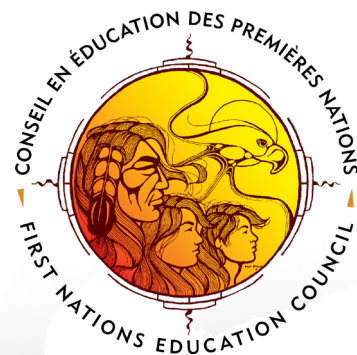


Collection of the winning texts of the
**FIRST NATIONS YOUNG
AUTHORS CONTEST**



June 2023



INTRODUCTION

In order to promote young talent from member communities of the First Nations Education Council (FNEC), we organized a literary contest to highlight the skills of young writers in grades 4 and 6 within the framework of the PLC-ELA (Professional Learning Committee in English Language Arts).

The contest was divided into 7 categories:

1. VOICE
2. IDEAS
3. CONVENTIONS
4. ORGANIZATION
5. WORD CHOICE
6. SENTENCE FLUENCY
7. TEACHER'S FAVORITES

All students in grades 4 and 6 were invited to make an effort for one or more of these categories, which allowed young authors to explore their writing from different angles.

We are very proud to present the texts of the winners of the first edition 2023!

CATEGORY VOICE

Jeff A:kwe'ks Lacombe

Grade 4

Rotiwennakehte School

Oituron Kris has gone to the darkworld

Kris has to choos between mercy or figth. Kris has chose mercy sum time he has no choose but to use figth. Now let the strie begin kris has to figth the king then he can go home to his mom and dad he had to figth sum oun he as jevi after the long figth kris won it was him to figth the king kris had to figth a pepri. It was tim to figth the king of tra long figth kris won kris jump in the fort in. The end.

mon renard est tellement content.

CATEGORY VOICE

Keilah Zachary

Grade 6
Kateri School

Smoke

Once there was a girl named Lizzie. One day she was with her friend Sasha "hey, do you want to go somewhere?" Sasha asked "sure, but where will we be going?" Lizzie asked "we'll go to the park" "Okay" Lizzie replied. Then they both got up and put their shoes on, went downstairs and left. As they were walking Lizzie thought to herself "This isn't the way to the park" but she brushed it off thinking they were going to a different park and not the usual one that they normally go to.

As they were walking farther and farther away from any park Lizzie realized they were going somewhere far away from any houses and any parks, then Lizzie stopped walking "where are we going?" asked Lizzie, "we're going to the park" replied Sasha "no we're not" said Lizzie. "Okay fine we're going to meet up with some of my other friends". "Oh, okay", they kept on walking until they saw a group of kids, there were three boys and one girl.

"That is them, come one" Sasha said while running up to them while Lizzie followed behind. Once they got to the group of kids, they turned around, "they look much older" Lizzie thought to herself "hey" the older girl said "hi" Lizzie replied "do you have it?" Sasha asked "have what?" Lizzie said "You'll see" one of the guys said then another one pulled out a pack of cigarettes, he opened it and pulled one out and gave it to the kids beside him and then he gave one to Sasha, then he stuck out his hand to Lizzie.

Lizzie was shocked, she was even more shocked by the fact that Sasha actually took the cigarettes "I shouldn't, how about we go to the park instead?" Lizzie suggested "come on Lizzie, we're not going to tell" Sasha said.

Lizzie was getting mad now, she grabbed Sasha by the arm and pulled her away from the three kids and talked to her "Sasha, why are you doing this, your not even old enough and do you know how dangerous this is?"

"come on Lizzie relax, it'll be fine no one is going to tell" Sasha replied

"Fine then, I tried to stop you" Lizzie said as she walked away leaving Sasha shocked.

CATEGORY IDEAS

Mervin Kenneth Isaac

Grade 4

Alaqsitew Gitpu School

Making The Right Decision

"Hi, my name is Mervin and we are going to the haunted maze. We are currently driving there right now. Let's hope we get out the maze safely."

