The Memoir Section

Violet M.

We were sitting, eating popcorn and other various snacks while watching various Disney movies. My dream friend hangout session. BeBe didn't like it, she'd rather be riding her bike doing backflips off buildings, but she knew very well that it was my turn to choose the hangout theme. Jay was looking through the movies to watch.

"What about this one?" he asked with excitement. "It's about monsters studying in university to be the best scarer. We watched this when we were little, right Beatrix?" As obnoxious as he could be sometimes, he is still pretty sweet.

"My name is BeBe, Jayden!" BeBe yelled. They don't like their normal names and prefer to use nicknames, mostly because their dad gave them their names.

"Now now, children." I said while putting myself between them

"He knows I hate being called Beatrix!" BeBe scowled.

"Well, she knows I hate being called Jayden!" he scowled back.

"That's it!" I yelled. I dragged Jay by the feet (he is quite skinny and light and I am quite strong) and threw him on top of BeBe on her beanbag.

"Belly flop time!" Yes, I did then let myself fall onto my friends, and yes they did scream, and yes, I have no regrets.

"Wait wait wait… SSHH! I'm getting something!" BeBe said while all shushing us, rubbing her head with her fingers like a fortune teller. I pushed myself off the bean bag and sat on the floor.

"What?" I asked, completely befuddled. "Oh no! Our science thing!".

We had to do a report about anything related to science. We haven't even picked a topic yet.

"Uh oh! We gotta go!" Jay shouted while running away.

"Really Jay? You had to say something stupid like that?" BeBe asked.

I sighed. "Let's just go."

"I can't believe Miss made us go to the library to study, why can't we do it on our laptops?" BeBe moaned.

"I don't know, maybe she was just trying to give us some knowledge and all that stuff".

BeBe looked at him.

"Ok, let's leave before someone gets hurt," I said. "Oh mother dearest! We gotta go to the library for our science thing!" I shouted towards the kitchen where my mother was cleaning.

“Ok Fern! But you better be back before the streetlights come on!” she yelled back.

“We will!” I responded.

Jay picked up his backpack and started putting in random stationary and work books. I put in our phones and my library card. BeBe put in some Doritos and three water bottles.

“Mmm, studying Doritos,” I whispered as she put them in. So off we went to the library. We all got on our bikes and rode into town.

We arrived at the library and locked our bikes with one long bike lock. Going inside came the familiar dusty smell.

“Let’s go inside and get this done!” yelled BeBe.

“Bro shush! We’re in a library,” said Jay.

“Erm, actually, we are technically *outside* of said library,” mocked BeBe in an annoying voice.

Inside, I greeted the librarian while the twins searched for books. I walked over to them trying to locate a book.

“Why don’t you just ask the librarian for a reference card?” I asked, looking at them ripping books from shelves.

“I don’t want human interaction apart from you and Jay!” BeBe cried.

“Fine, we can go to that old computer in the corner. It’ll tell us where the books are.” I led them to the dark corner of the library behind the memoir section.

Jay tapped a key on the keyboard to try and wake it up. Nothing happened.

“Try unplugging it, then plug it back in,” I said in slight confusion.

He bent down and pulled the cord from the wall, waiting a few seconds he pushed it in. The computer flashed, then the login screen appeared.

PASSWORD REQUIRED.

There was a sticky note on the laptop, “The password for this computer is *maitlandlibrary*”

As I typed in the password, a creeping, dangerous feeling dawned on me, as if something horrible was about to happen.

As soon as the computer had finished loading, the screen appeared as a bright, cheery computer game home screen. There was a big button in the middle of the screen: *PLAY NOW!*

As much as I pressed *esc*, I could not get out.

“UGH! I’ll go get the reference cards.” I started to walk towards the front desk.

“Oi, hang on, this looks fun!” BeBe said as she proceeded to press the big button.

The room spun in a perfect 360°, then it went dark. I couldn’t open my eyes, or maybe I could, but my head hurt too much. Finally, it stopped, my head stopped hurting, I could finally see again, but what I was seeing, I wish I couldn’t.

Fire, ash, screaming souls floating in and out of big pointy gates guarded by demonic creatures.

“What is this?” Jay shook.

“Is this the Underworld?” BeBe asked while stroking the ground.

Something appeared in front of us. Like a little gremlin from a children’s story book. Only with horns and a pig nose.

“Hello,” it said in a rather clear voice. “Follow me to where you will compete.”

We had no intention of following this thing into the depths of this fiery world.

We looked behind us for an exit.

Void

“Oh no.”

I don’t know why but as we followed this thing (It was our only choice, don’t judge) through the firelit pathways, my brain seemed to just go through everything that happened that day.

“Just think. We’re here because of a computer, we were at the computer because we went to the library, we were at the library because we remembered we had an assignment due, we remembered we had an assignment due because Monsters University reminded us of it,” I droned.

“So, if we never discovered that movie, we wouldn’t be here.” Jay looked at me with wide eyes.

“DAMN YOU MONSTERS UNIVERSITY!” BeBe yelled into the sky while shaking her fists.

I chuckled slightly at BeBe’s comment, but instantly stopped when we got to our destination, rather quickly.

