

### Prose Third Place

#### **“The Unexpected Visitor” by Jane Horsburgh St. Francis Xavier School, 5th Grade**

Crash, Boom, Pound!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I was sound asleep when I heard an ear splitting sound. I looked out of my window and saw a rocket ship. I thought I was dreaming. So I went back to bed and tried to fall back to sleep, but couldn't. Then all of the sudden I heard something rummaging through our trash. "It's probably just another raccoon," I thought to myself. I sneaked outside only to find the weirdest creature in the entire world. It had bright green eyes, sharp, pointy teeth, and a massive head. It stood only 3 ft. tall so it wasn't too scary. All it said was, "Pleh em." It must have been some kind of alien language. I was so freaked out that I ran. The creature started following me outside with its arm reaching out and saying over and over again, "Pleh em!" I didn't know what to do but run. It ran too. Finally, I ran out but I knew it would be back. It was kind of hard to tell where I was. I didn't know where I was going. The town looked so different to me. I thought that I should just go back home. Maybe that would be normal, but this night was anything but normal. As I was walking home, I thought I heard the creature saying pleh em again. When I got home, I saw the creature in the window.

I crept up to the window when I noticed he was writing something on it. I was confused because he was just saying pleh em, but then it hit me. When I read what he wrote, pleh em turned out to be HELP ME! I went inside and tried to talk backwards. I asked, "Tahw era uoy gniod ereh?" which means what are you doing here? After a minute he said, "I tahw ot og emoh." I ran it backwards in my head and realized he just wanted to go home. He told me that his name was Bob. He also said that he was taking a nice ride in his space ship when he ran out of fuel. I then realized that Bob needs our trash to fuel his ship. I told him to follow me. I would take him to a place where he could fill his ship with enough fuel to fly home and back again. THE DUMP! Bob was so excited. He took so much trash that he emptied the entire dump. I told him that we have a lot more of these so if he ever wants to come back, he's more than welcome. We waved goodbye and he was gone. I went back home thinking that was the weirdest night in my life. No one will ever believe me. At breakfast, my parents were reading in the paper how the dump was empty. Oh, if they only knew.  
. The end.