Once upon a time there was a family of three named Mervin, Sarah and Lily-Jo. They waited in line for the haunted maze. People say that there are two paths you can take. One is actually haunted people say. Some people go missing when they go in that path and the other path is just a normal scary path. So, the three get their tickets. Then they go in the maze.

Then they get deep and all they all they can hear is crying, screaming.

Then they get to the two paths. Most of the people went in the haunted way. But me, mom and my sister went in the normal scary path. A lot of people were laughing at us and making fun of us. But as we heard on the other side was crying, screaming and yelling.

When we got out of the maze, we were laughing our butts off and so we went out of the maze with a bag of sweets.

CATEGORY CONVENTIONS

Nina Nottoway

Grade 6

Kitigan Zibi Kiknamadinan School

Deep in the Forest

One day a girl wanted to go hiking she woke up with birds chirping. "Aria! come down for breakfast!" Her mom yelled. "Okay let me get dressed first" Aria felt lucky that morning. "Hmmmm should I wear a white top or a black one?" Aria couldn't decide what to wear. "Oh well, I choose black!"

Aria ran downstairs feeling lucky while she's screaming of joy. "Well, why are you screaming this time Aria?" Her mom said "oh, it's because there is a new hiking trail! I really want to go! can I, can I?" Aria's mom thought for a moment. "Well fine you can go but you will come back home after you're done hiking. Now, eat your pancakes!" Her mom said while smiling. Aria took her fork and started eating her food rapidly. "Okay I'm done! Bye mom!" Aria rushed through the door, leaving her shoes behind. "Oops, I almost forgot my shoes. There now I can go!" Aria ran out the door. Aria noticed that a lot of people were outside too. Later on, Aria finally made it to the walking trail. "Wait, where are all the people? I guess I'm the first one!" Aria walked into the trail where the tall trees bloom, where the brightest flowers bloom, and where the birds chirp all day long. Aria saw two paths "which way should I go? I think I'll go right! Because I'm always right!" Aria chuckled while skipping through the path.

Later on, she heard a voice. A voice that was so loud that it scared Aria. Aria ran so fast into the bush that she couldn't see where she was going. Soon she found a place to hide. "I can stay here for a while. But what was that sound?" Aria curled up in the corner of the cave and sat there for an hour. "I guess, the noise is gone. I should go home before anything bad happens to me." Aria walked out the cave. Soon she realized she ran so far, and she couldn't find her way back home.

"Oh no! I got too scared and ran so fast!" Mom! I forgot! Mom said come back when I'm done! She's going to be so worried!" Aria panicked and looked up in the sky and thought "What if I don't come back home?" Aria knew she couldn't be alone on the same spot. Again, Aria heard that strange voice again. Hours later the sun came down and Aria couldn't stay outside. "I need sticks! I can build a tent out of sticks and leaves, so I can be safe"

