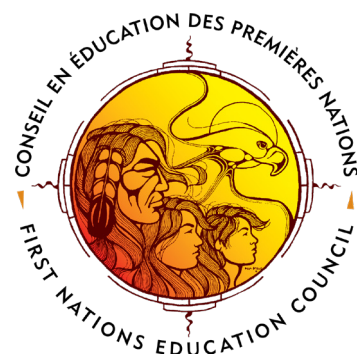


Collection of the Winning Texts
**First Nations Young Writers
Contest 2026**



June 2026





To promote young talents from member communities of the First Nations Education Council (FNEC), a literary contest was organized, which highlighted the skills of young writers in grades 4, 6, and 8 within the framework of the PLC – ELA (Professional Learning Community in English Language Arts). The idea was to let students explore their writing from different angles.

The contest was divided into 7 categories:

1. VOICE

The winner for this category gives a personal tone to their writing. It is original, clear, engaging, and it stands out. It shows passion about the topic.

2. IDEAS

This category is about finding a good angle to explore a topic, sticking to it, and adding relevant details to make the writing original and coherent.

3. CONVENTIONS

This category refers to writing following the conventions of written English: capitalization, grammar, spelling, and proper punctuation.

4. ORGANIZATION

Organization refers to a text that includes an introduction that catches the reader's attention, sequence words throughout the story, events that follow a clear intention, and a conclusion that gives us a sense of resolution.

5. WORD CHOICE

Writers who won in this category made sure to include adequate verbs, to avoid repetitive vocabulary, and to choose words that are precise and that stand out.

6. SENTENCE FLUENCY

The winners of the selected texts used various types of sentences with different lengths and different rhythm and flow.

7. TEACHERS' FAVOURITES

The selected texts for this category capture the reader's attention as the writing stood out and the writer exceeded expectations.

VOICE

Jonah Tehoronhiahnnhen Diabo (2026-04-47)

Grade 4

Rotiwennakéhte lonterihwaienhstahkhwa

under world hotdog's life

under world hotdog wakes up from a good dream he only likes bad dreames. So he says tiredly "I got to get to work". He get's up get's dressed and brushes his teeth. And goes through the over world portal. He get's through and it's a butiful day and he whispers to him self "ah man it's a nice day I hate it". He walks inside to work he's a mail man. He get's a Email from his boss king potatoe says on the Email you have a package to dilver do it now. So under world hotdog grabed the package angrely and walked outside. under world hotdog drove to the adress and deliverd the packige. Whe he gave the packige he yelled "heres your packge you big cow". Then drove back to work. When he was driving a car was coming at 307 mPh! he stompd on the breaks and avoided going to the hospital he yelled "what the heck you pig I could have died"! Then he drove back to the mail center. when he drived his boss king potatoe yelled "your fired we are the top mail delivery peapole and you messed it up"! under world hotdog was mad but didn't say anything he walked out and saw someone doing good so then he did something good. He helped 10 old peapole cross the street then they helped 10 more peapoole then those peopole helped more people.



VOICE

Payton Dedam (2026-06-115)

Grade 6
Alaqsite'w Gitpu

Hiko¹ ! get back here!!!

On his way to school, going through the familiar path in the forest he'd always take with his pet cat that likes the outdoors, her name is Hiko, he stumbles across a new unfamiliar path, Sebastian decides to just leave it, but Hiko didn't think the same



Hiko runs into the path, her black fur shining from the sun above. Sebastian stops in front of the path, "What if there's danger on the other side? Or maybe big dogs?! I really don't want to go in there... But Hiko might get hurt! So I have to go after him!" Sebastian thought, but his legs wouldn't move, his palms got sweaty, face hot, suddenly it feels like there's a ball in his throat, he gulps. "What is wrong with me? I can't even move!" He thought. "I can do this... I think." He said out loud, doubt creeping into his voice on the last part. His vision gets blurry.

¹ Hiko: He-ck-oh

He closes his eyes, taking deep breaths, he raises a trembling hand up to his scarf, he just holds it.

He gets reminded of his mother, she had given him that scarf before she passed away, now he lives with his grandmother.

"I will do this." Sebastian said, opening his eyes, his vision is clear and better now. He takes a step forward, then two, then before he knows it, he's running after Keko, "I'm doing it, I'm really doing it." He thought loudly in his head, his eyes widening, if you looked carefully, you could see happiness in his eyes. "Kiko! Get back here!" he yelled. He catches up, enough to see Kiko, but not enough to grab her.

Suddenly he hears a rustle in the forest, that made him halt to a stop, what was that?

Sebastian starts running again, but a little slower, he's debating whether to go back or keep going. He kept going, finally seeing the end, he pushes faster, Sebastian hugs Kiko, he looks up, seeing the school.

The trail was just another long, messy way to get to the school, suddenly the bell rings, he's late... "Dang it" he said, his shoulders sagging

VOICE

Ivy Iotsistohkwiio Montour (2026-08-33)

Grade 8

Kahnawake Survival School

The Story That Saved You

"Mom, can we please stay one more day?" I pleaded with my mom as my sister waited at the door. Seven O'clock on a Sunday night, that's when my week changes. As we got in my mom's car, my stomach ached with dread and fear. Those five minutes in that car were the last minutes I could be myself.

As we pulled up in his paved old driveway, my sister and I gave my mom one last hug and exited the car. As I walked up to my dad's my body just wanted to go back into the car. My sister walked first, I went after her. There he was, the same spot as every week, on the couch.

"Welcome back girls!" Dad said as he walked toward us, opening his arms for a hug that I never wanted. When I got free from his grasp I immediately went to my room for the rest of the night.

Dad always made us eat with him. He always had this image of a perfect family". Dinner always felt like an interrogation, one question after another. My sister and I never said anything to dad. He always seems to get mad at anything so we learned to keep our mouths shut.

After dinner I immediately went to my room for the rest of the night. I always pretend to fall asleep when I hear his footsteps coming down the hallway. To others he seemed like a good guy with a good job and kids, but we knew the real him, the side of my

dad only we saw. dad only liked us when we were young, little, obedient, listening to everything he told us. When morning came I got ready for school.

