

Stories of The Ghost Train

By the 2017-2018, 5th grade classes

Lake Bluff Elementary

Shorewood, WI

The train from the past

By: Alexander Berndt
Lake Bluff Elementary
5th Grade

Ryan was lying on his bed trying to go to sleep but it was impossible. It was 7:00 at night and like every night he could hear the train going by. It usually went by twice each night 7:15 and 7:00. Ryan lived right around the corner from where the bridge that the train went over was. Ryan sat up out of bed and looked around. Ryan was 20 years old he lived alone except for his husky, remy. the train seemed to really bother remy Ryan didn't know why, because remy had heard trains before but never got this freaked out . The bridge that the train went over turned into a bike path. Ryan would take remy on walks going over the bridge all the time but the thing ryan thought was really weird was that there were no train tracks on the bridge so how could the train go over the bridge. The train had stopped now, so Ryan decided to try to go back to sleep but as he was drifting off he thought about how the train could go by every night without train tracks and then he fell asleep. Ryan woke up the next morning really tired because of the train last night. ryan decided to look up any trains in shorewood. he found some but none he found went over that bridge except for one, but it went over the bridge for the last time in the 1960's so ryan decided he was going to investigate it tonight but first he had to take remy for a walk.

When he was done taking remy for a walk he went to culver's for lunch he fed remy some to. it was 2:00 now and ryan had nothing to do so he just watched a little tv. He went to bed early so he wasn't as tired when he went to investigate the train, but he set his alarm clock to 7:11 so he had enough time to get over to the bridge. Rinnnnnngggggg rinnnnnngggggg Ryan could hear the clock ringing, it was 7:11 he had just enough time to slip his clothes on and walk over to the

bridge. It was foggy when ryan got outside he walked over to the bridge then he could sort of hear the train. culvers was packed with people but no one seemed to hear the sound of the train getting louder then ryan could see faint lights but no train, he wondered what the heck was going on Ryan decided to get on the bridge to get a better look. He stood right at the end of the bridge he could see an eerie glow coming from what looked like something in the shape of a train but it definitely wasn't a train. He could see the lights getting closer and closer and then everything went black. A few minutes later or what felt like forever to ryan he was sitting inside the ghost train he looked around, his heart was beating and his whole body was shaking so fast he thought he might die of fear, what the heck was going on. was he dreaming he looked around again and realized that maybe this was the ghost of the train that went over the bridge for the last time in the 1960s then all of a sudden there was a really bright light then everything went black again. Ryan woke up this was a repeat of what had happened just a few minutes ago except that there were no ghosts this time just normal people in a normal train except that everybody was wearing yellow and white tuxedos most of the girls were wearing white and pink poofy dresses. Ryan thought to himself somehow the ghost train had traveled back in time, then it stopped and everyone got out so ryan did to. he looked around and everything was normal. Ryan got down from the bridge and saw remy sitting there on the sidewalk he pet him on the head "good boy" he said. then he thought maybe the ghost train comes from the past. He thought it would be better to just keep this a secret for only the village of shorewood. He decided to go to culver's again and that meant remy got some too.

Once Upon a Halloween

By: Alice Drummond

5th grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

Nora and Madi go trick or treating on Halloween the sweet scent of sugar fills the air. Both have their long hair flowing behind them like water flowing in the ocean as a teen named Nick tells them about the ghost train. Imagine it is 1963.

“ There once was a train bright yellow and green called the 400. To be precise it was called that because it went from Chicago to Minneapolis in 400 minutes. One day the train was carrying over 200 people and one little girl named Victoria was only four but traveling alone to Chicago to spend time with her aunt. She sat there for 200 minutes sleeping on the scratchy old chair. When she woke up her short blond hair all tangled she noticed they were at a stop, she thought it was Chicago and almost made her way off the train all the way but then the train started and she fell off and died on halloween. Everyone looked for victoria but nobody found her because the police took her to be identified but the train took a number on her body and now she was unidentifiable. even the detective said she was a random four year old . As signs popped up people realized they recognized the body they saw on the news last night but nobody ever saw victoria again. ”

“ Wow that sounds awful. ” said Madidskfdjfk.d jflk;d jfdl jgdal;f

“Yeah.” said Nora in agreement.

“Hey Nick!” said Thomas

“Are you telling them about the ghost train?”

“Yeah” said Nick

“The ghost train? Why the ghost?”asked madi in horror

“Well legend has it that every halloween at midnight there is a train horn and then the screams of little Victoria.” explained nick

Then Nora and Madi ran away screaming. That night Nora asked her mom

“Is there such thing as a ghost train Mom?”

“Of course not honey those boys were just pulling your leg.” said Nora’s mom

“Ok, thanks.”said Nora

That night there was a train noise and then the scream. When Nora’s mom woke up Nora said two words , Victoria’s coming! She said that all day looking lifeless and tired. When she passed nick and thomas on the crossing across capitol they both got terrified with horrified looks on their faces like they had just seen a spider eat their parents! They asked each other if they knew what was going on when they saw the news that night they saw what was going on it said a that a little girl named Nora went missing that night and the neighbors only heard screams and a train.

The boys both said at the same time,

“Victoria!”

From that night on nobody heard the screams of Victoria on Halloween only Nora’s so that must mean that Victoria is out there once again. Madi was wondering where Nora went she was the only other one who had heard the story so only she could know what really happened. One night Madi’s parents went out and she had Nick and Thomas babysit so they could talk about what happened without exposing what happened. They all figured out that you have to tell Victoria’s

story to get her to come back and it must be the same for Nora! So they told Madi Nora's story and the next Morning there Nora was lying in her bed like nothing happened! So now they had to hope nobody else told either story. The next day Madi and Nora went on the bridge with the crisp fall air whistling by their ears and the smell of burning leaves floating through the air as they heard the horn of a train and saw one too!!

"That's impossible though! I mean there are no tracks and there hasn't been for years!" said Madi.

"Doesn't matter now all that matters is that we run!" Replied Nora in fright.

They ran all right and still the train caught them up and went right through them! While it went through them the nasty stench of rotten cheese went through the air as CRUNCH! the creaking wood started to crumble underfoot . The bridge eventually fell and so did the train but nobody seemed to even notice it, I guess you can only see it when you have swapped places with Victoria. Another halloween came by and the screams of Victoria no longer rang out like a foghorn now only the horn sounded out in the middle of the night so that means that Victoria was still out there and might be a danger to Shorewood.

The Train Ride

By Andrea Perkins

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

There once was a family, named the Stones. They lived in Shorewood a long time ago. They were really weird. Everyone in Shorewood was kind of quiet to each other but not to their own families. The Stones include Caroline, the mom. She was very, kind, nice and loving. Alex was the dad. He was loving and friendly to everyone he met. They had twin children who were both 12 years old. Aria, that's me, was sarcastic, funny, smart and she loved Halloween best of all. Noah was annoying, smart and friendly. The Stones traveled a lot. You would never just see Caroline or Alex Stone watching tv or being couch potatoes because they were always doing something. They were very wealthy. We Stone kids went to school at Lake Bluff Elementary and we were in our last year. Caroline and Alex were both farmers. They traveled to find new seeds so they could sell different fruits, vegetables, flowers, and plants. They lived on a farm.

It was not the best thing to be a friend of Caroline or Noah because they could be really mean but somehow weirdly you just forgave them. Sometimes people didn't even remember why they were mad at them. I would never have wanted to be their friend because I believed they were evil, and they were MY family! Well, just Noah was a bad person and our mom. My dad and I tried to help them calm down but it was really hard, if you know what I mean. They were one of the kind of friends that were always wanting to be the boss of everything. It was really bad! I remember the day the Ghost Train came to Shorewood.

“Hey mom, can me and Noah go with you and dad on your trip to Chicago? We will be on our best behavior.” I was begging. Crunch, crunch... crunch. Over and over, I was really annoyed listening to Noah eat his chips. “Why is he even over here? It’s like he doesn’t want us to go at all,” I thought. I had already packed my bags and put them near the door. I made sure I did everything I could, just so we could go with them. I even practiced my fake cry, just in case. When our mom said yes, I was so darn happy I did a little happy dance.

Finally, Noah got his bag ready. He didn’t believe we’d actually get to go, but I am really powerful when I want to be. Our family walked to the train station where we were waiting for the train to arrive. There was a huge breeze. Swosh, swosh, two huge waves of wind came as the train was arriving. It was a really nice train. At least it seemed to be. Then Noah took out his gum. Pop pop pop!!! When he was blowing up a bubble again, I popped it.

I looked around and noticed that no one was there but my family and me. It seemed really odd. I was wondering why we were the only ones here. I know it was dark but I would still think that there would be more people trying to get on the train. I thought that was really weird but it was a bonus for me that I didn’t have to sit next to Noah and hear him popping his gum again. When we finally settled in, we spread out, but all stayed in the same car. Dad pulled out a newspaper and Mom pulled out her book. Noah was just popping gum and I was looking out the window. Another family came on the train and my whole family turned to look at them. I was wondering how we did not see them when we were waiting for the train. This family had two kids like me and Noah and a mom and a dad. They glanced at us but there was something off about them. They each did just the same exact things as us. The dad was reading the newspaper. The mother pulled out a book and the two kids, well, one was popping gum and the other was

looking out the window, just like me and Noah. It was really weird! I couldn't help noticing that they had scratches on their faces and their clothes were torn and looked kind of old. Their eyes were really dark and empty. Just like their soul? They were the creepiest thing on this ride.

"Hello, what's your name," I said to the girl from across the car.