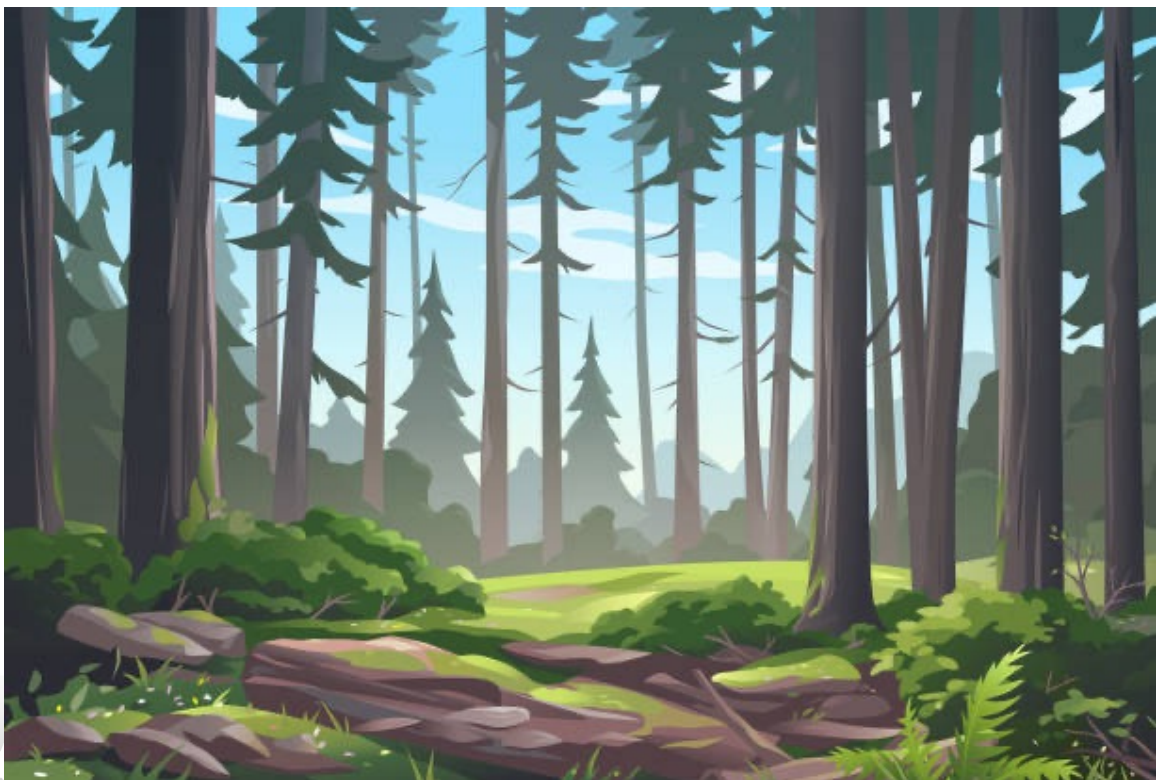
Soon, Aria gathered all the sticks and leaves and made a tent. It was getting dark and Aria finished her tent just in time "Mom will be worried about me. But I'll be okay so I can sleep here for the night" Aria fell asleep safe and sound. The next morning, she woke up with bunnies laying down with her. "Huh... Aww what are these little guys doing here?"

Aria noticed that her phone was in her pocket. "Oh! I have my phone! I can call my mom! No! I have no signal. How do I get back home?" Aria soon started to feel unsafe and upset. But she remembered she has bunnies to play with. Aria picked up a small bunny that was so cute and so soft. Minutes later the bunnies went away. And Aria stood and ran in a direction facing

her head towards the ground. Later Aria noticed she saw a tall building. "I found my town!!" Aria began to ran faster. Aria noticed her mom talking be the cops. "Sir, my daughter is missing since yesterday! Please find my daughter!" Aria's mom begged the police.

Aria ran to her mom and gave her a hug. After Aria explained everything what happened. Her mom said, "Hey why don't we get some ice cream?" Aria's mom said "Oh yes! I think I want strawberry. They got to the ice cream place and they ordered. "Hi, can I get two strawberry ice cream with cherries, sprinkles and the most special toppings with it?!" After they were done ordering their ice creams. They sat down on a bench near a park. "Mom, I'm going to tell you what happened!" After that they go home. It was getting dark. "Oh! Aria, why don't we sleep outside in the tent tonight?" Aria's mom said. "Oh, that sounds like a good idea!"

They talked for a while. They fell asleep fast.



CATEGORY ORGANIZATION

Reed Oshawee

Grade 4

Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School

I Want to be the Best I can Be

Tim asked his mom to sign him up for baseball. His mom said yes and signed him up. Tim was discouraged after his first practice because he was bad at baseball. He was walking home crying and hung head because his teammates were making fun of him and laughing at him.

On his walk home he looked up at the fence next to him and saw himself as a man. It gave him more confidence in baseball so at his first game he agreed to be the first to bat. He missed the first 2 swings then on the last he swing he hit into the outfield and got a in field homerun. Since his friends saw him get the point then they started looking at him differently and started hanging out with him more.

He got really good at playing baseball. He wanted to go pro and play in the NLB. Looking back at what he saw on that fence he is thankful because it gave him the confidence to play the sport he loves.