School would take my mind off things for the day. I found my sister in the hall. We always talked about leaving dad's house, but I was ready for today to be the day. I whisper in her ear "Let's leave tonight." "Are you sure?" my sister asked as I looked at her with determination in my eyes. When the bell rang for the next period I was thinking of all the ways we could escape his house. As the end of the day came near I was ready for anything. As the bus came closer to his house, I noticed his car was not in the driveway, which gave my sister and I major relief. As I step in the house I feel that heavy energy I always feel. "How are we doing this?" my sister asks. "Come to my room at 4:30 am, he'll for sure be asleep by then. We can go through my window, the cameras don't reach there. Once we're out we run and don't stop." "I hope this works," she says. Dad worked late tonight so I ate alone. I lay in my bed thinking of all the scenarios that could happen when suddenly I hear the front door click open. Dad's home. He got in the shower as usual. The hours passed one by one with each feeling slower than the previous one. Dad went to bed at one in the morning thinking my sister and I went to bed way earlier.

The clock finally hit four o'clock and I was ready to leave that house. The house I had to spend years taking his verbal abuse, being the punching bag for his own messed up life and childhood. Dad has always been like this ever since mom met him. I tried so many times to try and understand why he takes it out on us but I guess I never will. "click .." I heard as the door opened. "Are you ready?" my sister asked with her phone and wallet in hand. The time must have slipped away from me. "Let's go," she says. As I open my window as quietly as possible, I slide my body out the window. I get one hand on the ground to prevent myself from falling. When I am finally out I run to the side of the house that the camera cannot see. My sister slides out right after me making sure to close the window behind her. We run up the street and go where the wind takes us. We are free.

IDEAS

Brant Montour (2026-04-25)

Grade 4
Kateri

The secret helper



One day mark saw that Oliver was sad The bell rings And Everyone goes play ball except for Oliver and mark notices that Oliver is still sad and left out so before Oliver gets to his favorite Bush mark hides cookies inside of Oliver's favorite bush Oliver finds a note next to the cookies The note says hey I saw that you were left out so I hided cookies in your favorite spot from ? So Oliver asks a teacher if he can eat the cookies The teacher says where did you find these cookies Oliver says in the bush Oliver says but wait there is also a note A teacher takes a note and reads it the teacher

says that's nice and says yeah he can eat them all

Oliver looks around and then eats the cookies cookies are Oliver's favorite snack Oliver feels happy that someone can help him not be sad The cookies made Oliver happy and energetic for the rest of the day The Bell Rang It was lunch time now at lunch mark sits with Oliver The are talking about how their day is going after lunch they go to gym and Oliver plays ball with everyone else After gym they go back to class and do a test After the test mark hands Oliver a note the note says hey Oliver were the cookies good?

Oliver said good why mark says oh good The bell rings and is the end of the day now. mark and Oliver are getting ready and Oliver finds a note in his bagThat says Oliver It was me the whole entire time Oliver gives mark a hug and says thank you for helping me go through my day mark feels happy and tells Oliver no problem.

IDEAS

Liam Mikonini-Badger (2026-06-94)

Grade 6
Kitigan Zibi

Something they wouldn't forget

Josh had just got back from fishing. His family enjoyed fresh fish so he thought they would appreciate some. "Josh!" Jake said loudly. Jake ran towards his younger sibling as he tried to give him a hug. Josh looked exhausted. "We should get the fish inside!", Jake exclaimed. "Trout are my favourite to eat. They are the most populated kind in our area."

As they brought the catch of the day inside, Jake saw someone. "dad?" He asked but no one made a noise so he thought in his mind: "was it a daydream, an hallucination maybe an animal?" "Josh?" Jake said, confused, "what's taking so long?" "Nothing!" Josh said loudly. Lets get some fish cooking, alright?

A day later, as Josh woke up he wondered how he would start the day : hunt, fish, maybe pick berries. He slowly got ready. He was too tired and needed rest. Jake knocked on the door to give him breakfast. Josh asked why did you get me it in bed? "cause mom said so", Jake sighed with a bored look as a noise jolted both of them up. They quickly looked at an old man and said "I have a job for you," and they rushed down stairs. "I need you to make my hut clean again"

The old man said with a smug look . Both Josh and Jake said "ok!" They ran where the man ran with a happy look as they made it closer to the hut. old man said take a look. Ahhh! the old man pushed them "names terry". They kept falling and falling until thus they slowly made





their way through the heavy weight on them.

Finally light shot through their hands as they dug a world with colors such as purple blue and red ran streaks in the sky. "wow" Jake said it's so colorful the sky has so much color it looks like someone painting strokes of reds, blues and even purple.

Josh looked at Jake and said "what is this?" Jake answered back "I don't know". Slowly they made their way towards a castle but not a dark castle. It had the rainbow printed on it as they made it closer Jake spotted a chest but on it lies an engraving of a compass.

Jake opened it and there laid a wooden compass and a painted one at the back "uh what do we pick?" Jake said with a confused expression. Josh suggested the choice of the wooden one and so they picked the wooden one it pointed the opposite way of the castle. Weird ... Maybe it's telling us something. As they made it to the castle, a large darkness filled the colored world as they looked back. It was a storm coming quicker than they could sprint. They ran inside as the walls crumbled. Josh looked surprisingly excited. "Follow me!" said Josh. Two bikes by the back exit they used them and the storm followed quickly they found where the compass was pointing.

It was a ladder from the sky. They slowly climbed it but someone was at the top. It was their mom. "Josh Jake?" said their mom, looking down the hole. "MOM!" mom was pushed down by Terry. After Terry vanished without a trace. The two brothers were faced with the choice to help their mom or go up the ladder without her. Jake already knew it was too late as he went up, but Josh looked down and sadly, he knew it as well. The pair made it home and they ate the last bit of fish. That day, Jake and Josh lost a piece of themselves that taught them that behind every survival story; there is also guilt, pain and loss. But behind that, it is a new beginning.