"My name is Ruby," said Ruby, in a quiet and gravelly voice. Then she just disappeared into thin air. Her family also disappeared. Then her suitcase fell from the rack. The other Stones were all asleep. I was the only one who saw it happen. Her bags and our dad's newspaper was floating in the air right in front of me. My mom's book floated up to the ceiling of the car. I was scared. I tried to wake them up but they wouldn't. It was like a bad dream that I can't wake up from. Then I heard the train whistle and everything fell. The ghosts went back to their seats. Then my mom and dad woke up. I think they woke up because of the huge thump when the books and newspaper fell to the floor. The train stopped on the track for about 30 seconds. When it started again, I screamed.

"Huh," said mom.

"What's the big idea, Aria? I thought it would be your brother giving us problems. But it is you. Sit down and be quiet. We are trying to sleep. You are disturbing this other family," my dad said.

"But, but, but dad! You didn't see what just happened," I babbled. I was really weirded out and confused, so I tried to fall asleep.

While I slept, this family was in my mind over and over again. They were warning me about the train. They kept saying, "Get off, get off," in this odd, terrifying voice. It was scary.

While I was sleeping, Noah walked up to me. He sat right next to me. Then in his deep voice, Noah whispered in my ear. “Get off, get off, before it’s too late!”

I woke up gasping in fear. How do I save my family before it’s too late? How can I get the train to turn back or at least STOP! I looked at Ruby. She was smiling at me. She looked like her scratches were gone but when I looked at my arms, I saw scratches all over the place.

I ran to the back of the car. I reached for the emergency break. It broke off in my hand. I rushed to the next car. I had to jump on a seat to reach that break. I finally reached it. I pulled it with all my strength. The train screeched but it finally stopped. I raced back to the car but Ruby was in my way. She was trying to block me from getting back to my family. I climbed up onto the roof and tried to get across without falling off. It was very windy outside. Ruby was at the next car when I climbed down. “How am I going to get through?”

Just then, I remembered that Ruby was a ghost and I could go right through her. I closed my eyes and went right through her and in through the door to my parents’ car. I screamed at the top of my lungs, “There’s ghosts on this train! We have to get off now!”

My mom looked at my arms and said, “What happened to you?”

I shouted, “We are turning into ghosts! We have to go now before we turn into ghosts and they take our spots in the real world!”

My mom had to think a minute but then she thought, “When has Aria ever lied?”

Noah and Dad woke up and asked, “What’s going on?”

Mom answered, “It’s an emergency so just get off the train. I will explain later.”

We ran to the end of the car and hurried before Ruby or her family could catch them. We were in the middle of nowhere. We had to walk a mile until we found a town and could call for help.

Once we got home, we all sat down together and I explained what happened. My scratches had disappeared. Dad and Noah didn't really believe us. My mom said, "Aria, let's never speak of this again!"

I have never told this story before now. You may not believe me but I know the train through Shorewood was a ghost train. We have never been on a train again. That was the end of the ghost train...or was it?

Good bye for now

The Train From the Past

By: Anika Baxter

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

It was a cold Halloween night in Shorewood Wisconsin. The year was 1937 and there were people all over the village. My name is Anna Gold and I am 12 years old. This my story of “The Ghost Train”.

One night my sister Nara, (age 10) and Sara, (age 6) and I, strolled along side our parents on our way to a restaurant. Suddenly, we heard ringing and dinging bells. We all wondered, what was that? We continued to walk, because thought it was nothing. But me and my sisters thought it was definitely a ghost train! Our parents thought we were crazy but we weren't. It was a ghost train!

While we were standing under the 1922 Northern Diner's restaurant sign, “Eat At Joe's in 1945 Future Time!”, we heard the train again! We told our parents that we needed to go to the bathroom as an excuse to leave. But as always, Sara who ruins the plans, actually had to go to the bathroom, so we had a minor setback.

After Sara finished up, we tiptoed out of the bathroom and started exploring. It was pretty late and already dark, but we were brave enough to not fear the night. We clearly didn't know what we were getting ourselves into! We heard some wolves, owls, shaking bushes but, we didn't hear a train. We wondered why the sound comes and goes and would it come back? We went back to our parents and told them that we wanted to come back tomorrow?

“Why do we have to come here again darlings?” mother said.

“Uh, because, um, because-”

“ We like their bathroom?!” Sara exclaimed cutting off Nara.

“N-n-no that’s *not* why we want to come here again Sara” Anna said as she’s ever so slightly grinding her teeth under her breath. “Well alright then.” our mother and father said awkwardly.

“Let’s eat!” we all said. “Mother?” Sara asked. “Are ghost trains real?” She asked as Nara and I spit out our water and cranberry juice into our food, as we kicked Sara’s leg underneath the table.

“Oops, dropped my napkin.” Nara said sarcastically as she went under the table.... “Psssst!” Sara! Why would you ask mom that!?”

“What’s going on under there?” mom said. “uh, nothing.” Nara said panicking under the table. “Just bumped my head under the table. That’s all. No big deal.”

“Yes. Sure. No big deal.” Mom said uncomfortably.

‘SLURP!’ Sara was slurping her linguine mac & cheese noodles.

Suddenly we heard a loud “CRASH”.

“Let’s go outside to see what happened!” exclaimed Nara.

“No no no girls. Your father and I will see first then if it’s...Um....*appropriate* you can come and see.” Said Mama.

“O.K.” I said annoyed as my sisters and I snuck out to get a little peek.

“Well that was a bummer.” I said.

“Nothing happened!” Nara said sadly.

“I don’t know why nothing happened and we didn’t see anything good to tell anybody !”

I said angrily.

Maybe we fooled ourselves into thinking that the train was real, but it wasn’t.

When we got home I wrote in my diary, “ Going to The 1922 Northern Dinner was just another big mistake. It is like that time when we were going to go on a family trip to New Orleans, Louisiana to the Aquarium of the Americas. It takes 14 hours and 58 minutes to get there and we already paid for the trip. All we needed to do was get there. When we finally did, we found out it was closed for special occasions! It was really annoying!

Suddenly, there was another loud ‘Crash!!’

“What was that?” said Nara

“I don’t know! Let’s go check it out!” I exclaimed.

“Hold on there missy!” Mom said with a little *attitude*.

“Yeah! What about me? I’m coming-a too! ” Sara said getting on her jacket because it’s now fall (also halloween season!). From her perspective she was getting it all wrong because she thought mom meant to stop the girls because she’s coming with also, but she stopped them for a different reason.

“You guys can’t just leave. Now where are you going?” mom asked.

“To go and see what happened down by the bridge.” I said excitedly.

“Ok. Just bring Sara with you.” mom said.

“Kay!” I said as I walked out the door forgetting Sara.

“Oops! Forgot Sara and Nara. See you soon. Bye!” I said as I walked back inside the house.

“Woah. What happened here!?” I said worried

“Let’s go check it out!” Nara cried out.

“I’m scared!” Sara said.

It was a the train! I was so surprised to see that it was... flipped on it’s side.

This doesn’t make any sense. Why would this happen? Who did this happen to? Who did this?

What caused it? I had so many questions. I knew we (more likely I) needed to figure this out and solve this mystery and there was only one way to find out. Go inside. So I did.

“Wait what? Where did? What? Who? Where is she? Nara!!”

“What Sara?!” Nara said sarcastically worried and dramatically.

“She’s gone, she disappeared!” Sara said with over exaggeration.

“Who?!” Nara said ironic.

“Nara!!” Sara said really sad (because Anna was her favorite sister but only Anna knew that (so don’t tell them please)).

“Let’s go in. Into the train. It’s the only way to see what’s going on with this crazy place!

“Oh my gosh!“ Nara said stepping over dead almost rotted bones.

“Wow. This is interesting. I wonder what happened here.“ Nara said interested and sarcastic at the same time.

“Anna!!“ Sara said very happily.

“We need to go back home Anna.” Nara said very serious.

“I don’t think so. This was my idea to bring myself here and mom made you guys come with me so no we’re staying here unless you’re scared and want to go home.” Anna said.

“Ok. We’re staying good thing we didn’t-oh wait nevermind Sara’s here.” Nara said unsure of herself.

“Hay! Watch it!” Sara said both very angered and happy ‘cause she didn’t want to get angry at Anna.

“Well we have a long way to go with this sideways train we’re going into. Anna said bravely.

“It looks like it’s been her for a hundred years!” Sara said very loud.

“SHHHHHHH!!” Anna and Nara silenced her because they don’t want anyone to know that we were here!

“Ok, ok.” Sara whispered.

The wind whisped as they walked into the sideways train. It was filled with sticky cobwebs and old gross spider webs. It looked like it was just left there for 10,000 years! We didn’t understand it. I didn’t even understand it! It was just crazy.

“What happened to this place? Nara wondered.

“Yeah. It’s like it crashed and it’s off the rails and everything!” I said with expression.

“Kaliey? What are you doing here? You’re supposed to be in California with you grandparents I thought?” Nara said puzzled with confusion.

“No I went but that was only for a week and a half.” Kaliey explained.

“Then why weren't you at school this past month?” Nara thought about with Kaliey.

“I was in Hawaii with my mom and dad and then we flew to Paris, France.” Kailey said in a French accent.

“It was really fun!” Kailey said and it almost looked like there were hearts around her head.

“Were exploring this here train. Do you want to come with us?” Sara asked.

“What train?” Kailey said with a confused. “I don’t see a train anywhere around here.”

“You must be joking right? Haha very funny, funny joke Kailey. Ok now tell the truth.” Nara said.

“I’m not joking! I swear! Kailey said as the lights around us start twitching on and off.

“Who are you?” I asked afraid.

“Who do you think I-” Kailey or whoever she is said.

“She’s taking over! Ahh it hurts! Help me! Please! I’ll die without you! Please don’t leave me here! Ahh!” Kailey said.

“Well that was the last of her.” Nara said as her soul rose out of her and into the sky as she fell to the ground slowly fading away bit by bit. Memory by memory. She died that day. It’s kinda like her best friend (Nara) didn’t care and was like their friendship wasn’t even real. Just a big mistake.