CATEGORY WORD CHOICE

Gracie Annabelle Pichette-Chaput

Grade 4

Amo Ososwan School

Healthy vs. Junk

One day Evelyn was sitting in her kitchen doing her homework. Evelyn is in grade 4 and is mad because there's so much home work to do. Evelyn felt like she was doing home work for 80 years.

When she was doing her work Evelyn's mom Vera came to ask if she wanted a snack break.



Vera gave her two choices. 1 choice is candy junk food and the other is healthy vegetables. Vera said to Evelyn that you only get one. Candy is Evelyn's favorite snack. She loves it so much and she hates vegetables. So it was an easy choice for her to make. Evelyn ate Airheads gummie bears gum Jaw breaker and sour gummies. Later Evelyn's tummy started to hurt so bad it feels like she will explode! Evelyn went to her mom and told her she didn't feel well and that her tummy is hard as a rock.

Vera told her that is what happens when you eat junk food. Evelyn got sick everywhere and said maybe I should eat some vegetables next time.

The end

CATEGORY WORD CHOICE

Erin McGregor

Grade 6

Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School

The Wendigo MT

By the time I got out of my vehicle, I was in the mountains. After weeks of begging my parents to let me go. It was cold with a slight breeze and thin shield of snow. I unpacked quickly to set up camp in a cleared area. The sun was setting quickly and I didn't want to be stuck outside at dark.

After setting up, I thought it'd be an amazing idea to go and explore at night with orange flashing lights I could plant. I grabbed some food. I then set of, dropping the lights carelessly.

While walking, I came upon a cave with a rather disgusting stench coming from it. Reluctantly, I walked in, despite the sounds of growling and tearing that is coming from it.

The whistling and howling of the wind got fainter the further in I went. The nervousness slowly built up in me, when I reached the end of the cave, I froze at the sight in front of me. My breathing slowly became more erratic with every passing second, its head resembled a deer of sort with tattered cloths on it. It stopped dead in its tracks, slowly turned to me, revealing what was behind it.

My breathing hitched, I turned my gaze to the disfigured body. "What in the ..." I lowly muttered, discontinuing my sentence before I said anything else. The thing lowly growled. And I ran. "nope, nope, nope and no!"

One week later " Breaking news twenty bodies were found on (mountain name) eight hours north. This case was discovered exactly one week ago. All were disfigured, only proof that they were human was their DNA "

Sweat trickled down her face, exactly one week ago she was on that mountain that day.

A tall figure loomed over the girls bed, watching her sleep with its frightening red eyes. Before slowly dissapearing into the darkness.

MT stands for mountain.

CATEGORY SENTENCE FLUENCY

Diamond Rose Knockwood-Barnaby

Grade 4

Alaqsitew Gitpu School

Which Way Does She Go?

Today is Sunday. So today I went to the woods. Until I saw two trails. One looked hot and the other looked very cold. I went in the hot side and surprisingly it was not really that hot. But I saw someone in front of me when I turned around. Turns out it was another bully she pushed me to the ground and she started walking away. But when I got up the hot wind started blowing on me. Then as soon she saw me she ran away like sonic! Then I saw another girl that went in the hot side. Her name was Emily. I knew she looked familiar as the moment I saw her. She came to me as fast as she can and said "Are you ok" and I said "Yeah I just wish I picked the cold side". She said "I wouldn't do that if I were you". We started talking until the bully came back.

And said "You will never run away from me" At first I was scared but then I realized that she wasn't going to do that. Emily stood up and said "follow me" "ok" I said we walked and walked and walked until we went in the cold side. I said "but you said if I were you I would not go in the cold side". She said "oh yeah that was a lie" But this wasn't as bad as I thought. I found a bench and slept for an hour. Then I woke up and felt cold. But then I realized that Emily was gone! I was so confused and didn't know what to do! So then I started looking for her but that was a huge mistake. When I walked back to the bench Emily was sleeping on it! I started getting really tired so I found a paper and pen in my pocket and said I was going home. So then I walked home and went back to bed.

