girls shrugged at one another and walked into the stick hut. They found the table and sat down but there was tea set already like it was planned. Mother Nature took a seat at the same rusty table as the girls were sitting on. "What happened to the red, yellow and orange leaves – it's kind of a cycle. When it's autumn the shades of red, orange and yellow leaves are on the trees and when it becomes colder, they fall off and it becomes winter. That's why there are no colourful leaves on the trees now" Mother Nature explained. "Thanks Mother Nature, see you soon! And thank you a lot!"

The girls smiled as they walked to Lilac's house and played monopoly with just DJ, Lilac and Lia. The whole day was such blast!

YEAR 5-6 CATEGORY

Year 5-6 Winner: Addison Mark [St Patrick's Parish School, Albury]**Title:** *Lulu's Environmental Adventure*

As the fish took its last breath it floated to the top of the ocean with a piece of plastic bag wrapped around its body.

I looked down into the water and there it was, a fish floating on the top of the water. You wouldn't believe there wasn't just one poor helpless fish. There were many more.

My name is Lulu and I am 8 years old. I want to put a stop to world pollution because it is killing thousands of poor, defenseless animals worldwide every year. Some people are just way too lazy or careless that they can't even put their own rubbish in the bin. They just throw it on the ground and by doing that their rubbish ends up in the ocean and kills thousands of animals every year.

Today I went out on a ride on my horse along the bank of the river and saw a plastic cup so I picked it up and inside it was a small brown fish stuck in it. After I found that poor little fish, I thought that there would be many more so I rode my horse home and came back with a plastic bag and gloves. I had been walking along the river for about an hour now. I was really exhausted but I knew that there was a lot more plastic to be picked up and a lot more animals to save. After three full hours of walking up and down the river I saved 129 fish and collected 573 pieces of rubbish.

Finally I was home again. I had told mum what I did and she said that she was very proud of me. Later that night while my family and I were having dinner, dad asked me what I had done today, so I said "I was riding my horse down the river when I saw a small cup in the water, so I picked it up and inside it was a small brown fish and it couldn't get out because it was stuck, then after that I came home to put my horse in the stable. I was walking for about 3 hours and in that time I saved 129 fish and picked up 573 pieces of rubbish. If it's ok with you and mum, could I go back there tomorrow?"

Lulu's mum and dad looked at each other. "Please mum, please dad I really want to make a difference in world pollution."

"Well in that case" said her dad "we can't exactly say no to that can we now." "But I think it's time you head off to bed so you can get a good sleep because you have a big day tomorrow."

That very next day Lulu went for a quick ride up the paddock with her horse then came home to put her in her stable then she went back to the river to find some more poor fish and a lot more rubbish. Today she was only looking in the river for 2 hours because she was too tired after all of the hard work that she was doing yesterday. All though she did manage to collect 243 pieces of rubbish and save 57 fish.

A week later it was Lulu's 9th birthday. As soon as she woke up she opened her presents and as she was about to go out the door her mum called her "Lulu where are you going?"

"I am going down to the river," she replied.

"Sorry Lulu," said her mum, "but not today, your dad and I have a surprise for you."

"For me?" Lulu said looking very shocked

"Yes Lulu for you, come on, let's go," said her dad. As they arrived at their destination they got out of the car.

Lulu had no clue where she was. "Keep your eyes closed Lulu!" said her mum. "Can I open them now please?"

"Almost there, Ok you can open them now,"

"Where are we? It looks so fancy?"

"We are in town at the town hall,"

"Why are we here mum?"

"You said you wanted to make a stop to world pollution right?"

"Yeah?" "Well, we have a surprise for you."

"We are at the town hall because you get to have your own meeting with the mayor, about how you want a stop to world pollution," "So we--." he was cut off, the mayor called Lulu's name and invited her in.

They talked for a while. Then she asked "So Lulu, why are you here today?"

"Well," said Lulu, "I wanted to make a stop to world pollution,"

"So Lulu, why do you want to put a stop to it?" "because I love animals and I hate to see them die or get hurt by rubbish, especially ones that live in the water,"

"Well I think that's great, excuse me for one moment while I go talk to the rest of the people on the town board."

The Mayor only took about 5 minutes then she was back.

"Well Lulu I have some good news for you, I have had a talk with the rest of the board and they think that that is a great idea so you can come here next week for another meeting with the rest of the board and myself." As Lulu and her mum and dad got back into the car Lulu's mum said "your grandma and grandpa are coming over for dinner and some cake, so when we get home get changed into something nice." Later that evening Lulu's grandparents arrived, after dinner while everyone was still at the table her grandpa said "Lulu here is your present from your grandma and I."