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IDEAS

Katy Kudjick (2026-08-96)

Grade 8
Amo Ososwan

escaping the "server" - part 1

After the escape from that facility where Andre, Assimilation, collin, and clonlin came from, they were hiding, running, and surviving in the wildlife for months now. They had to move to a new places because the Admins always seemed to find them everytime. During their travels, they met three people Moe, Regect, and Ze. collin and Ze weren't exactly the types to trust easily, so they were suspicious of each other while their group aren't. Ze was wary with clonlin, and Assimilation because he already has to deal with an entity, who is Regect. "collin. Are you alright?" Assimilation asked, making collin snap out of his deep thinking and he replies, "I'm fine." "collin, you look tired" Assimilation points out. collin groans, "I'm always tired, Assim" he said, Assimilation sighs. Meanwhile, Regect, Ze and Andre had went out to try and scavege some supplies. There was an awkward silence between them all, the air felt tense that you can just cut it with a knife. Regect shifts uncomfortably, and he clears his throat or well, if he has one, "so.. Andre, was it? What exactly are you and the others running from?" he asked. Andre stays silent for a moment before replying with two words: "the Admins". Ze raised an eyebrow, suspicious, "tch, these "Admin" people sounds like some crazy freaks trying to play god or whatever." Ze said, with a hint of humor. Andre nods, confirming what Ze said. Andre's headphones starts to glow





a red a faint red instead of its usual cyan glow, and Regect notices this, "hey, your headphone's glowing red instead of cyan, tin can." Regect paints out. Ze stops walking and approaches Andre, "let me see if those are malfunctioning again." Ze takes the headphones and exclaims it, he finds a small device attached to it. Ze takes the device off and recognizes it as a tracking device, those "Admin" people must've put this on Andre, Ze thought as he threw it on the ground, shattering it. Back at the cave they're using as a base, collin was getting a little frustrated but worried the scavenger group. "Wh3n w1ll th3y B3 b4ck?" clonlin asked, their voice disorted but understandable. Moe shrugs, honking her clownhorn "konk konk" Moe honks her clownhorn worriedly, glacing at the enterance of the cave. Suddenly, collin's communicator had a voice come out through the static, "hello? Is this think working?" the voice asked. collin picks up the communicator and replies, "yeah, I hear you. Who's " the voice cuts collin off before he can even finish, "It's Ze." "oh, did you guys find any supplies?" "no, but we found out Andre had a tracking device. got rid of it. And we also found something that might be the way out of here" Ze said. Assimilation perks up and the mention of a possible exit, "Where are you guys now?" Assimilation asked, Ze gives their exact location. Assimilation, collin, clonlin, and Moe pack up and leaves the cave, heading where Ze said they were. After walking for what felt like hours, the group finally sees the scavenger group. Andre sees them and quickly signals them to be quiet, collin nods and tries to be quietier. Once they're all together again, they can see people armed with weapons, guarding a portal. clonlin whispers to collin, "Is th4t Th3 3xit?" collin nods, Regect chimes in, "what's the plan? cause a distraction? " "yep, and you're the bait." Ze said. Regect's non-existing eye widens, "what?? Why me??" Regect asked, Assimilation chuckles quietly, "because you're the one with missing limbs, Regect" "Shut up, One eye!" After a bit of quiet arguing between Ze and Regect, Regect finally agrees, "I swear you two are like an old married couple.." collin mutters, the plan starts, they knew it was risky but they all desprately wanted to leave.

to be continued..?

CONVENTIONS

Hendrix Polson (2026-04-92)

Grade 4
Amo Ososwan

The man

On Wednesday in the school gym, there was a man named "The man". Jeff bullies The man and Lindsey tells Jeff to stop. They ask the principal for help. The principal looks around and he sees a little boy sad because someone was bullying him. The bully got suspended and The man feels safe. All the students learn to be kind to everyone.



CONVENTIONS

Slater Ronwanién:te Deer (2026-06-9)

Grade 6
Karonhianonhna

The Path of courage

Let me introduce you to Bob, a 13 year old kid who can be cowardly yet determined. One morning he woke up to a ped day. No school!! Bob asked his mother, "can you make me Bacon and eggs please"? "Of course! It'll take maybe 5-10 minutes to make." She then digs for pieces of bacon and two eggs. "What do you plan to do on your day off?" His mother asked. "I'm probably going to go for a walk today." Bob replied. One tasty breakfast later. "going for a walk mom! Might be back at 1:00 pm." said Bob. "Stay safe!" His mother told him. He eventually went through a peaceful trail with the sun shining and birds chirping, it was a wonderful day. He was founding the end of the trail but something new was there. Another path, he could just go the normal way and go home, or he could take this path, but he was scared and hesitant to do so. After thinking for quite a while, he chose the new path. The birds stopped chirping, and it started getting dark.



He mutters, "Nope I'm going the other way." And somehow, going back wasn't an option anymore. "Great. Just great, now I have to go through the entire thing." He said. Everything was more eerie and scary. A little bit later, he encounters



two monsters who might have bad intentions. "Well well well, who do we have here?" One of the monsters said. "Who... are you?" Bob stuttered. "That doesn't matter, what does matter is we're going to beat you." Another monster threatened. Bob saw a rusted out sword, he could fight back. But only someone with a heart of courage would do that. When he barely dodged a punch from a monster, he runs for the rusted out sword, caught it, and fights back. 1 hour later, Both Bob and the monsters were exhausted. "You're pretty strong for a kid." The two monsters said. Bob is panting, "Thanks..." "come with us, we know the exit out of here." one monster said. "cool." said Bob. They walked for a bit long. The further they went, the brighter it got. The chirping from the birds came back. The trees turned back into green instead of black. The monsters lead him to a door, inside was a laboratory....? Then came a scientist? "congratulations!! You passed the test!!" said the scientist. "What test?" said Bob. "We made a test, or experiment if you will, to measure the amount of courage in the average human." said the scientist. "Okay...?" said Bob, unsure. "In fact, we faked the monsters, take it off boys." The monsters take their heads off, it was his friends from school, Frank and Pete. "You can head home now." said the scientist "Alright" said Bob "Just go down the hall to the right for the exit." said the scientist. After going through Times Square, he made it home and was greeted with his mother's prescence. "Where have you been?" she said. "It's a long story." said Bob. 1 hour later... "Then a scientist said something about a courage test." said Bob. "You look tired, go get some rest." his mother said. After a long day, he finally got in bed and drifted to sleep. The end.



CONVENTIONS

Ruby Ienerahtiio'a Rice (2026-08-17)

Grade 8
Kahnawake Survival School

"Cool, I'm Malachi." They started to talk about school and work they had to catch up on. Even though they were mid conversation, the only thing on his mind was the missing posters. "Hey, uh whats up with all the missing people here?" Brad's face turned pale and his tone lowered. "You know that bridge you cross to get into town? People have been going missing in the water below. If you ask me, it's a pretty tight place to surf, that is if you're lucky." Brad took a bite of his apple. "Nobody knows why or what's doing it. The police keep saying that it's just rip currents and people that don't know how to swim. But 32 cases can't just be rip currents" Brad said with a curious smirk. "Wanna go check it out after school?" Brad questioned. Malachi worried for a second then thought: Mom's already mad at me and if something were to happen, at least I would get out of this stupid town.