Anyways we went into the train after that and saw some really creepy old stuff.

There was this old guy who was dead holding a photo of all the bad stuff from the war and it was really creepy.

“Well, isn’t that interesting. Was that the photo that the old man was also holding?” I said with confusion and tilting my head to the right side.

‘Ring, ring, ring!!’. Something rang.

“What was that□” Sara said scared.

“I don’t know!” Nara exclaimed.

It sounded like it was getting louder and louder. Then the train started moving. Faster and faster the train would not stop. It just kept going and going and never not moving.

“What’s happening!” Sara screamed clinging to me.

Then suddenly the train stops. It was pitch black and dead quiet. Then next thing I know someone is screaming in my ear!

“Sara!! Quiet!!” I screamed with terror and fright.

Sara sniffled.

“Sorry. I am just really scared and I’m sure all of you are too.” Sara explained.

Suddenly the train starts going backwards for some reason.

When we got back to the place where we started (!922 Northern Diner).

The train opened the doors and said, “Get out!!” and so we did.

“Well we’re back home so we’re good now. C’mon now let’s go to bed.” I said yawning.

“Ok. good night sisters!” Sara and Nara said.

That night all the sisters had a dream about going on the train again and never returning like they did tonight. Maybe it’s real maybe it’s not. You’ll never know.

As I always said, “When you see something scary behind you. Run!”

The Retaliation Train

By: Bree Glocke

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

Once there were two girls named Madi and Claire. They were best friends in the whole wide world, and both of them are 12 years old. Madi had hair down to her shoulders, it was the color of chocolate. Every strand was brushed perfectly all the time. With bright blue eyes and soft brown hair she was complimented all the time by friends, family, and even neighbors while walking her dog Ginger. Ginger was a golden retriever. Claire had hair down to the bottom of her ears. It was blonde, as blond as wood. She always wore a pink hair clip right above her right ear. Her eyes were a really soft brown. She also had freckles on her nose and under her eyes too.

It was October 31st. 2016 and Madi and Claire were out to go trick or treating. For halloween Madi was a angel and Claire was a devil. They were walking down Capital st.

“Woooooooooooo woooooooooo chuga chuga chuga chuga chuga!” went the train.

“It’s a train!” said Madi.

“No it’s not! I can see right thru it.”argued Claire.

“ It’s a GHOST TRAIN!” said Madi with widened eyes.

EVERYbody looked at the bridge. Claire and Madi were dazed and confused.

“Wow!” said Claire in shock confused about what and why there was a transparent train.

” Come on.” said Claire.

“Where are we going?” asked Madi.

“To my tree house.” replied Claire.

They climbed up the ladder that led to the tree house. And behind the yellow and pink striped curtain there was one pink and one yellow bean bag chair; a bookshelf with books and trophies they won together like the science fair; a yellow and pink striped carpet, and pin board that has pictures of the two of them.

Meanwhile, at the treehouse Claire had a notebook and a pink pen in her hand sitting in the yellow bean bag chair. “ Who do you think caused the ghost train, what is the ghost train, where is the ghost train, why do you think they caused the ghost train, what do you know about the ghost train, and how do you think the ghost train came here?” said Claire

“Why couldn't you just say who, what, where,when, why, and how? Asked Madi “ I don't know.” said Claire.

“BEEP BEEP!”

“Girls!” Claire's mother yelled. “It's time to go to madi's house for the sleepover.”

“Ok!” said Madi and Claire at the same time.

“Oh. That's my mom. She is going to pick us up.” said Madi

When they got to madi's house, madi helped Claire with her bags and ran to the kitchen to get a snack and watch T.V.

“Let's go girls.” said Madi's mom.”

“Where are we going?” asked Madi.”

“ Somewhere.”replied Madi's mom.”

“Oh, come on. You can tell us.” Madi argued.

“Yha, you can tell us” Claire said.

“Get in the car before I change my mind” said Madi's mom.

“Oh, fine” said Madi.

They got in the car and parked right in front of Culvers.

“What are we doing here?” asked Madi.

“ Getting ice cream.” said Madi’s mom.

When they got back home, they went in the living room and turned on the news channel.” There is a ghost train that went over the Shorewood bridge. Someone declares that they are a ghost whisper. They say that it wants punishment for us. Payback, retaliation. It said that in 1963 cars started being more popular and din’t like how all the people started getting cars and not riding the 400. And so on July 1969, they had to shut down the “400”. It rode between shorewood and the Twin Cities in Chicago in 400 minutes. And so that’s how the Ghost Train got its name. With lights and sound it supposed to make an allusion of the 400. It rides over the Shorewood bridge every night. The Ghost Train.

The Ghost Train

By Cameron Krouse

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

One cool night, Hailey was walking through Shorewood to get home. She walked past the Oak Leaf Trail bridge - The same bridge that The 400 train used to be on.

As she walked through the dark, the bridge almost out of sight behind her, Hailey looked back to see that it lit up in a soft glow. She ran back to the bridge, trying to figure out what was glowing. Then Hailey heard the unmistakable roar of a train. Suddenly she saw it- the train was so long she thought it was going to go on forever. Hailey stood, unmoving with a look of shock on her face, as the train flew by. It lit everything up around her until the train was gone, leaving her standing in darkness once again.

Hailey wondered why no one seemed to notice the ghost like train, so she asked a tall man about to get into his car, “Did you see that?!”

“See what?” the man replied.

“That! The train!” she pointed to the bridge. The man quickly got in his car and drove away. Hailey started to walk home again, puzzled at why she could see it and others couldn’t. *I must be dreaming*, Hailey thought.

She asked around a bit more if anyone had seen the ghost train that night, but Hailey soon realised that she was the only one who had. She dashed home to tell her mother about the ghost-like train.

Her mom hesitated at first, but then told her, “The train belonged to my grandmother. My mother told me about it when I was your age. She told me only our family could see it after the night when the train disappeared.”

“But why didn’t you tell me before?”

“Because I knew you would think I was crazy, just like my friends did. So I waited until you had already seen it.”

The next morning, Hailey went to the Shorewood library to see what she could find. She searched for hours, But there was nothing except the history of The 400. She kept searching, but Eventually she gave up. But Hailey will never forget about the ghost train, and still dreams about it every night.

Ghosts?

By: Cassidy Quandt

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

We stop at a large old tall building. “This must be the train station,” I tell myself.

“Do you want me to come in with you?” asks Ms. Peterson, the head of the orphanage.

“I think I can figure it out on my own, thank you.” I respond. And with that I leave her in the car, entering the building. My eyes drift from platform number to platform number. Finally platform nine! I close my eyes and pray, “ Please help everything go well.”

People walking past me are clearly in a hurry and don’t notice the train at all. My eyes focused back on the 400. The bright green and yellow remind me of my parents. I feel a knot form in my stomach.

“All aboard,” announces the engineer. I walk onto the train feeling nauseous and scared. It reminds me of a hotel! I sit down into a comfortable spinning chair. My head moves around the room. I see a little boy, about four, crying to his mother, and elderly people talking with one another, but no kids my age. I put my stuff down. I walk around the train. I pull out my poppy seed muffin in my bag and peeled of the rapper and take as enormous bite.

“ Chicago,” announces the engineer.

“Wow, that went fast!” I put my sketchbook back into my bag. I gather around the doors of the train. They open.

I see my grandmother, a plump lady with pearl white hair, shouting at me, “ Charlotte, Charlotte over here!” She waves her hands in the air. I wave back to tell her I see her, but she of

course she doesn't see me. I start walking in her direction. She finally meets my eyes. My grandmother's smile widens when she sees me. I run up to hug her.

I think to myself, "Yay! No more cleaning the orphanage."

She says, "Charlotte I'm so sorry."

My grandmother slams on the parking brake. We're here! I feel a leap of excitement. Her house reminds me of the castle in Disney World. I run toward the mansion door waiting to get inside. A maid with dark black hair and a white apron opens the red door of my grandmother's mansion and greets me with a smile, "Welcome Charlotte!"

The maid leads me upstairs to my room. I throw my ocean blue duffle onto the blue bed. I look around the room. I see a huge TV. In my own room! I go back to digging through my duffle and find The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

The breeze blows as I walk out the back doors. Pink roses, white roses, red roses, Coral roses (and a *lot* more) surround me. The roses comfort me as I wander to find the perfect spot to read. A small tree in the middle of the garden with a teal, my favorite color, tear drop swing. I sit in the swing and open my book to page 98 where I had left off.

"Charlotte, time for dinner!" Grandmother announced from the back door, "I set out two dresses for you on your bed, choose the one you like best. With that, I start to gallop off like a horse but all of a sudden I trip over a root and fall into a pit. I see the roses above me.

"What happened?" I asked myself. Surrounding me were a bunch of tunnels made out of dirt. I cover my eyes and my mother's ring hits my right eye and all of a sudden I fall into the roses. I run back into the mansion up the stairs and slam the door shut. My heart is beating fast and I start panting like a dog. It's not often I run.

In front of me sat what looked like a ball gown with clean bright lace and sky blue fabric. On the other side was a light pinkish-purple dress with ruffles on the top. I gently slip on the blue ball gown and gracefully walk down the stairs, as if I were a princess.

“I knew you would choose that gown!” exclaims Grandmother as I walk into view, “The other one can be your nightgown.”

I feel my mouth watering from the smell of wondrous pies and delicious smelling stakes. I sit down at the chair next to my grandmother, waiting for her to let me eat. My stomach growls. “I could eat a whole elephant!” I think to myself, “Please Grandma, Please let me eat, NOW!”

“Annemarie, please bring in the steak.” says Grandmother to the house servant. Annemarie brings in the steak and pies. I grab a steak and a piece of cherry pie.