CATEGORY TEACHER'S FAVORITES

Ayrianna Breeze Condo

Grade 4

Alaqsitew Gitpu School

Three doors magically opened to three different places. I woke up in a hotel I was really scared. Emma! Emma! Emma do you know where we are. Emma said. Lou brought us here so Lou should know " Well I don't lets go look how to get out " " okay lets go " said Emma. We found three elevators opened to three different locations. We need to pick the right one I have a idea why don't we go in together yeah come. We went in one, we fell down a hole back where we were. Lets go look for it again they switched it up I went in the wrong one again and got attacked by a belt by a gorilla. I said stop Lou don't wanna be a bully do you make the right choice. We left I seen a bunch of pretty birds I also hear them it feels nice and warm it as fruit I ate one smell trees.

Emma went in the desert Emma says her sand smell nothing taste sand feel hot AHHHH! A mummy she said. do you wanna be a bully. Make the right choice. We both went outside because it was really hot we got water because we were also really thirsty. We went to look in the forest I found a button. Emma said she found a door. I pressed the button the door opened we got out!

CATEGORY TEACHER'S FAVORITES

Zoe Dewache

Grade 6

Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School

Telephone ringing "dad get the phone, someone is calling you". Maxine shouted. There wasn't any answer, as the phone was still ringing. Her dad wasn't home that meant he was working at his new job until twelve o'clock. Maxine didn't really like to stay home alone but she didn't mind being alone. Maxine just studied while her dad was gone but the phone kept ringing every ten minutes. Maxine got tired of the phone but didn't wanna answer it so Maxine went on a walk around the neighborhood. While Maxine was walking around the neighborhood she saw something far up ahead but couldn't tell what it was. Maxine was a bit spooked but kept walking, couple minutes passed and Maxine was at the spot where she saw the thing. Maxine looked around and saw there was a long trail that looked peaceful. Maxine wanted to go walk in the trail but she was kinda scared that the thing would be in there. She had some courage to go walk in the trail alone, but it was actually very nice and peaceful walking alone. Maxine heard some birds singing half way through the trail, she thought the birds singing was lovely. Near the end of the trail the birds stopped singing and it looks more gloomy and dead instead of alive and green. Maxine realized it was a dead end then she turned around and it was another dead end. She was confused then she started panicking not knowing what to do. She started feeling warm, dizzy and woozy, her mind was spinning. Maxine got lightheaded and it got to the point where she passed out flat on the ground. Maxine woke up in some strange old house that was abandoned. She got up and opened the squeaky door *skerrr* Maxine stepped out of the room

and *BANG* Maxine froze for a sec. She walked down the stairs. She walked in the kitchen. Once she walked in the kitchen she saw it she saw the thing on the ceiling staring right at her.

Its skin and bones, you could see its spine and ribs, the eyes are red as blood, its hands are long and the nails are sharper than a blade. The thing started foaming from its mouth. Maxine tried to run but she was paralyzed in fear she wanted to run and scream but couldn't. The thing started running towards the door. She tried to open it but it didn't budge so she had to use all her force to kick it down and it worked. She may have gotten out but the thing is still chasing her the only thing to do is just run. Maxine ran her fastest but she looked back for a second and fell into a pond. Maxine got pond water up her nose when she fell in and it kinda stung. She went up for some air and when she went up she could see the thing looking for her. The thing was coming towards the pond so Maxine took a deep breath and went back down she waited for the thing to pass. Once she ran out of air she went back up she realized it was gone. She got out of the pond and started walking for a while but she heard a *crack* from a stick she turned around and saw the thing standing thirty feet away. The thing opened its mouth big and wide the thing had teeth sharp as blade. The thing latched at Maxine. Her life flash before her eyes than she woke up and realized it was a nightmare. But she looked down at her floor and saw it was wet. Unless the nightmare she has wasn't an nightmare.