It was a big stage with rows and rows of seats facing it. There were deep red curtains that separated the audience from the stage. But it was all empty, like a theatre waiting for a movie or play to inhabit it.

“Here we are,” the gremlin told us, pointing to the stage. “Luci will be with you shortly, in the meantime, you can pick a costume, difficulty level, pray for your lives…” We all suddenly jolted. “...You know, that stuff.”

He walked away, disappearing almost instantly.

“Ok, well that was quite unsettling. What do you think he meant by that?” Jay asked.

“I don’t know but he said there were costumes, so let’s go!” BeBe started running backstage.

“Well, that happened,” I muttered.

Jay and I walked to where BeBe ran.

“Hey! There’s no costumes here!” she yelled, utterly distraught. We walked back onto the stage.

Suddenly, bright lights blinded us. When our eyes finally got used to the light, we saw the whole of the seats was filled up with the little gremlins.

Looking down, we were standing at a podium that wasn’t there before. The podiums had a marker, some paper and a buzzer.

We were all standing in front of our podiums when chains came from the ground and wrapped around our feet.

All the audience started to cheer as a slim man in formal clothes walked onto the stage.

“Hello my little monsters!” he bellowed towards the audience. “Let’s meet our competitors! Fern, Beatrix and Jayden!”

They all clapped.

“And as usual, I am your host, Lucifer!”

Our ears started to hurt from all the cheering.

“Firstly, let’s choose the difficulty level. Level 1 is the easy one, but if you win, I’ll let you go with one week of bad luck. Level 2 is the medium level, it’s a bit harder but if you win, I won't only free you, but give you each $10 000 of foreign cash. Finally, the third level, almost no one returns from the third level, you’ll need to be a professor to answer these questions. But, I’ll let you go with 20 years’ good luck. Now let’s play!”

“Excuse me, you…, thing, but my sister and I prefer to be called by our nicknames!” Jay said bravely.

Lucifer ignored them.

“Jayden, you’re first. What difficulty level will you choose?” Lucifer asked, showing his fangs.

The crowd all yelled different answers.

“Uh… Easy, I guess,” he stuttered.

“Level one, if you win you will have a week of mild bad luck. First question, what is water’s boiling point?”

“Umm, we did this in class, is it 98c°?”

“Ooh, too close, it’s 100c°. Welp, bye bye!”

Jay was pulled from his stance from an invisible entity and thrown in a cage high above.

“Jay! No!” BeBe cried. “Right, give me a question!” she ordered.

“Ok smart stuff, in which ocean is ‘The Ring Of Fire’ located?” he asked, whipping his tail.

“Since when does Johnny Cash own an ocean?” she asked, half confused, half trying to be funny. “The Atlantic Ocean…” she answered hesitantly.

He chuckled slightly. “Everyone say ‘Bye bye Beatrix’.”

The audience followed and BeBe was lifted.

“Well Fern, this is your last chance, if you get this right, you and your friends will be freed, with a week bad luck of course, but if you get this wrong,” I looked into his soul-trapping eyes. “You’re mine.”

Bring it on, I’m smart! I thought.

“Smart you are, Fern. Which is why I’m rewarding you with one less question, now you’ll only have to answer 3 more.”

“What?...can you-” I stuttered.

“Yes, I can Fern, now what’s the capital of North Korea?”.

“Pyongyang,” I answered effortlessly.

“What are the only mammals that are capable of flight?”

“Uh- oh! A bat!”

“Final question, what language is spoken in Brazil?” He asked while leaning on his podium.

“Portuguese,” I answered perfectly.

“All correct,” he answered, almost sad. “But I’m afraid I can’t let you go and win that easily,” he said with a head tilt and a malicious grin. He flicked a switch and the stage became an intense obstacle course. “Have fun!” he encouraged.

“That wasn’t the deal Luci! If I got them right, you would let my friends go!”

“Yeah, but I gotta entertain myself, and my audience!” They cheered for another time.

“I just needed to do my science report!”

Jay and BeBe, watching all of this, thought they needed to do something.

“Eat stale Doritos!” BeBe reached into the backpack and grabbed the red bag of chips. She chucked them at the back of his head.

His body started to slightly flame. “Excuse me!”

“Hey, BeBe” Jay slightly shook her. “We should pour some water on him, maybe it would extinguish him!” he exclaimed.

“Wow, that’s the smartest thing you’ve said all day!” BeBe laughed.

He rolled his eyes and reached into the bag.

“Get your aim good,” BeBe warned.

“Oh please, I’ve gotten enough aim practice from throwing things at you!”

Jay successfully poured the water down below onto Lucifer.

Surprisingly, he disintegrated into a pile of dust.

BeBe and Jay’s cage floor disappeared and they plummeted to the ground. Luckily, they landed on a mat of the obstacle course. The chains on my feet unravelled.

Long black snakes slithered from the dust and together formed an arch. This arch became an exit. Opening the door we looked out, it was the library, behind the memoir section.

The audience cheered once more.

“Yes! Yes! We did it!” The twins cheered and hugged. A rare sight.

“Let’s go!’ I said putting my arm around them.

We jumped through the door, closing instantly after we did.

After we got back to the library, we used the more modern computers to do a two page report about erosion.

And then we got a B+.