“Charlotte, time to get ready for the day.” I feel my eyes squinting from the sun. Grandma seems to notice because she closes the curtain and sets out a dress to play in. I slip it on.

I go back to the root I tripped over the day before. I walk to the spot I fell into the day before and stomp and jump on what I thought was where I had fallen. I go back to the root and touch it. I fall back into the pit. I notice narrow tunnels. One with railroad tracks in it. I start to follow the one with the railroad tracks. I start to notice it is getting darker. Then I realized it must be dinner and check my watch it said 8:00 am. “My watch must be wrong I think to myself and run back the way I came.

I am back into the pit on which I had fallen into. I think back to yesterday. I had sat on the ground, so better try. I sat on the ground. Nothing happened. I put my hands to my head.

All of a sudden I am launched into the roses just like last time. I run into grandmother's house and into the dining room and ask, "Am I late for dinner?"

"Charlotte, we just got done eating breakfast."

"But I was gone for hours."

"It must have just felt like it." She gave me a smile.

I ran up to the library and search for a book about this mansion. Nothing. Just an architecture book about this place. All of a sudden as I was paging through the books, a old wrinkled map fell out. I go over to a lamp to get a better look. I see my bedroom. I run downstairs to show Grandmother, but all of a sudden the handwriting on the map moves. The top of the map is pointing north.

"This must be an enchanted map like the one in the books." I think to myself, "But there is no such thing as magic, I must have moved my hand without realizing."

I wake up to a cold and misty morning. "Good morning Charlotte! Today we are going to visit the cemetery."

"Sure." I nod still half asleep.

We go to my parent's stones first. I see the name John Williams right next to the stone titled Sophia Williams. I try to hold back the tears, but I can't. I burst out crying. "I miss them, I miss my parents," I cried out.

"It's okay child, it's okay."

Grandmother gives me two flowers. I put one flower on my father's stone and one flower on my Mother's stone. Then we leave for my Grandfather's stone. It read, "Robert Brown." I look at my grandmother's face. A tear runs down her face. I grab her hand and try to

comfort her. She cries even harder. She's still wiping the tears off her face when she says,
“What do you want for a day of the dead present?”

“Nothing. You already gave me so much.”

We arrive at home. I hear barking. “Must be a neighbors dog.” Then I realize that there are all no neighbors in the middle of nowhere. “Grandmother, what is that noise?”

“You’ll see.” I slowly open the door and out jumps ten puppies! “Which one do you want?”

“What about the rest of them?” I ask.

“They will be roaming the house, so choose one.”

“This one!” I exclaimed pointing out a shy golden doodle puppy.

“Okay” she responds. I lift up the puppy. It gives me a lick on my face. I am going to call you Henry. Here you go madame. The maid hands me a collar and a leash already with Henry's name on it.

“How did you do it so fast?”

“Magic!” exclaims Grandmother, “Now go play with him. Come on into the rose garden, come on.” I run out into the rose garden with Henry right beside me. He suddenly pulls. I feel my hand lose its grip and he runs into the roses. I run after him. All of a sudden I hear him barking.

“Please don’t be hurt, please don’t be hurt, please.” My hand hits one of the roses. All of the sudden the ground drops and the roses are above me. “I must be in the pit again.” I think to myself. I see Henry sitting on the floor, tail wagging, and panting. “Thank Goodness. You aren’t hurt.” All of a sudden Henry starts running into the tunnel I had started to explore the day

before. I run after him. All of a sudden we come to the light I have seen before. Henry runs into it, so I do to. Then all of a sudden a sign pops up saying "Welcome to Shorewood." I see lots of farmland and open country behind the sign. I also see a rusty old railroad. I walk over to Henry sitting in front of the railroad, still panting. "Wow! This place is amazing! I wonder if Grandmother knows about this." I think to myself. All of a sudden the sky turns dark. I smell smoke. All of a sudden I hear, "Chugga, Chugga, Chugga, Chugga." The whistle blows. A train zooms past me in a second. I see a hand come out the window and wave me onto follow. I run after it with Henry on my side. We come to a stop. All the people on the train come off. A couple smiles at me. Then I realize they look exactly like my parents. They are my parents! I run toward them. I am an inch away from hugging my mother and my father. I open my arms, but I feel something sucking me past them. I had gone right through them. What happened? Are the ghosts?

The 1953 Newspaper

By: Claire Pielmeier

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

Linda, James and their parents, Elizabeth and Charles, were waiting for dinner on the train. The dining cart was so full you felt like you were in a sandwich. They had been hearing the train whistle for the last 10 minutes. They finally got seated in a leather booth. The table had metal border and the was four coasters and an ice cold glass of lemonade.

“This is AWESOME !”, James said.

Linda replied, “The lemonade looks like it's sweating.”

The train’s CHOO CHOO was getting on their mom’s nerves. Then waiter finally came and gave them menus. Once they all figured out what they were going to eat, their dad started reading the newspaper. He looked fairly interested, which was odd since he never reads the newspaper.

“Dad, what’s so interesting?” asked James.

“Oh, nothing much,” sighed dad.

James replied doubting him, “Yeah, right!”

So his dad whispered since Linda was too young to hear: “There is an article about the train right here. It says that the 10th cart has a ghost on it.”

“Hey! That's the cart right next to ours,” exclaimed James.

Linda, curious as always, was trying to hear what they were talking about. Her mom did not approve because she thinks her daughter should be more lady like.

That night, James couldn't sleep. He kept thinking about the article. He tossed and turned. He finally decided to wake up his sister. She was snoring. He tapped her gently so their parents wouldn't hear them. She woke up and asked "Why did you wake me up?" He told her everything about the haunted car and his plan. Linda felt a chill up her spine. She said "No way, it's not going not to happen. I will not go investigate this with you.

Her brother said "I will give you \$3.00 so you can buy your Cabbage Patch doll." She had been saving up for months.

"Under one condition: you do my chores for one week", said Linda.

"I guess" James replied.

So Linda put on some slippers and hopped out of bed. She was scared. She squeezed James' hand and he squeezed it back. They shuffled their feet. Finally, they both took a small step forward. She whispered "I am so scared!"

"On three, we both open the door. One, two, THREE!" said James.

The handle creaked. They opened the door. There were people sleeping and snoring. Everything was normal.

"This car is not haunted" said James disappointed.

"But dad said it was haunted..." Linda said.

“Yeah, it was probably just one of his pranks I guess.

So they went back to bed.

The next morning, before they were going to go down to breakfast, Linda and James said,
“Dad, we know you played a prank on us. We know you fooled us. Just spill the beans.”

Dad replied, “I am completely honest. I have know idea what you're talking about.”

“But what about the haunted car? We know you made up the article.” said James.

“Well, just check the article for yourself...” responded their father.

James and Linda touched the paper and read the article. When they finished reading, they
jerked her head up and stared at each other's eyes for a long time thinking the same thing: The
train is haunted!?!

The Touch

By: Dana Kim

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

I stood, dumbfounded as I saw the 400 train. The sight was almost too much to take in. The men in their black suits, the shining contrasting colors of the train, the random guy cramming himself in a big suitcase holding a black brief case. Wait... something wasn't right. I shook my head. A strange chill rose over me. A man walked over to me. We talked awhile. The man had a heavy british accent. He opened his mouth to talk, but replied in a wispy faraway voice of a woman.

“There will be a trick,” he whispered.

“What tri-” I stammered, sweat pouring down my face.

“A trick that ends in death,” the words seemed like they were forced out of him now.

“A small girl walks alone,” he panted.

“Umm, who are you?” I grasped his hand. His skin was clammy, and as cold as clay. His skin was turning gray. I opened my mouth, but the metallic smell of blood filled the air. He opened his mouth, and his eyes. I stepped back, my fingernails digging into my palms, my stomach knotting, knees knocking. His eyes turned a hideous yellow.

“Through the death and fear that she must own, to loose one with a single breath, and be betrayed by the one she calls her friend.” he moaned, green mist pouring out of his mouth, his nails turning into claws, his teeth turning to fangs. I screamed, and he collapsed. I screamed for help, but no one answered. I looked at the man. His beastly features were fading, but in it's

place, black wings started to sprout. He stood, but his face was pale, and no playful smile occupied his face.

“Who are you?” I growled. My shock was rapidly turning to anger.

“The Grim Reaper.” he replied grimly.

“Why are you here? I’m not dead. At least I don’t think I’m dead.” I pushed.

“You’re not,” he agreed “But he is.” he nudged the man with his foot.

“Hey! Don’t you dare touch him! You slimy little snake in the grass!” I howled. I leaped forward, and kicked him. Good, and hard in the shin.

“OWWW!” he howled. He glared at me murderously.

“You’ll pay, you know. You’ll pay.” then disappeared in a puff of smoke. The train whistled. I jumped, and ran to the entrance, my feet seemed to fly. I tripped, and shot headfirst into the train.

“Get up! They’re gonna find you!”

“Betty, can’t we just carry her into the base?”

“Oh, alright. But if we get caught, it’s your fault!” and everything went black.

“Is she awake?” someone pulled the covers back. I woke up, and slapped the person who had awakened me.

“Hey! OWW!” it shrieked. I opened my eyes. A boy was standing there, with a red hand mark on his face. He glared at me.

“Come. we’re having dinner,” he growled. “And also, you should try to get your violence under control.” he added.

“For your information, you should never wake me up unless it’s a dire situation, not a dinner call!” I said in a matter-of-fact voice.

“Oh, how annoying you are.” he muttered under his breath. I caught it, and whipped around, my braided hair slapping his face, leaving him with another red mark, and him sputtering. “How dare you!” he howled. He stepped up to slap me, but I got him first. I snarled, and kicked him in the shin, just like I had done with the Reaper, did a handful of moves, then ended with a harder slap than before, leaving a bright red mark on the face of a panting boy, and he collapsed.