CATEGORY TEACHER'S FAVORITES

Kylen Taionhio:te Nelson

Grade 6

Karonhianonhnha School

Getting Over My Biggest Fear

"Have you ever had the best experience ever?" I had 2 years ago when I had the opportunity to get over my fear. Hello my name is Avery, let me tell you a quick story about when I nearly drowned.

It began when I was at my house when I was five years old. My pool was cold, it was so cold it could give you hypothermia. The pool was closed because it was winter. I was running around the pool because my brother was running after me. I slipped on the ice, I crashed into the water, I panicked. I was so cold that a few seconds later I was numb. My brother hurried into the house to get my dad. I couldn't even move a single muscle. I saw my dad but he was blurry. He lifted me from the water, when he took me out of the pool the air felt warm even though it was winter. He brought me into the house and put me near the fireplace. I never swam ever again until I went to British Columbia.

Years later, I was getting married. My boyfriend and I decided to go to British Columbia for our wedding. It was going to be magical, we were going to have everything there. We invited all of our friends and family. Then we went to British Columbia. I was very anxious about everything about the plane ride and the wedding. My boyfriend told me to just stay calm and everything will go how it is supposed to go, so I stayed calm. The plane ride went fine and it was about six hours long. The

first glimpse of British Columbia was spectacular. My boyfriend and I went everywhere. First we went hiking in the mountains, then we went around the beautiful terrain, after that we went to our amazing cabins in the forest. It was better than I could have ever imagined.

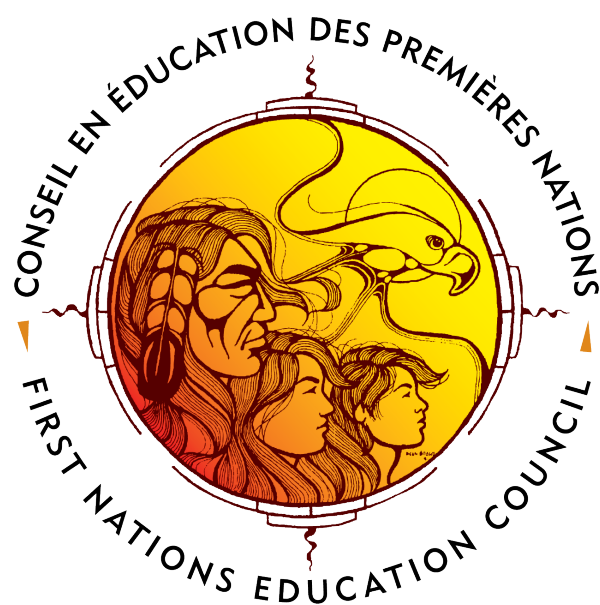
The wedding is in three days, I was getting a little nervous but I thought it was just me being happy and excited. The next day I was feeling different, now I was feeling anxious. I was not ready, but I was and I really wanted to get married. Then I got a great idea, before I do this life changing event I have to get over my biggest fear swimming! I didn't want to but I knew I needed to.

So I told my boyfriend I was going. He offered to go with me but I had to go by myself. He understands why I had to go by myself, I packed all my stuff that I needed for the trip. I found these amazing beautiful mountains near a large blue lake. I brought my canoe with me so I can see all of the mountains and nature before my swim. I sled my canoe into the water, the water was calm, there was no current and the water was nice and cold. Once I was ready I hopped in the canoe, I started rowing my canoe it was very peaceful and relaxing. I slowly dipped in the water, at first I was getting flashbacks from when I nearly drowned, I remembered to stay calm and go for it. I was fully submerged in the water, I was doing it and it felt so empowering. I felt like I could overcome anything, I swam and swam and I enjoyed every bit of it. I was free, I got back in my canoe and started rowing back to land.

I got back to my cabin in the woods and saw my boyfriend. I told him about the amazing experience I was finally ready to get married, my boyfriend was thrilled. The next day we both were ready to be married. And we did. It was an amazing day, everything went how it was supposed to. If I didn't make the amazing idea to get over my greatest fear I wouldn't have had such a great life compared to now.

And that's the story of getting over my biggest fear.





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