"Thank you," said Lulu. As Lulu opened her card and it read,

"Dearest Lulu wishing you the happiest of birthdays, we love you so much we hope you like your presents and have a wonderful day love grandma and grandpa xoxo"

Lulu loved her card, but now she was going to open her present "OMG! thank you, I love it!"

"What did you get?" "I got 3 little goldfish" "what are you going to call them?" asked her dad.

"I think I will name them Socks, Pojo and Bubbles. "Ok Lulu time for bed, say goodnight to grandma and grandpa"

"Goodnight grandma, goodnight grandpa"

(4 years later)

Lulu's dream had come true, in a way. She hadn't put a stop to world pollution but every year her town had been having a special day twice a month where everyone in the town picks up rubbish.

Year 5-6 Runner-Up: Freya Sullivan [St Patricks Parish School, Albury]

Title: *The Big Speech*

"Are you ready for school? Remember it's your big speech today."

"Yeah, I remember mum I will make history" well he hoped.

"James has recently come back from an extraordinary trip around Australia, and I might just say he has learned a great deal about our land. James you're up, it's your turn to read your speech about things we love".

A hundred and one feelings rushed through James' mind, what if I mess up? What if I forget it all? What if? Okay James you have got this! Every year the students have to give a speech about a certain topic, this year the top is , "The things we love," and James prayed he would win it, well he hoped but there were some big threats he had scoped out backstage. He slowly but confidently stepped onto the stage and he pushed the negative thoughts out of his head and began.

Deep down James knew he really wanted to deliver this speech more than anything in the world, this was his day to shine and no one could take this away from him...no one. What James intended to do was to persuade the audience to explore this great country, and to let people know that Australia is outstanding in its range of cultures.

"Things we love, well let me tell you there are endless opportunities, endless dreams, and endless goals to make or to complete them. We are all a community, a family, a home, together as one.

We have a lot of places to go and see and all you have to do is step outside your door and take it all in. The cities, the people and our landmarks. Our ancestors have made this country great and have shaped this earth so that we can thrive in it. But we need to make sure that others can and will thrive in it as well.

We are wisdom in the eyes of life's most brutal challenges, We are the hearts of the less hearted, We are the things we love. We have quotes to cheer us up and get us motivated for the day, week or year, some of the quotes we love are." When it rains it pours" this quote means you will face challenges and after it is over you will find more challenges that come your way and it won't be easy, you have the choice to make it fun and exciting and full of opportunities or you can live it like its the end of the world it's up to you to make that decision for good or for bad.

The reason life makes us face the challenges we don't want to do in short term. because it makes us stronger for the long term. You only live once so embark on life's greatest challenges so you don't regret anything that you could have done, so don't say you could have done that, say you should have done that. We love our farmers who provide food for our families and communities by putting their blood, sweat, and tears into providing and harvesting quality food and maintaining a sustainable rate, and their time and effort into raising and growing the animals and produce that are the reason we can live. I know that a lot of people have tried to make this world a better place for the next generation, so that they have a better future, to see and experience the things their ancestors have had and that we have had so your children and their children can know the land and its wonderful trades.

We love our historic sites, history making people who have shaped our world with the bad and the good. We love our famous traditions, or endless roads and exciting trails, and most of the family, when we are faced with hardships they are there. Your brothers and sisters, your mums and dads, your neighbours and so much more, are there for you. So that's the things we love, but on top of that list should be you, you are your own friend, your own family, you are you and that's what you should love cause in order for you to truly love. Our country and before you love others you need to love and find yourself first. "So before you decide to travel to other countries and places, take a second to embrace this land that we stand on, embrace its traditions and cultures. We love learning and providing knowledge and understanding to other people about our culture and dignity, and to be proud of this land which we live on so take the time to get to the beating core of this country and explore it, because this land is truly the thing that we love."

James took a deep breath, and stuttered to look up, but when he did and then he finally knew that he had done it! With all the emotion he could have in his body. The students roared with excitement and claps came from every direction, he could see the a faint crack in the walls from all the cheering and loud noises, but the bit that made James have a tear swell in his eye, is that he had made his point across and he prayed that people would listen. Because this land is the beating heart of us, and we should explore it a little more before we go off to other countries and places. Because Australia is just great.