“Hey, where’s James?” a girl asked. She was sitting on a small stool, and she had blue eyes, and blonde hair.

“Right here.” I jumped, and knocked a stool over. I bent down to pick it back up, and it turned ghostly.

“It’s you!” the girl with the blonde hair fainted.

“Umm...” I stammered.

“What’s all the ruckus?” a girl with red hair, and pigtails strolled into the room.

“Hello there newbie! I’m Betty, and the blonde is Taylor, and the beat-up boy is James. We’d better start training!” I was amazed!

“Okay, if you say so, captain.”

3 months later

“The camp fire’s all fired up!” yelled Betty. “And you! Ariana! I’ve got a special story for you.”

“Okay, we all settled in? Good. Okay, Ariana. I’ll tell you why we stay here, instead of moving to the big city. We were on the train, but they kicked us off. And we got an omen, that we have to go undercover, and destroy the train. We leave first thing tomorrow!”

Dearest diary,

This is the first time I have ever written in a diary. We’re on the train. We almost got caught, but I managed to charm him into believing that we are reserved. I’m worried about this mission. What if it’s a failed mission?

God save the world, Ariana

“Okay, gang,” I whispered. We’re gonna disappear from here into the front, so that we can run the train haywire.” I concentrated, and boom! We were in the control room.

“Great! Now I’ll get rid of every single one of you, and I’ll start with you.” Betty said, and she pointed a gun at me. I screamed, and we tussled, and she started sucking my power from me, and I forced out “Why are you doing this to me?” I moaned, and while she was distracted, I gave a final gust of power, and Betty was flung out the window, and Taylor shook me.

“Hey! Stay awake. You were a real hero. And how about you, James?”

“Okay, okay. I guess you were good after all.” he admitted.

“Thanks. You were nice too. Goodbye.”and I flung myself out of the window. I fell, and hit a ledge.

“Help.” a voice whimpered beneath me.

“Betty?” I said disbelievingly.

“Yes, I’m so sorry. I wanted to be the best. I was jealous of you. I’m sorry.”

“Apology accepted.”

“Let’s fall together.”

“Agreed”

“I’m so sorry.”

“It’s okay. But wait! Tell me your plans! I bet they were really clever.”

“What do you bet on it?”

“I’ll tell you later. Now stop struggling, so I can pull you onto the ledge!”

“Okay” as I pulled her onto the ledge, a shower of dirt fell from the small ledge.

“So, my plan was to try to become the one, which didn’t work out very well, did it? So I planned to have a back up on the train, in the luggage area, but he got knocked out by a guard who was going through the luggage, so I invented a power sucker, and once I was done with you, I planned to kill Taylor, and James. Also, why did you throw yourself of the ledge?”

I shrugged.

“I guess I felt guilty about shoving you off the carcass of the train.”

“Also, one last question, can you please magic us up to the train, so we can help?”

“I can’t. You sucked too much power.”

“Now, let’s fall?”

“Yes, now.” And together, we let go of the ledge.

“Hey, Ariana, where are we? Is this a near to death vision?”

I stood, and found myself in a dark cave.

“The Underworld.”

“That’s quite right, little girl. You know your mythology. Greek Mythology.” I whipped around, and stood face to face with the Grim Reaper, grinning gleefully.

“After all that, little girl, you deserve to know the meaning of the prophecy.”

“What prophecy?”

“The prophecy that ruined your life. You know, the one that the server said.”

“Oh. You mean “a small girl walks alone, through the death and fear that she must own, to lose one with a single breath, and to be betrayed by the one she calls her friend.”

“It’s over now.”

“What’s over?”

“The prophecy. You were the small girl who walked alone. The death and fear- your power to turn things alive dead, and the fear, your other powers. You lost Betty with a single breath, which means that you pushed her off the side with a single gust, and you were betrayed by Betty. But I won’t take Betty or you in from the dead. I told you I’d get revenge. I swore among all the gods that I would never forgive you. So leave, NOW.” I was so angry that me and Betty raised the train from the dead, and we would put it on the bridge where it fell. And where the next most tragic that me and Betty consider worthwhile, we would go there, and raise that train, too or any wreck for that matter. And it’s been about 50 years since it happened. James’s soul, and Taylor’s soul joined us, and Death still hasn’t accepted us. And each and every day, at 7:00, and 7:15, we run the train through Shorewood, on the very place it perished. And every

time we run through Shorewood, we look for the human form of the Grim Reaper, to force him to let them live a peaceful life in the Underworld. And that is how the ghost train came to be.

One Forgotten Story

By: Elaina Raicu

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

On the waiting platform of The 400, people bustled around with pompousness until, throughout Shorewood, the unmistakable whirring of the train could be heard. Everyone pushed through the thick of the crowd so that they could see the boxy looking, shining, green and yellow train flying down the wooden tracks. Although the train wasn't very pretty, it was somehow intriguing to all the people that saw it. The viewers crowded so close to see the train, that a person fell from the edge of the waiting platform. The crowd started to scream until sharp booms filled the air as the train swerved off the tracks and crashed into one of the lamp poles. The 400 fell on its side with a groan and lay there when the lamp post fell onto it. The crowd dropped the screams they had and stood, stunned, looking at the fallen train.

The air thickened with hot, black smoke. Orange and yellow flames rose up and licked the sides of the train. The cool summer breeze stopped ruffling leaves and became still. It was as if nature itself were holding its breath. All of a sudden, cries for help rose from the train, filling the short-lived silence. Watchers pulled out dimes and ran to the nearest pay phone to call the fire department.

By noon, all seventy six people riding the train were rescued and taken to the hospital.

Fifty years went by and the town started to grow and change. Eventually, The 400 was removed with the old train tracks, to make way for a new bike trail. No one really thought about the train anymore. Except for one girl, whose grandma had survived the crash, fifty years ago.

“Mom,” called Orchid from her room, bike helmet in hand. “I’m gonna go now!” Orchid tore out of the house and into the garage, her auburn hair bouncing. She grabbed her bike, put on her helmet, and hopped on. As soon as she got to her destination-the bridge on The Oak Leaf Trail-she looked for a part of The 400 that could have been left by construction workers all those years ago. She had a big collection of broken parts and pieces that had fallen off the train when it crashed. But the *real* prize, was finding out: what happened to The 400? The more Orchid had thought about the train, the more she was determined to find out about it. Her Grandma had told lots of stories about the train and had made Orchid wonder. (Her mother said it was an unhealthy obsession.) That had made her scour old newspaper articles for some stories of The 400. But no matter how hard she tried, the reports gave no clue on what occurred.

Suddenly, the rhythm of a train could be heard. The runners and bikers stopped, looking at each other in question. A horn blared over the bridge, and even Orchid couldn’t ignore it now. A yellow train car emerged, followed by others. It was The 400! Screams went round the bridge and the thumps of feet running was distinct amid all the noise. Fear grabbed at her capturing her in its snare. Orchid tried to run, but felt frozen in place. Someone called out to her and others ran to grab her. But it was too late. The rush of wind ruffled Orchid’s hair. The shrieks that came from the other side of the bridge got to her attention. Her blue eyes widened in doubt. The train

was going through her! As soon as the train came, it disappeared, leaving depressions in the ground. Orchid saw this as her chance to find out about it. Her legs became only a blur as she pedaled her bike.

When she found the train again, it was stopped at a station while people glided across the rotten platform to the open train door. When Orchid looked closer at the people, an awed gasp escaped her open mouth. They were all ghosts! As Orchid neared the train, an empty space filled the tracks, leaving her speechless.

The front tire of her bike moved forward slowly, making the gap between her and the tracks, smaller and smaller, until she was on the rusty, wooden path. A silvery glint of a bent nail poked out from the metal, catching the alloy part of her wheel. As a result, it tripped her bicycle. The bike flew through the air, taking her with it. Orchid fell first, skidding across the gravel. The bike crashed down on the bent leg of Orchid, making her leg bend the wrong way. She started to moan until she saw another train headed her way! She tried to move but couldn't. The bike was too heavy. As the train advanced, it swerved at the last minute and down it went on the tracks. A lamp post climbed through the air and onto the fallen train, and glass shattered. As she stared, the train slowly faded into the soft lull of sweeping sand. Despite her pain, she grinned. The ghosts were showing her what happened! When Orchid got home she knew what she could do for the train.

Orchid walked out of her house and over to the Oak Leaf Trail. The mayor would be unveiling the statue and making a speech. After Orchid had seen the vision of the train crash, she knew the train had wanted to be remembered.

When Orchid got to the trail, the mayor had already started.

“In 1963, The 400’s whistle stopped blowing.” the mayor paused, bringing her dark green gaze to a halt at Orchid. She continued, “No one died when it crashed, but deep within, one carried scars from losing the train alone. She had great courage, and followed the train to find out the forgotten stories of the past, and in doing so, made us realize that we should honor our lost train. It has been fifty years since The 400 ran on its tracks. We cannot bring it back, but we can let the memory live in our minds.” The unveiling of the statue was then too. As Orchid thought, a ghostly chugging noise rose from deep within the branches of the trail and allowed her to see The 400 fly past on its translucent tracks. That was her train. The Ghost Train.

The Ghost Train
By: Freddy Kaufmann
5th Grade
Lake Bluff Elementary School

I was bouncing up and down in excitement! My mom and dad got tickets to go on the 400! It was extra special because it was my first train ride! At the station there were so many people and I couldn't wait! The whistle blew which meant we were ready to get on the train. As we got on the train I already loved it. It looked very nice and I couldn't wait to find where we were sitting. The train started to move, chugga-chugga-chugga-chugga-chugga toot toot! The train seemed super fancy with a big area to sit and comfy looking seats and I really liked it so far. Just then there was a loud squeal and then a crash outside and I slowly peered out the window and saw something fall off of the train!