"Let's do it."

The walk to the beach was about 20 minutes, with the hot sun it felt like an eternity. Once the two boys arrived at the beach they were hesitant to get in the water. There were about 10 people max, almost deserted. The water felt so refreshing after the long walk. Malachi and Brad began to swim farther and farther from shore. "Ohhhh! I think I feel something on my foot!!!" said Brad in a sarcastic tone. The sun felt good on Malachi's face, it reminded him of home. He

closed his eyes and thought of his old friends. He dreaded reopening them, because it would all come to an end. But when he did, Brad was gone.

"Haha, very funny. Seriously dude come on!" He started to frantically search for his friend, but no luck. Malachi started to panic, his heart beating a million times per second.

"HELP, SOMEBODY HELP ME." Now, a thick fog rolled in, covering the top of the water. Making the beach grow darker and darker.

Suddenly, a firm grasp wrapped around his ankle and started to drag him under. With his lungs filling up with water, he thought: If only I had stayed.

ORGANIZATION

Mason Reriahshio Simon (2026-04-52)

Grade 4

Rotiwennakéhte lonterihwaienhstahkhwa

The Kindness chain

One day when Joe and his freinds John and dave were walking to class they herd their classmates talking about a class project. When they got to class thier teacher talked about the class project, it was called the kindness chain whenever you did something kind you would get a small piece of paper and add a link to the chain. And by lunch time it was more than 10 feet long! And almost everybody in Joe's class had put a link on the chain exept Jimothy the class bully this bully is not your regular bully this bully is violent and I I mean relly violent he made a grade 6 cry and the grade 6 was sent home. So back to the kindness chain. It's lunch right now and while I was eating my sandwich Jimothy came up to me and said "what's in your sandwich". I replied "ham and turkey" Jimothy grabed my sandwich and smashed it on the ground! I yelled "What was that for!" me and Jimothy were sent to the pricipal's Office there we hat to miss recess to have a talk about kindness after that me and Jimothy never talked to each other again the end!



ORGANIZATION

Rhys Deer-Delisle (2026-06-33)

Grade 6

Kateri

Storm of Decision's

Cole sighed as he walked through the door. It had been a long day for him. He had a math and science exam. He also had to do a lot of running in gym.

He was a 15 year old boy with long curly hair and a passion for hockey. He was strong and tall, standing at 6ft tall, second best on his hockey team.

He always dreamed of becoming a famous NFL player, so he trained hard. But aside from that not much was happening in his life.

He walked into his room and threw his bag aside. He wanted to rest for tomorrow so, he got in his bed to take a nap.

He closed his eyes and then "Bang!" Cole jolted awake. It was thundering outside. He could hear the sound of raindrops thudding onto the roof of his house.

Then he heard it, a freight train. But the thing was there was no train tracks near his house and Cole knew that.

He knew that something horrible was coming. A Tornado! Luckily he fell asleep with his shoes on.

He had no time to get his parents and, he ran out the door. He ran up to the treeline, which was about 400 feet away from his house. He turned back and watched his house get torn apart.

Suddenly it changed directions and headed straight for him. He had to make a choice, either run along the treeline or run into the woods. If he ran along the treeline he may not be fast enough but if he ran into the woods the trees may slow



him down.

He ran into the forest as fast as he could. He kept running until he was out of breath. He saw a tree that looked climbable so he climbed it. He peeped his head out of the tree and saw a seemingly endless valley of trees.

He saw trees far ahead of him shaking. The shaking slowly moved towards Cole. He got down from the tree and headed for one of the mountains that surrounded the trees.

After a while he made it to the mountain. There was a cave at the bottom. He walked a little up the mountain to check his surroundings. He saw the shaking coming straight for him.

Then he heard his mother's voice calling for him. He knew that there was no way that his mother would've been in that cave but he had to make a decision, either go into the cave or let the shaking catch up to him.

He ran down from mountain and in front of the cave where his mother's voice was. He took 2 steps then turned back. The shaking was right in front of him.

Two arms emerged from the tree. They looked like his mothers. Each one was the size of a school bus. They swung at him and he dodged. He ran into the cave but it was a dead end. One of the hands grabbed him and shook him.

"Coal! coal!" his mother shouted as she shook him awake. "You're gonna be late for school!"

ORGANIZATION

Dante Montour (2026-08-48)

Grade 8
Kahnawake Survival School

The Story That Saved You

I awoke, and pain shot through every inch of my soul. The pain from when those thugs attacked me still shocked my body. Soon, my bloody nose stopped, and all I smelt was a horrid stench "Oh it smells like crap!" I grunted out. Slowly, I rose back onto my mud covered feet and off of the somehow dry piece of land. "Where am i...?" I wondered, looking around, when suddenly two huge beams of light shined through the darkened area. "Hello?" I called out, "Is anybody there!?". Then, I heard the engine. Scared, I ran the other way and tripped. And just as the truck was about to hit me, it stopped. "OH MY GOSH, ARE YOU OKAY!?" I looked up to see a 14 year old boy climb out of the back seat and rush to me, aiding me back up. "Yea, I'm fine!..nothings " Then I threw up, and fainted into the vomit face first. When I woke up, I was strapped into the passenger seat. The boy, who was behind me, spoke up.

"Hey, you're awake! Heh, where's my manners? Hi, my name is Sam! You are?" I scratched my head slowly, trying to remember. "Elias, my name is Elias". Then, I finally saw the woman in the driver's seat. She was about 19 with hazel eyes, long brown hair and a light skin colour. Sam had black hair and blue eyes with a pale beige skin colour.

"Whose.....that?" Sam perked up, excited.

"That's my big sister, cindy! She's the one who lifted you in!"

cindy glared with stern, serious eyes "...hi. So, you finally woke up 'eh? Took ya long enough.."

What did she mean about that? Just as I was about to speak up, I heard a loud boom.

cindy snarled. "Dangit!" I looked around, and the tired had been popped from sharp rocks scattered all around. We were right there, we almost got out of the swamp. I'm surprised the truck went anywhere with all that thick mud around us. "Well, guess we gotta walk there now!" Sam chimed in, but cindy silenced him. Further ahead was an abandoned town, so we decided to head there. As we were heading, I chatted with cindy a bit.

"So... where am I?"