The thing that made James decide to do this speech is after he took that trip around Australia and realised our country is beautiful, and James wanted everyone to know that this land is remarkable in every way and that's the thing we all should love. From that day James wants to write stories and tell the world about this country and the people within it, and maybe who knows he might be the next history maker? Well at least he hopes

Year 5-6 Runner-Up: Sienna Jones [Trinity Anglican College Thurgoona]

Title: *Blue Echo*

I started loving space at a young age, I remember staring up at the ink black sky sprayed and spotted with gleaming diamond stars. My Dad was an Astronaut and my Mum was an Astrologist.

When I was about 9 or 10 my father went on his 8th mission. I remember watching the rocket blast off on the TV, Mum was perched next to me. I was watching the rocket launched then... BOOM! The rocket blasted into one million little pieces. There was a shattering silence. I remember not being sure what was happening. I had looked to my mother, she was staring back at me with a blank face. Then it dawned on her what had happened, her expression turned into one of shock and horror. "No, no, no" she whispered, "No, they are lying, he is still fine. NO!" the whisper turned in to a shrill wail.

After Dad's funeral mum stopped working and started coming home late. This went on for a year. Mum was constantly leaving early and coming home late. Near the end of January, she got sick. Really ill. The doctor was at the house nearly every day. He said that she was fighting but did not have much chance. It was a one-sided battle. On the 7th of June at about 3pm, she was gone. I stayed with her the whole time. The tears streamed down my face as she uttered her last word, my name..... Beatrix.

That night I could see flashing and forking in the sky as I sat under the window, the sky lit up and rain poured down. There was a pitch-black inky darkness for a second, then bright and brilliant as it struck, like the sky was in mourning for my mother too.

I was left alone. Year after year I put my whole self, heart, and soul into space. It intrigued and fascinated me. I decided to try out for NSSE (National Space Science and Exploration). After months of exams and trialing, I got the fateful letter that would either accept or refuse me.

Weeks later I was dragging my suitcase into my NSSE dorm. Ready for my first day. Each day was something new. I loved it, each subject was rich and new. After years of dreading each day, dreading the struggle and pain, I was looking forward for each day! I left no stone unturned and pushed for achievement thrusting myself out of my comfort zone. It was nearly the final trials. I was ready. Everyone was taking different tests. Me, I had my sights set on becoming a fully-fledged astronaut. There was a mission to Mars, and one of the professors had recommended me for the mission. The rocket was called the Blue Echo and it was a big deal at NSSE. The best at NSSE were all competing to get the trip. I was worried that I wouldn't match up to them. All I knew was I had to try.

The day of the exam eventually came around. My heart was attacking my chest trying to break free. I could feel my legs wobbling, and right then I thought that I could never do it and I was kidding myself. But the lady had already pushed me in and through. I heard myself mumble a protest. It felt like the clock was on fast forward and in no time I was out. But then the clock must have stopped because the minutes, hours, days, and weeks passed with me and the rest of NSSE waiting anxiously and fearfully for the results.

I was wandering idly down the hallway weeks after the test when somebody suddenly shouted from somewhere in the hall. "The list is out!!" those four words changed my life forever.

Flash forward and I was preparing to board the Blue Echo. The other astronauts, my fellow crew mates, were parting tearfully with their family. At that moment I felt hollow empty as I had no family to share this moment with. But as I looked up at the towering height of the Blue Echo the joy and elation returned. Minutes later I was boarding the Echo, taking my place in the control room. By then I had learnt my three other crew mates' names. Flint Davis was tall and dark-haired. He oversaw the piloting and controls. Ida Thompson was a few years younger than me with long dark chocolate hair. She was the shortest astronaut on board, finally, Gunner Young, he was shorter than Flint, but as I looked at the rocket my thoughts were buried. I looked back up at the sky and it was amazing to think that I would soon be up there too.

We were briefed and prepared. Our mission was direct and clear, launch to mars, collect samples and blast back. Finally, after years of waiting I was prepared and equipped for the mission of my life.

The countdown had begun 29, 28, 27. I glanced at the other astronauts. 21, 20, 19, 18. They looked as nervous as I felt. 12, 11, 10. The greatest moment of my life was about to begin. 6, 5, 4. I was going to space the thing I love most of all. 3, 2. I was going to space. 1. BOOM, we exploded up into the air. Into space.

I love space, it's like I have a special connection to it. I love every inch of it. From the meteorites and planets to the science behind it. This is what I truly love.



**WRITE
AROUND
THE
MURRAY**