The train started to rumble and bump and squeal and I heard screams of terror all around me! The train kept bumping and squealing harder and louder! A bridge was coming up quick and right when we got to the bridge there was a big jolt and suddenly I looked out the window one more time and the train fell. I felt like we were falling and falling on and on but I opened my eyes, I was ok! It was night time, very dark. Somehow nobody was hurt there was tons of fog but the train was gone! I was pretty sure everyone was ok a very scared and confused, but ok.

One Week Later...

Everyone heard about the train and still were talking about it, but only those who were on it saw what happened to the train. One night as I was walking on Capitol Drive I saw the bridge! Immediately the temperature dropped so much so fast I started shivering and my teeth

chattered and weirdly fog came out of nowhere!All of the sudden there was a super bright light,I shielded my eyes and from what I saw, I froze in fear.I saw the train,but it looked white as a sheet! It was like a ghost but, a Ghost, Train.

The Secret of the 400

by: George A. de Vogel

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary school

Once there was an eleven year old boy named John who lived in Shorewood, Wisconsin. One day he was walking down the Oak Leaf Trail when all of a sudden he heard a loud noise. It kind of sounded like a train. John was not scared too much at first because he was on a train track. You would not be surprised to see a train on a train track. So he kept on walking, but as he started to get closer to the train and the train started to get closer to him, John started to see something weird about the train. He realized the train was clear. . . WHOOSH! The train went right through him.

When John got up he figured out he was on the 400, an old time train. ‘What the?’ John said. He was kind of dizzy. But when he started to wake up he saw ghosts everywhere. Every time he looked around, he questioned himself ‘Why am I here? Why am I here?’ John started to get a little bit nervous. He also saw all of the ghosts were dressed like they were from the 1950s. Now John was really scared. All he could think of was ‘How am I going to get out? I want to go home.’ By now John was more scared than when he went to his first horror movie.

Then he saw that he could not get the attention of the ghosts. When John stood up he wanted to experiment with them. So he walked over and tried talking with them, but they ignored him even more. They just kept drinking their fancy hot tea and talking with one another. Now John felt more bold and wanted to touch them. He reached out to touch one of the men who was wearing a little German hat and a large jacket that was about two times the size of John’s whole

body. He was startled by the fact that his hand went right through the man. Now John was getting chills up his spine. He was paralyzed with fear. He wanted to go home even more. Then he got the strange idea to go talk to the conductor for help to get off the train. But first he had to get to the conductor. This meant he had to climb from car to car passing many ghost passengers along the way. When he was going in between cars he saw that the environment outside was very different from where he lived in Shorewood. Finally he got to the conductor's car. The nervousness built as he got closer and closer to the conductor. The floor creaked with every foot step and his heart was pounding like a drum.

He tapped the conductor on the shoulder, but his finger slid right through and down his arm. John felt very frustrated when he realized that the conductor is a ghost too. Finally John knew what he had to do - JUMP OFF! There was a door in the conductor's car. John climbed out, and luckily next to that he saw a ladder. He climbed up and found himself on the roof of the speeding 400. He knew the longer he waited the more nervous he would get. This felt like the leap of faith to him. So he took one final breath and jumped. He landed on the hard cement sidewalk next to the train tracks. Surprisingly, he was in the exact same spot where he first got hit by the 400.

John came home with a bunch of scratches and bruises. His mom asked, "What happened to you today, John?" He made a suspicious face and said "I just fell off the slide at the playground." He didn't think anyone would ever believe his story about the ghost train. So he kept the secret of the 400 to himself.

Train Horror By: Will Baumann

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

Carter and Sam are brothers who have always loved a good mystery, and the rumors about the Shorewood Ghost Train got their interest. They heard that strange things have happened at the train bridge. People say that on a night with a full moon, a black and white train can be seen crossing the bridge without lights and only the sound of muffled voices. Some have seen skeletons in the windows and swear they are calling out for help. Carter and Sam say this is too good to be real. They form a plan to see for themselves.

Carter and Sam decided to leave the house to see the ghost train tonight.

“Sam, I’m over here!” called Carter as he saw Sam walking toward him.

“Let's ride our bikes to the bridge,” Sam said.

“Why?” Carter asked curiously.

“Because I want to,” Sam said.

“When?” Carter said nervously.

“TONIGHT!” said Sam.

“ok ready”? Whispered sam.

“No.” Carter said ,worried.

“GET ON THE BIKE NOW.”

“fine. I'm on the bike happy now” carter said sarcastically

“ Theres the bridge” said sam very excited to go.

When they get to the bridge they wait ten minutes for any thing to happen but nothing did until they said this is boring so they get their bikes and start to leave. Until they hear quiet voices that

sound like they're slowly getting closer. Their stomachs got tight. They can't understand the voices. Suddenly they can hear what they're saying. They are saying, "Help us please" in a ghostly whisper.

Next, Carter hears a high pitched scream in his ear.

"Sam, did you hear that?"

"Hear what?" Sam answers.

"A scream."

"You are lying!"

"No *I* am not."

"Yes you are."

"No, I'm not."

"Ok then. Now I hear it," says Carter.

"Told you." HONK HONK. there it is! Wow it's true. Thats amazing let's tell it to pick us up STOP STOP STOP!!! Look there are skeletons on the train. SCREECH! Thats creepy look at all those chains. HONK all aboard "who was that."

that was me look behind you "oh my gosh get away from us you creep." thank you, now get on the train "ok, GET ON THE BIKE AND GET HOME!" they went so fast carter almost fell off his bike. When they got home they went straight to bed.

The Legend of the Ghost Train

By: Gio Gonzalez

5th Grade

Lake bluff elementary school

Josh sat at Culver's with his best friends, Jake and Paul. They were talking while they ate their usual order, a burger fries and ice cream. Josh had a bunch of ice cream all over his face. He used Paul's jacket to wipe his just to annoy him "stop" said Paul.

"I just needed it to wipe my face sorry!" Replied Josh. After they ate their food they went back to take a break. Once they got home they watched a movie it was about these kids that get haunted by a ghost spirit. So then they go make two bowls of popcorn even though they weren't going to eat it all.

Later that day after finishing the movie they go back to the trail to see if they could find anything interesting. So they went, they came across the Shorewood bridge were the 400 ran. The midnight moon was a full moon and it was so bright it was hard to look at it. The 400 was a train that always took people to Chicago. And they found a train part. It was the headlights, it was rusty and they said it wasn't too heavy or really light they said was so they picked it up and they took it home and that night they all heard noises. Coming from the bridge. so the next morning they went to the bridge to explore what that noise was. because one of the kids from the group went to his friend's house because he went to tell him what he heard. and then when his friend heard about the noise. He said he heard it so they all went to each other's house to tell them what they heard. And all of them said that they heard the noise. So they went to explore the bridge. The noise they heard was a honking noise from a train. When they went to see what that noise was they went the same way they went yesterday when they came across the bridge they

saw another train part this time it was a train light they pick it up and then they hear the honking noise from down the trail it starts coming closer to them then they see floating headlight coming towards them then it goes threw them and they're all ok so one of the kids asks another kid "was i seeing stuff" ? "no" the other kid said at least were all ok "that was one fun trip guys paul said" now for the bad part we need to tell our parents after that we all got grounded for a week

The Mystery of the 400

By: Helena Usack

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

On a pea soup day in the year of 1964, a forty year-old adult named Emilee was waiting to see The Twin Cities 400 train go through Shorewood on The Oak Leaf Trail Bridge, which sadly she had not seen in since her last trip to Shorewood last summer. What Emilee didn't know was that the 400 had made its final run last year. Emilee knew the train schedule by the back of her hand. The 400 used to go thru Shorewood twice a day. Emilee stands on the platform, daydreaming while she waits for the train to arrive. Suddenly she is pulled from her daydream when the train whistle blows. Emilee thought that was the 400 whistle. "The train was going to come in any minute now," Emilee said to herself. Strangely, the 400 train didn't appear at all. Emilee thought how strange that the 400 didn't come. All that Emilee could see were the lights and all she could hear was a loud whistling sound of the 400 without the train really coming by.

During lunch time, "Why is the 400 not coming though?" Emilee wondering between bits. "I will ask Mom that question when I eat dinner with her." Emilee sighed. The next time the 400 was supposed to go thru Shorewood, once again the 400 didn't appear. All that Emilee could only see the lights and hear a loud whistling sound again. Emilee wondered "Am I believing that the 400 is not a appear, the 400 is a "ghost" train. Plus, that is the strangest thing I ever saw in my whole life."

That night Emilee had dinner with Carolina (her mother) at Corner Bakery. Emilee said to Carolina, "I went to see the 400 go through Shorewood. Instead of the 400, I saw lights and

loud whistling sounds to make the 400 appear without actually appearing. This happened when the 400 train was supposed to come. That was what I was thinking earlier today during.”

Caroline replied, “The village council wanted to make lights and sounds on the bridge there was build ten years ago. Now, the idea is called the ghost train of the 400. The ghost train was made after the 400 stopped running. Airplane industry started to get more popular, and less expensive. People started loving their personal automobiles. The 400 was laged over a million dollars a year. So, the 400 made it last run in 1963. You did see the sign about the ghost train by the place that we are eating now near the entrance of the parking lot?”

Emilee asked, “No. Why?”

“That sign will tell you about the ghost train.,” said Caroline.

Emilee asked, “Do I have to read the sign?”

Caroline replied, “No, because I can answer your questions with the history of the ghost train.”

“Ok. Then, what's up with the lights and loud whistling sounds?” asked Emilee. “ How long did it take to make?