She chuckled, clutching her chest. "You don't know!? You're in the overworld!"

"What.. what was the overworld?"

"Do you need a refresher? Alrighty, here I go.. The overworld is what we live on. currently there are many empires and tribes. Like the Scar Tribe and Lord Kaiser's empire."

I stopped..."who was this Kaiser guy? "Who's Lord Kaiser?" "

cindy spat out the water she was drinking, shocked. "You don't know Lord Kaiser?! he's the strongest warlord here! he took over 5 other empires with ease! And WE are gonna kill him!"

I was shocked.. They expected a 19 year old, a 16 year old and a 14 year old to kill an experienced war lord by themselves.

"ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! YOU EXPECT US TO KILL SOME SUPER POWERFUL SOLDIER WITH EASE!?" I yelled loudly. why did she think we could do that?

"Okay chill...Anyways, we're here at the village. Loot without making a sound".

Reluctantly, I followed her command and snuck in. We were only able to loot 3 houses before Sam knocked over a creature and woke up..Zombies..

Tons and tons of zombies flooded out into the streets and rushed at us. We had barely any time to react, but I grabbed a big sturdy rock and threw it. The rock plunged into one of the zombies' skulls and smashed their head into bits. "bang, good throw kid!" cindy called out. Sam peeked out with a button. As he pressed it, a loud boom was heard as a huge explosion cleared all of the zombies out in a boom. guts, arms, and ash fell around us. "Where'd you find that!?" I yelled. Sam shrugged and walked closer. Soon, we regrouped and headed back to our car with gas when we spotted a lonely girl. "do you guys have any food..?" She hoarsed out, bruised and scarred. Feeling sympathetic, I gave her my loaf of bread. She hugged me and cried into my shoulder "Thank you!.. M my name is Lily. Thank you so much, but how will I repay you?! I'll give you anything gold, weapons, I can even help you in your adventure!" We all looked at each other and grinned. Later we left with swords, armour, and a map of the overworld. "Bye Lily! Take care!". cindy fueled the car up and Sam and I taped and pumped the wheels back to good shape. Soon, we were heading to Lord Kaiser's



kingdom. But.. A flood happened. We almost drowned but Lily, who followed us, dragged us to safety. I hugged her back, crying softly. She took us into her home not far away. It was right at the outskirts of Kaiser's kingdom and she aided us back to health. Soon, we were back on our way! When we arrived, guards stopped us and raised their swords "halt! State your purpose!"

Scared, I muttered we were heading to give Lord Kaiser a present and those morons let us in. "ALRIGHTY then! come in!" and we rushed our way in. Soon we reached a long hallway where guards halted us again. They did not recognize us, so they attacked. We managed to kill a few, but then we noticed they had a cage full of centaurs. About a pack. And they rushed fast when released.

"MOVE! NOW!" But Sam was too slow. He tripped halfway and they trampled over his legs, breaking them in the process. He was screaming and crying, so we rushed him away with us. After hiding him, we managed to fight them off, killing the last centaur with a slash to its throat, then we entered his throne room. Lord Kaiser stood up, eyes glowing a faint green. He wore a big, long, camo colored royal coat and had scars all over his exposed chest. He also had long camo pants on and had a helmet on. "So.. You got here fast.." His voice was dark and cold as he grabbed his long sword. "heheh...come face me, little runt...This is your final day alive.." I ran ahead, ignoring cindy's desperate calls, and swung. He blocked my axe and slashed hard. I was sent into a brick wall and hit it even harder than I thought I did. "So..Even your weapons are weak...how easy this should be.." Soon, I swung and cut deep into his shoulder but he barely flinched, then kicked me hard and broke my axe. I sprung up fast with my adrenaline keeping me active. So, I lunged into battle. I punched him hard, ducked and dodged it all with hope. Soon, I caught his blade and sent it deep into his throat. "So whose final day is it now, Kaiser? Finally he bled out and I returned to aid cindy lift Sam.

Soon, peace came fast, and it showed. Tribes returned to their original homelands, nature got brighter, and those imprisoned were reformed into greater people. Slowly I closed the book and looked at all the kids around me. "And that is how peace came back to the overworld.." Many had questions, like "how'd you do it?", "can you teach me?". I chuckled and stood up. "Maybe tomorrow. go quick, food's ready", and slowly I followed them back to our own tribe's long house and ate in the peace this land had greatly forgotten.

WORD CHOICE

Shayley Delaronde (2026-04-33)

Grade 4
Kateri

A kindness chain

Ecelipes was a teen and she was practicing her skills. She suddenly got pushed. She didn't think of it too much. She swang from bars to bars until she lost balance and fell. She got scared because she thought people were laughing at her. She stood up ashamed and embarrassed "look it's the spy! HAH-" Tom gets interrupted "Please stop that's not cool!" Ecelipes says "u-uhm- h-huh" Tom stumbles over his words "wait w-what you wanna go you little sp-" She interrupts him again "No no I don't. I wanna make the school a better place!" she said. next day Tom walks in and he gets shocked. colorful links to a giant chain "oh my - what is this" Ecelipes replies "it's a kindness chain every time your kind you add a link! hehe ~!" She says with joy.



WORD CHOICE

Desirae Horne (2026-06-36)

Grade 6
Kateri

cyn walked down the trail. Their hand's held together caustiously as they walked. scanning the area. Something nagged at them. "Something feel's... wrong" Thet thought as they gulped nervously. All they needed to do was get home and taking this path felt like a mistake. They then spotted an offtrail opening illuminated by the sun. weed's and thorn branches covering it. They felt something inside them yearn to go in there. Their mind didnt agree, but the feeling was so strong they couldn't help but walk the path. They pushed thru the weeds and branches. slowly before finding them selve in a big, beautiful garden. A field of plants, flowers and diffrent animals. It was bright, colourful. An amazing work of nature.

cyn was surprised by it's beauty. They walked thru the grass, looking at everything in their path. Touching the flower's, feeling the plants and the warm air around them. They sat in the garden admiring the scenery and watching the animal's go by. They almost didnt want to move. They stopped rill dawn. guilt gnawed at them the whole time. They eventually buit the courage to leave. It was bad for them to stay, constantly being lazy was a bad thing yet the pushed thru. Getting out was hard but they made it out and went home.



