

Prose/3rd Place
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Saint Francis Xavier 5th grade

Billy

I have a crazy story to tell why Vulture City, AZ has a haunted mine in. They say that in 1896 there was a huge explosion that trapped 30 men underground. A man named Billy tried to save them, but none of the men were found alive. They say you can hear Billy's screams for help today. I'm going there to find out if it's true.

The winds were blowing softly, and lizards poke their heads out of broken windows. Tumbleweeds roll through the streets smoothly. I took a look around to find the mine in the mountain. I saw an entrance to the Vulture Mine. Even though it was getting dark, I decided to go in. When I went inside I felt something was off. There was a chill in the air, and my body was covered with goosebumps. I decided to walk further in when I heard a strange rumble. The ground began to shake freakishly for minutes then it just stopped. I stood up shaking, saying to myself I better pull myself together. I'm here to find ghosts. Suddenly I hear heavy footsteps below me. Thinking I should leave, I dashed to the exit through the darkness. I saw a speck of light but it wasn't the exit. It was the only little open hole in the exit. I sat right down knowing I was trapped.

I decided to rest so I used my bag as a pillow. I thought to myself, "I'll try to find a way out in the morning." Just as I was about to close my eyes, I saw two big light green eyes coming right at me. I got scared but I couldn't identify what it was at the time. Suddenly the eyes just vanished. I went to sleep not thinking much of it, but in my dreams, I kept on seeing them. In the morning I got up to find a way out, when I heard the ghosts. I wasn't sure what they were trying to say when those green eyes appeared again. As the eyes got closer, I realized that it wasn't a ghost, but an owl. I thought he would fly away when I got close, but he landed on my arm. He was surprisingly friendly. As soon as he landed, he then flew away slowly. When I was a couple yards away, he stopped and made eye contact with me. He made a weird noise so I came closer to him. As soon as I did he flew away. I realized that he was trying to show me the way out. Finally I saw light! I ran as fast as I could and the owl was still with me. When I got out the owl stayed with me. I tried to make the owl go away, but he wouldn't leave me. Now I live with an owl and I named him Billy.