“It took a month to build.” Carolina answered. “I was invited to a party to honor the 400’s last run that was last year ago. Do you want to come? Everybody invited.”

“Yes, please. I will love to come,” said Emilee. So, the party was one of the greatest party in Shorewood history.

Next morning, Carolina said to her daughter Emilee, “Goodbye. Come to Shorewood again”

Emilee replying as she head on airplane going home. "I wish that I never have to leave. I will return next summer. Goodbye." Emilee was in tears because she didn't want to leave Shorewood forever.

The Ghost Train

By: Jennah Goldberger

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

One day, when I was 11 years old I wanted to go see the ghost train at 7:00 pm, and I lived really close so I yelled to my parents, “Can I go to see the ghost train?!” There was no answer. Then I heard “CREEK” from upstairs so I yelled up the stairway.

”CAN I GO SEE THE GHOST TRAIN...PLEASE!”

Earlier that day at school I had learned that an artist named Marty Peck had recently made a lighted version of the historic 400 train that recreates it’s run through Shorewood. The 400 used to be a passenger train that ran from Chicago, to Milwaukee, to Minneapolis and back again. It traveled 400 miles in 400 minutes, that is why it was called the “400”. The 400 was no ordinary train. Our teacher had shown us newspaper clippings from 1963 about the 400 train that crashed into a big tree that fell down right in front of the 400.

Then off I went because my parents let me go by myself really quick just to get a glance at it, but I went farther than my mother said. I wanted to get a better look at the ghost train. I went early to make sure I would not miss any of it. As I was walking there, I could smell the humid air and feel the cool mist of the night blow over me...then I heard it; the the dreadful sounds of the ghost train coming. But then I remembered how early I came, so I checked the time on my watch. There were still 15 more mins before it should have started. That was strange because I knew my watch wasn’t broken, I had just had it fixed. Suddenly, there it was: the ghost train. However, it looked different than the first time I saw it because there were creepy people riding it! They wore old clothes, and were just staring at me with their foggy white eyes

and they looked like...G...G...GHOSTS! Then I heard a piercing scream as shivers crawled up my back and I felt my stomach drop. I had a bad feeling it was one of the ghosts that screamed at me. So I ran as fast as my legs could carry me back to my house but I couldn't tell my parents because they would not think I was telling the truth.

I was really brave so the next night at 7:00pm I went to go see the REAL ghost train. This time I went on the bridge to see if it was real, and to get an even better look. When it came, I wanted to go dart back to my house but I was gonna be brave this time! There it was, it came down the track towards me and it went right through me! When I turned around to see the front of the train, I felt something tug on my shirt so I turned around. One of the ghosts had gotten hold of my shirt, and started to pull me closer to them!

Suddenly I felt a shock, and I had no clue where I was. It made me feel alone, and empty inside. All I saw were eyes staring at me and the foggy night sky. I knew I would never see home again.

The Haunted Hotel

By: Joe Meissner

5th grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

There was a rotten egg smell coming from a mysterious place on Halloween night. The Ghost Train would run for shorewood at 7:00 and 7:15 pm. The dusty, dirty, spooky looking hotels were over packed with people coming in and out from all over to see the ghost Train. Back at the train station in Chicago the ghost the vampire the mummy and the witch were paying the green rubber smelling tickets and some copper coins to the pumpkin to get on the Ghost train TO GET TO SHOREWOOD. Ahhhh at last we get on our journey to shorewood.’’So what's the plan when we get to Shorewood’’ asked the ghost. So on October 1st when the Ghost Train runs that's the one that we are riding we will arrive in Shorewood at 8:30 pm.’’The ghost Train will run next day again at 9:00 pm’’ said the Vampire. Does everybody know there part YES said the ghost and vampire and the witch Mmpphh said the mummy. Alright we are here . The Ghost Train runs tomorrow tonight at 7 and 7:15 we will be staying in a hotel with humans so we will have to act normal like we are people dressed up in costumes. Wait said the Ghost ‘I have an idea what if we went around scaring people like popping out from behind the vending machine but we have to have top notch hiding spots said the ghost.’?Well I think that is a Capital idea said the witch agreed said the mummy and vampire. I call the vending machine said the Ghost. I call the pool said the mummy I call the front entrance said the vampire and witch. One family walked in after another telling each other about the Ghost Train event tomorrow . The witch cackled and scared a family out of the parking lot. Well said the ghost think we should get get some sleep before tomorrow.Aha at last said the ghost the day the Ghost train will run. We could

get it all ready and then make ourselves freeze ourselves into statues and nobody would have to know we exist. That's A great idea they all said at once.let's start. I got all the supplies said the Vampire. HUUUU already a Ghost. Because i'm a ghost so i can do everything in like 5 minutes. Splended the all said at once. All done already?Wait what if ewe scaled our selves instead of freezing ourselves. That aer great idea they all said. The town is all ready the event starts in a hour. Lets leave and come back. Let's get this party started. Look there is a town full of stuff up ahead let's check it out. After that the town was in and out packed full with people and from now on we still haunt the same town.

All Because of the Ghost Train

By: Lucy Kuhnen-Grooms
5th Grade
Lake Bluff Elementary School

It was a calm quiet Halloween night in Shorewood. The sky was a deep purple color and the stars were shining bright. Even the moon was orange. It was also 7:13 p.m. Two girls named Dottie and Faith were walking on the bridge near The Corner Bakery. Dottie was wearing her one of a kind designer hat and Faith was holding the red nail polish she had used for her costume the night before. They were both 13 but Faith was a little older. As they were walking along the bridge Faith said to Dottie, "Dottie, are you sure we should be walking here? It's the anniversary of when the 400 train closed. What if its ghost comes to eat us?"

Dottie replied with, "Faith,there's no such thing as ghosts that eat you. Stop worrying!" Faith was a worrier while Dottie was carefree. Dottie also had a pale ghostly face and nothing really hurt her so she was kind of like a ghost. Suddenly they heard a loud whistle! A breeze was coming along with train lights,but there was nothing there!

"I told you so! I told you so! I told y-,"Faith was screaming at Dottie. But she was cut off by the noise. By the time the lights and breeze past, Faith and Dottie were gone! The only thing that was left of the girls was Dottie's hat and Faith's broken red nail polish.

The next day the girls parents met up at Dottie's house to talk about the girls disappearance. "Faith would never run away like this," Faith's mom said.

Dottie's dad replied with, "Maybe we should check by the bridge where they were walking."

Meanwhile in Chicago Dottie and Faith had woken up. "W-what happened?" Faith said drowsily.

"I think we fainted," Dottie replied. Their clothes were battered and dirty. Their faces were also covered with scratches. But the blood had dried. They looked around for awhile until they came upon a college student.

"Excuse me, Miss. Do you know where we are?" Faith asked politely.

"The college student replied with, "You're in Chicago.

Then Dottie pushed Faith aside and asked, "Do you know where we could get some transportation and grub?" The college student suggested they go to a mall to find out more information. "Thank you!" the girls both said at the same time.

Dottie had a bad stomach ache by the time they were done with their meal. They went to find someone who knew where there was good transportation. They came upon an elderly man that directed them to the bus station. He was small and pale with a wrinkled face and Scottish accent. "Wait. Before we go, we need to ask you a question." Dottie asked. "I think we came to Chicago on a train that was invisible."

The elderly man replied with, "Ah, the 400's ghost. I'll tell you about it. It was a train that ran between Chicago and the Twin Cities. When it closed down its ghost still supposedly ran along the tracks. You must have been caught by it."

"Thank you so much!" The girls replied. Then they got on the bus back to Shorewood. They looked back to wave goodbye to the old man. But he was nowhere to be seen!

Back home in Shorewood the two families went to the bridge. They looked around until Dottie's dad found Dottie's hat and Faith's broken red nail polish. "I think they were killed!" Dottie's mom said, with her eyes starting to well up with tears.

Later that day the girls' parents called a village meeting on getting rid of the bridge. "It's unsafe and our daughters died on it!" the moms sobbed. The village board president was just about to confirm it when Dottie and Faith burst into the room! "Don't close the bridge!" Dottie screamed once she was in the room.

"Where have you two been?" Faith's dad asked.

"We saw lights and heard train noises, fainted, and the next thing you know we wake up in Chicago!" Faith explained with exhaustion.

"But what about the blood?" her dad asked.

"That was just Faith's red nail polish!" Dottie answered. Everyone rejoiced at the return of the girls and not getting rid of the bridge.

A party was thrown in honor of the train. Dottie and Faith were admiring the party from the bridge. "This experience has taught me to be more cautious," Dottie said to Faith.

"This experience has taught me that it doesn't hurt to be more adventurous," Faith replied. The Ghost Train passed and sent shivers down the girls' spines.

They heard the old man's voice as the train passed saying, "You've learned your lesson, young ones." They realized the train was him and he was trying to get Dottie to be more careful and Faith to not worry so much. They laughed and went down to join the party.

A LITTLE NIGHTMARE

By: Madeleine barrett
5th Grade
Lake Bluff Elementary

Once upon a time... there was a little girl named Sally Jon Hooper. She was a normal, plain old nine year old, but sometimes crazy things would happen that Sally just couldn't believe...

One day Sally was gardening with her parents in the blazing sun, when all of a sudden the radio station switched from her favorite song, to the newscast which started talking about how there had been a humongous train robbery in Shorewood! And that the 400 had been hijacked and driven right off of a old black bridge smack-dab in the middle of Shorewood. Sally didn't believe something so crazy could happen so she convinced her parents to take her down to "the scene of the crime." So they all ended up hopping into the car, then heading along the trail of their GPS until they came upon the old creaky bridge. "This looks unsafe!" Sally's mom exclaimed! Sally didn't care, though. She was excited to see the wreck.