WORD CHOICE

Nikki Meunier (2026-08-69)

Grade 8
Kitigan Zibi

10,000 BCE

I woke up choking on cold, dry air. It burned my lungs as I gasped, my hands digging into sharp shards of ice instead of my bedsheets. My heart pounded as I pushed myself up, my fingers already going numb from the frosty air that bit at my fingers. This wasn't my room. The wind howled around me, sharp and endless, carrying flakes of snow that stung my face like needles. I forced myself to stand, my legs protesting against the movement as my moccasins sunk slightly into the cruncy snow beneath my feet. My stomach twisted. No houses, no roads, nothing. "What the hell..." my voice barely carried over the storm. I took a step forward and nearly slipped.

The ice beneath me groaned softly, like something alive shifting beneath it. That's when I noticed the footprints. Huge. Each one pressed deep into the snow, wider than my chest. I stared at them for a minute too long before another sound. rolled through the frozen air a low rumble so deep I felt it in my ribs. The ground shook again. closer this time. Every muscle in my body locked up. Slowly something massive emerged through the curtain of snow ahead of me. Thick fur covered it's body in patches of frost, and two enormous tusks curved out from it's face like



sharpened spears. Hot air burst through it's trunk in thick clouds as it's dark eyes fixed directly on me. A wooly mammoth. An actual mammoth. I couldn't stop staring. The mammoth let out a deafening roar so loud it made my ears ring, snapping me out of whatever frozen state I was in. I turned so squickly my head spun, then I started sprinting. Snow exploded beneath my feet as I forced my legs forward, slipping constantly on the ice. Freezing air clawed at my lungs every time I breathed in. Behind me the mammoth's footsteps slammed against the ground like thunder. closen then closer. I risked looking back. Huge mistake. It was charging straight at me, it's tusks tearing through the snow while the ground shook violently beneath every step.

My moccasin caught on something buried under the snow and I hit the ground hard. Pain shot through my shoulder as icy air rushed from my lungs. Panic exploded in my chest as I scrambled backward, my hands slipping uselessly against the ice. Then voices cut through the storm. Low, rough voices shouting to eachother in a language I couldn't understand. Shapes appeared through the snow ahead of me. People rushed out from between towering rocks, gripping long wooden spears tipped with jagged stone. Thick animal furs hung from their shoulders, and dark ash streaked across their faces as snow whipped around them. One of them raised a flaming torch...

SENTENCE INFLUENCY

Riley Diabo (2026-04-35)

Grade 4

Kateri

The helpers

Two girls were in class when the bell rang "oh yay it's time for lunch!" Riley said cheerfully, Emma looked at her and sighed and said "your that hungry?". The two girls seen a girl all alone. Then Emma said "we should do something kind like bake her cookies" Riley agreed and the two of them ran to the kitchen. After they made the cookies they left to find the girl, after some time they found the girl in the cafeteria. Riley walked up to the girl and asked what her name was, the girl replied and said "My name is Ella, why do you ask?" The two girls sat down beside her and said "well we would like to be friend with you!" Emma said excitedly. Ella nodded and said ok, but the girls said "do not tell anyone we gave this to you" as Riley handed Ella the cookies and Ella said "thank you so much!" and then Ella hugged the two of them really tight. Riley smiled and hugged Ella back and chuckled then Ella said "you guys will be my best best friends forever!" yelled Ella. Emma and Ella started laughing and said "you bet you, we will be you best best friends forever and ever!". After years the girls are still best friends.



SENTENCE INFLUENCY

Iakorihwahá:kon Phillips (2026-06-55))

Grade 6

Kateri

The path that I could only see.

Long ago back in the Appalachian mountains, lived a 13 year old boy whose name was Jorden. Jorden had some friends that he hung out with a lot, there was Smith, Mia, Angelica, and Millia. They all about the same age other than Jorden who was 12 while the rest of his friends were 14-15, all though Jorden didn't care. One night Jorden's mother Alice and his father Simon, had a heated argument. "Why tonight?" Jorden whispered to himself. Jorden's parents had been arguing because Simon had been sneaking out to go party with some of his friends, and Alice did not like it. Jorden was against his door listening to every this visibly annoyed by the fighting. "What if I just leave? It's not like they'd catch me now." He said. Jorden walked up to his window, slid it open then left. He sprinted to the forest but stopped right before he entered. "I can't but, my parents will catch me if I don't..." He hesitated but then ran in, he ran far until he couldn't see his house lights. Jorden glanced back and that's when



it hit him, he was alone in THE Appalachian mountains. "Oh my gosh..." Jorden knew the rumors about this place, it being known for huntings and the mountains were older than Saturn's rings. he looked in front of him there lied a path he'd never seen before. Jorden wanted to go down the path but he was conflicted. "Should I go down the path or no?" Jorden asked himself, "I can't! I won't be able to find my home." he thought, so he turned around and walked back. When he arrived, he saw his friends and parents running up to him as if he was a pot of gold. "There you are!" his mother yelled, Simon spoke, "So, you ran into the forest huh?" "Forest!? No way! What'd you see, you see ghost? Hear sounds? Do tell!" Mia asked excitedly. "Calm down Mia, even if he did he probably wouldn't want to talk about it." said Smith. "No I didn't see anything, but I did find a strange path." replied Jorden, "Show us tomorrow!" Millia squealed. The next day Jorden brought his friends to the trail and it wasn't there. "Huh? But it was right here!" Jorden yelled. "I knew he was lying." claimed Angelica. That same night Jorden went back to the path and there it was. "So I can only see it..." Jorden hesitated, but walked down the path. The path lit up as Jorden walked making a beautiful scenery. The End.

SENTENCE INFLUENCY

Ashtyn David (2026-08-40)

Grade 8
Kahnawake Survival School

The Magic Man

As Easton woke up, his head was hurting. He looked around only to realize that he's in a forest looking at a mountain. He looked in his pockets and found a piece of a map. The map is all torn up, and he starts freaking out. He is freaking out because all he has is a torn-up map and limited food.



Easton looked around in desperation. It's getting hard to see because the sun is going down faster than expected. He eats some food because all this searching is making him hungry. As he bit into his food, a huge mosquito landed on his neck, and he dropped the sandwich. He gets super mad and takes a break.

After his break and when he's calm, he tries to look for the rest of the map. He found it piece by piece. Just as he found the whole map, he remembered he didn't have much food because a mosquito had bitten him. Just as he put the map up to the sky to read it, it disappeared.

All of his anger made the map disappear. That makes him even angrier.



He remembers something his favorite coach told him. "There's no reason to be mad and think about bad things when you can be happy and think about the good things." He takes that into consideration and starts to think about lacrosse. Lacrosse is the only thing that makes him happy.

As he thinks about the good stuff, the paper magically appears. He starts to get happy, and more of it comes back. He started jumping with joy. He started to leave the area to think about how he even got there. His memory slowly comes back. He remembered he was with his friends, Eloise, Sienna, and Jackson. When he got back home, all his friends were there. Everyone jumped up and ran to hug him, but before they could hug him, he said out loud, "Wait!"

Everyone stopped. Easton asked, "How did I even get there?" as he started to shake. Eloise, Sienna, and Jackson froze and looked at each other. Easton's memory came back, and he remembered he was with Eloise, Sienna, and Jackson. They went on a camping trip to the mountains. Jackson was the first to speak. He said, "You slipped on a rock and fell. We didn't know what to do, so we came back to tell your parents." Easton said, "So what's why my head hurts?"

"Yes," Jackson said. Easton starts to get mad, but remembers what coach Fawn said to him. Easton keeps his cool and forgives them. Everyone gave a big group hug and went home. Easton went to the hospital, and he was in the hospital for a week, then he was all fine.

TEACHER'S FAVORITES

Ryder Lahache (2026-04-13)

Grade 4
Kateri

The kindness chain

Everyone bursts in from the doors as the recess bell rang. Everybody goes back to their classrooms teachers walking back as well. But one girl stays behind then starts to walk very slowly. I thought mabey she just wants to go nice and slow or she might just be shy "Yeah probly just shy," I said. Then I got back to. my class. Then miss. Milley anonced, "Ok class it's now math." "Math is one of my ok classes." After a little while the bell rang. "Yay lunch," I said. I went to the cafitera and the sad girl from before was crying on the floor. I asked her, "whats wrong". She said, "nothing I'm fine". I said, "you don't look fine". I asked for her name. She said, "I'm Mia." Thanks mine is Ryder. As I finished my best friend ahwentsi:io asked if I need help. I said, "yes thanks". So me and Ahwentsi:io walked mia outside to our secret hide out. Ahwentsi:io asked mia, "what's wrong." Mia said, everyone is bulling me for being new to this school. That's ok everyone is new somewhere and probly gets bullied to. Then the bell rang. "We go to go", said Ahwentsi:io. But when we turned back she was gone!. So we went back inside and went upstairs. I saw Mia when I got upstairs Ahwentsi:io had to leave but Mia was crying in the hallway. I went up to her and asked what happend now mia are you okay. "No",mia said everyone is still buliing me. "It's ok sometimes you have to ingore them", I said. "come on let's go tell miss Milley." "Ok," said mia. After we told miss Milley she took care of it. So our school has a school project called the kindness chain and me and Ahwentsi:io filled it up for helping mia from getting bullied.

Then me/Ryder, Ahwentsi:io and mia become bestest of best friend and me and Ahwentsi:io started a chain all around the school to be kind. We were really proud of our work. The end.

TEACHER'S FAVORITES

Miziwe Cote (2026-06-88)

Grade 6
Kitigan Zibi

colorless

One peaceful dark fall morning, Sherry's mom yells from the downstairs kitchen "hurry up, you don't wanna be late!" "Okay" shouted Sherry while curling her long dark brown hair with the light pink curler. She finishes and blows out her vanilla candle then throws on a light brown hoodie to match her eyes, dark wash blue jeans and her favorite shoes. "coming" as she says as she slips down her long stairwell. "I packed your lunch just the way you prefer it." "Thanks!" says Sherry as she runs down the block to make it on time.



She meets up with her best friend, Olivia and they walk down the long halls side by side. "You're late again girls, that's it I'm giving you's after school detention" argued Miss Jane while holding an apple. The time came and they sat in the quiet room. "You're free to go girls" announced Miss Jane. "My mom is gonna be furious" said Sherry. "Is that a storm?" answered Olivia, "could be" said Sherry. The weather matched the attitude a gloomy bright blue sky with fog in the air. Suddenly a storm kicks in with changing skies, everything turned grey and the sky wouldn't settle. Her heart raced against her chest and the next thing she knew Olivia had vanished.

The superstorm settled down and the weather was crystal clear now. She looked around but all she saw was grey and an unfamiliar place with absolutely no sign of colour. The trees, grass, plants and dirt were all colourless except Sherry. Sherry had colour in this colourless world. She was puzzled so decided to go for a



walk. She stumbled on a small village and she was very thrilled at the sighting so she went over to check it out. The more she walked the more she discovered. She finally arrived and caught the village peoples attention. "Look, its colour" they screamed. Sherry felt the excitement turn into fear as she realised she was trapped into a colourless world, except she was the only one with colour. She felt devastated and alone and knew there is no way back so she went out on a path of courage to find someone like her.

It was a long day in the grey hot sun and Sherry felt the need to give up. She was starving and dehydrated and knew to herself she would have to give up. Her tired eyes caught a glimpse of green and she didn't think anything of it at first because she thought it was just a plant. She then realised her eyes and jumped in excitement. She hurried over but suddenly stopped. She was nervous on what happened last time and knew it would take courage and bravery. She hated being alone but there she stood, Sherry thought how much she needed this. Sherry had always thought brave people had no fear but she was wrong. She sucked it up and went. Heart pounding every step against her chest until she finally made it at the so called "green" thing. She was heartbroken and discouraged because it was just a plain old grey dirt pile. She wondered in despair why her tired dizzy mind played this horrible trick on her. She fell on the grey grounds with her heart slowing down coming to a stop, while her colour faded away turning to lighter colours. She never thought being late to one school day would end up to this. She layed there until she heard a sudden voice yelling "I found her" Sherry uses the little energy she has left to lift her head, she saw "the grey people". She was so desperate she asked them for help and they answered "yes, but only if you drink this" Sherry was shocked at the sight, it looked like water. She snatched the bottle and chugged it without knowing what it was. Only once she finished she realised it would make anything she touches turn to colour. She looked at the ground and it was vibrant beautiful green. She then went around touching everything. The people thanked her and in return they made a storm happen, the same one as last time and the world switched back to her home town with beautiful eye-catching bright colours. She is so grateful she had courage, because if she didn't she would have been stuck.

TEACHER'S FAVORITES

Lily-May lehwatsirahnoronhkwa Jacobs (2026-08-30)

Grade 8

Kahnawake Survival School

The Story That Saved You

"Mr. Lauder, we have your receipts here in our file. 74 dollars and 4 cents spent in a year on alcohol." The judge announced loudly. Greg's soon-to-be ex-wife looked at him from across the courtroom with pure disbelief and hurt. Greg looked up at the judge slowly, his eyes bloodshot and a little swollen, "It's not my fault it took a year to get a damn divorce," he cleared his throat loudly and coughed. He then looked up again, "Your honor," he finished in a sarcastic, sweet tone. The judge looked down on him with pure disgust and disappointment. "Mr. Lauder," she started slowly, "What more evidence do we need to show that you're not capable of taking care of your own wife or children?" she questioned. Her voice had a slight tone of pity. Greg looked up once again, his face red and sweaty. "You're not taking my kids away from me!" he shouted loudly, his voice full of fear and hurt. "They're the only thing I have left in this sick world!" His wife, Shelly, stood up and turned towards him, "What about me! You only pay attention to the kids when you're finally home, and you ignore me every day! I was your wife, for Christ's sake!" she shouted as well. Her lips trembled as she spoke, her eyes were filled with tears, and she was truly hurt and forgotten. The judge suddenly banged her hammer against the podium, the sound loud and sharp. "Both of you, that is enough!" the judge shouted. "Sit down! All of you, now!" Greg and Shelly reluctantly sat down in their assigned seats, both fuming with rage and hurt. "Greg, you are an addict and are not stable enough to take care of yourself or your family," the judge started. "Shelly, you may take your children to your safe, stable home," the judge continued. "Greg, I'm going to

need you to quit whatever drugs and alcohol you are doing currently, and I need you to get help. Take counseling or therapy, you may visit your children once a week, but that's it. You're going to pay child support to help your poor wife and kids, and once I see progress in your behavior, you may have your children back." The judge smacked her hammer against the podium once more, "We will resume in the next six months. Goodbye, and have a good day."

ONE WEEK LATER

greg was smoking and putting on clown white face paint; he was getting ready to perform at another gig for a kid's birthday. his best friend, cal, was next to him, also doing his own clown makeup. They've known each other since high school; they both drank, smoked, and did drugs together. greg had been quieter than usual this past week, cal noticed, he always noticed, while cal was gluing on his red nose, he turned to greg. "What's up with you lately, man?" greg grumbled and looked at cal with a blank face. "Just thinkin'," he muttered low. cal looked at him skeptically. "About what? Your wife again?" he questioned knowingly. greg slowly nodded and continued painting his eyelids. cal sighed and turned to him, facing him fully, "why don't you just talk to her, man? I'm sure she still thinks about you, too." cal said, trying to make greg somewhat happy.

greg spoke suddenly, "did I really neglect her during our marriage?" cal sighed and turned towards greg again.

"maybe you did, man. Lots of us make that mistake sometimes, it's like Tina and me." greg looked at cal with an annoyed look. "Tina is basically just a hook-up." greg spoke knowingly, cal side-eyed him, "She's not just a hookup, man." cal said.

greg huffed a laugh, "Yeah, right. Not a hookup. You said the same things, Maddy, Abby, and Jules." greg retorted with a smug look on his face. Fast forward 30 minutes, greg and cal were walking around dressed like clowns, showing children magic tricks, handing out balloon animals, and making jokes. Their shift went smoothly as normal. After greg was home

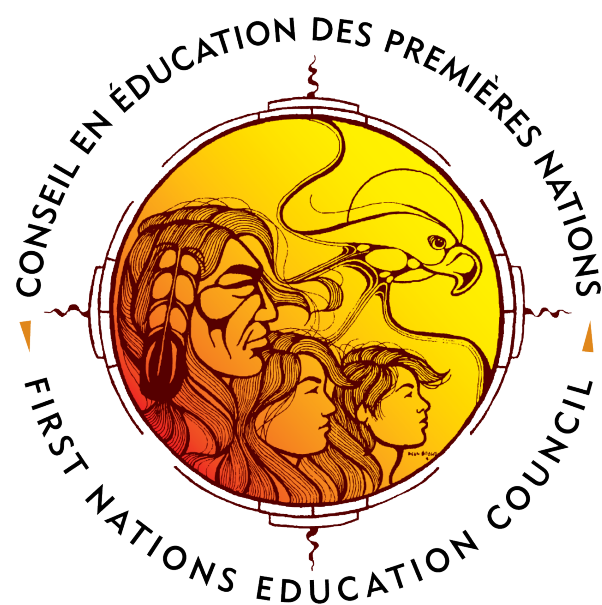


at his new apartment, he sat on his couch, smoked a pack of cigarettes, drank whiskey, and watched football on his phone since he couldn't afford a TV. Once he was drunk enough and his throat dried up from cigarettes and whiskey, he thought about Shelly. Every time Greg got drunk, he thought of Shelly, because he cared for her, he really did. He just didn't know how to show it, he was never good at expressing himself to people. He never opened up. never. He only drained his feelings with addiction, but he was a good father and husband to his family. He's absolutely crazy about Shelly and his two girls; he knew he needed to get clean and become a father again. And maybe, just maybe, find the love he once had with Shelly. The next morning, he was definitely hungover; he felt awful, his head was pounding, his mouth tasted like smoke, and it was dry, his stomach hurt, and his eyes were glossy. Later that day, he called to make a therapy appointment for around three o'clock. He wanted to be better, for his kids and for Shelly. There he was, sitting in a colorful couch and talking with a young man, venting about his health, feelings, and addiction. The therapist listened and wrote on his notepad. "Greg, you did a good thing by making an appointment here; that's hard to do for some people, but that's already a big step for you. I believe you're gonna get through this rough patch and make things right. I'm going to prescribe you some medicine to help with your depression and anxiety. And we'll move forward from there." After his appointment, while driving home, he called Shelly. Waiting for her to answer the phone patiently, Shelly answered with a skeptical voice, "Greg? Is everything okay? She sounded worried.

Greg spoke softly, "I got some therapy today, I wanna be better for you, Shelly. For our kids. I'm gonna try my best for you."

Shelly sniffled slightly in the phone speaker. "I'm so happy for you, Greg. The girls said they missed you."

Greg smiled softly, "Please don't cry, I'm trying my best for you guys. Tell the girls I said I miss them, too." Shelly smiled too; she was relieved and grateful. Straight from that moment, Greg knew he was going to be okay. He was gonna get through it and be there for his family.



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