"Oh, it's fine, don't be so worrisome." her dad replied, rolling his eyes. Sally jumped out of the car and ran up to the bridge!

She got to the top of the bridge and slowly walked across. "Oh," Sally sighed. "Nice view, I guess, but where's the train wreck? I could've sworn it was on this bridge. Oh, now I see the damage of where the train fell. So that means the workers must of already removed the train." the bridge was creaky and reeked of old, rusty metal. Suddenly Sally felt the chill of a cold breeze slowly, but surely blow across her back even though it wasn't a windy day.

*“Probably nothing” she murmured to herself. She turned around, feeling laughing eyes staring into the deepest depth of her soul, but nothing was there. Suddenly she heard the train coming and felt yet another horribly cold chill trickle across her back. She shuddered as she felt what she thought was the ghostly train pass her. She looked at the spot where the 400 had been driven off the bridge, and thought about the wonderful morning before the newscast switched. Sally didn't quite know how she knew, but after that Sally knew there would be a haunting in Shorewood **forever**. Sally thought about when they were driving how absolutely excited she was but now all she could feel was scared, and alone, and definitely cold (don't forget cold). This is not how she wanted it to be. She wanted the sky to be blue and the trees to look like a big, beautiful piece of art (in shades of green and brown) . She wanted to go back to the morning and relive this day. She had been thinking about coming here, nonstop after that radio station switched, --- but it was nothing like she thought it would be. It was sad. It made her feel bad about being excited to come here.*

From that day on Sally never again had the same bravery. She never went on bridges, she would never talk to strangers, and last, but not least, what all her friends would make fun of her for, if Sally Jon Hooper ever felt the slightest of breeze she would exclaim with so much emotion everyone thought it couldn't have been her “The train! It's coming! Help me, HELP US”

Sally shot her head up. “Ow” she sighed, she had hit her head against the top bunk (which belonged to her annoying little sister Lily.) “How annoying” Sally muttered. Lily was climbing down from her top bunk.

“You woke me uuup” she very rudely whined. Sally got dressed in her favorite royal blue dress with long flowy sleeves that were white. The beautiful dress had a red ribbon around its waist. She marched down the stairs and came to the living room and sat down at the table.

“Have any dreams?” asked her parents.

The Story of the Ghost Train

By: Marcos Ayala

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

Prouloge

TOOT TOOT! The “400” had just stopped at the station. The passengers didn’t know it but that would be the last time the “400” could run. “Ah,” said Michael as the last other passenger hopped off the train, “Hello Chicago!”

It was a cold, foggy Halloween night in Shorewood that night and it had just gotten dark when Michael the 3rd was walking to his house with his friends Andrew and Sam. They were walking by the Oak Leaf trail bridge when they saw someone dressed in a black suit and tie they thought was weird but they kept on walking because they thought he just came from a wedding or funeral. *TOOT TOOT! SCREECH! BOOM!*

“WHAT WAS THAT!” they all yelled at once.

They ran to check and saw the man in the suit and tie laying on the cement sidewalk laughing hysterically “HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA,” laughed the man.

“HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA,” he laughed again.

Michael ran to him his friends trailing behind him.

“Are you ok sir?” Michael asked.

“HAHAHAHAHAHAHA,” he laughed like it was the funniest joke in the world.

“Someone call 911,” Michael said in a tired voice.

Andrew was the first to get their phone out and dial 911. The police and ambulance came about two minutes later

“What happened?” asked one of the officers that came.

“I don’t know, we were just walking to my house and noticed him but just kept on walking thinking he had just come from a wedding or funeral! Then we heard a loud *TOOT, TOOT! SCREECH! BOOM!*, and ran back to see what happened and saw him lying on the ground laughing hysterically and ran to him to see if he was ok and then called 911.”

“ARE YOU KIDS OK!” yelled Michael’s mom as soon as she saw them a few blocks away.

“YES!” they all yelled to her but not as loud because she was already on their block by then.

“What happened?” she asked.

“We were walking and saw him we kept on walking and then heard a, *CHOO, CHOO, SCREECH, BOOM!*, and then ran to him and called 911,” he said quickly.

At school the next day as everyone was sitting in their metal and plastic chairs at their metal and wood tables the teacher said, “As some of you may know,” she looked at Michael and his friends, “there's been sightings of a ‘Ghost Train’ that’s made people laugh hysterically. The village board has offered \$1,000 to anyone who finds a way to make it safe for everyone or makes it go away,” at this the class oohed, “so find a solution for that ‘Ghost Train’!” she ended.

After school the three friends met up and discussed their plan to get that \$1,000, “I say we make proton packs like the ‘Ghostbusters’!” suggested Andrew.

“No that’ll never work, just because it works in movies doesn’t mean it’ll work in real life, I say we put up a glass wall so it doesn’t see it coming and then BOOM!, it explodes!” argued Sam.

“No, it’s a ghost so it’ll just go through so I say we use lights so you can't see it as well and then yeah it’ll hopefully dampen the power and yeah YEAH!” Michael repeated to himself.

“Ok then,” said Sam awkwardly, “I guess it’s settled then.”

“Can we have the biggest brightest L.E.D lights you have,” Michael asked the Home Depot (it was a few minutes away from Shorewood) store clerk.

“May I ask why young man.” asked the clerk.

“The ‘Ghost Train’,” he replied.

“You actually believe in that, you look like you wouldn’t believe in that,” said the clerk.

“You know the man who went crazy?”asked Michael, “my friends and I past him up then heard train noises and rushed to see what happened and found him,” Michael told the clerk.

“Mmh,” added his friends.

“Ok then,” replied the clerk, “Two of those lights ‘ll be \$99.99 basically 100 four of ‘em ‘ll be \$199.99 and so on.”

“Ok thanks, we’ll take four then,” replied Michael as the three friends huddled up showing each other their money trying to put together \$200.

“I have \$330,” said Sam.

“I have \$340,” added Andrew.

“I have \$430 so 330 plus 340 is 670 plus 430 is \$1,100, ok nice,” Michael concluded, “and we don’t want to spend more than we’ll get so we should buy 10 for \$500 and we’ll end up getting a \$500 profit”

“Ok we changed our mind we’ll take 10 for \$500 then,” Michael told the clerk.

“Ok. I’ll be back,” replied the clerk as he ran to get the lights.

“Ok,” Michael replied.

A while later the clerk came back with the ten lights and put them on a cart so they could carry the lights to Michael's dad's car that his dad was parked at.

"Can we please have some help, or can you at least pop the trunk for us?" asked Michael.

"I'm a coming," Michael's dad, Michael, replied.

"Ok, thanks dad," Michael thanked his dad as Michael the 2nd put the lights in the trunk.

As they were driving Sam and Andrew back to their homes Michael the 2nd told the three friends about his dad Michael the 1st, "Did you know Michael's Grandpa and my dad was the last passenger off the train. He went up to Chicago to visit us that day because then he was off visiting his dad for a week and he was lucky when he came back because on his trip back he got on the 400's last run to Chicago because then it got derailed, it's sad he died a week ago because then maybe you could talk to him about the 400," Michael the 2nd finished. "I never knew that," replied Michael the 3rd. "If you don't know, now you know," replied Michael the 2nd.

"Hello, ummm I'm here to turn in my ghost train project thing," Michael told the officer at the police station.

"Ok I'll give it to the board members this and yeah," the officer affirmed Michael as he took the lights from him one by one.

"Ok thanks," Michael thanked him, "bye!"

"I turned our project guys," Michael informed his friends the next day at school.

"Cool," Sam responded.

“Yeah it is cool,” Andrew agreed.

Three long weeks later at school the winner(s) of the contest were about to be announced, “Come on, come on, come on, come on, come on,” the three friends repeatedly said.

”The winners of the ‘Ghost Train’ contest are ummmm come on think, think, think, ummmm oh, are Michael, Sam and Andrew!” announced the teacher. “YEEESSSS,” all three friends yelled at once, “WE ACTUALLY DID IT WE ACTUALLY DID IT!”

“BOOOOOO, really, come on,” were some of the things coming from the crowd.

“Oh wait there’s \$1,000 between three of us so ummm how’s that going to work ummmm $1,000/3$ is ummm ok we’ll each get at least 300 not much but still someth’n,” Michael put together.

“BOOOOOOOOOOO, I could’ve could’ve gotten more money if I won, me too,” were only the beginning of the class’ reactions. After school Michael’s dad Michael drove them all to Michael’s house and on the way asked “Did you win?”

‘OH WOW WE ACTUALLY FORGOT HOW DID WE DO THAT WE WON WE ACTUALLY WON,’ the three friends all exclaimed at once, “but were each only going to about \$300,” Michael the third added sadly.

On Halloween night everyone in Shorewood was around the Oak Leaf Trail bridge waiting for the infamous *Choo, Choo* of the Ghost Train wanting to see it as it hopefully

disappeared or faded until it couldn't hurt anyone ever again. *CHUGA, CHUGA, CHOO,*
CHOO- it went as it slowly faded until it was a blur of green and yellow.

How the Ghost Train came to be

By: Marley Mindt

5th grade

Lake Bluff

Sibrena heard the whistle of her husband's train. The air was blowing through her pale blonde locks and her black dress sparkled like the night sky. Her green eyes standing out in the crowd and her excited smile brightened the sun. The train was golden and green, the engine made out of stainless steel. She took a seat on one of the velvet seats .She loved this train. She saw a woman with her baby and her kindly nature kicked in. She welcomed the woman to sit next to her.

“Thank you!” She exclaimed as the baby drifted off to sleep.

“What brings you on The 400?” Sibrena asked.

“This baby is my niece and i’m giving her back to my sister-in-law.” The lady replied.

“Do you like the train?” Asked Sibrena.

“Absolutely!” The woman said.

“Well good, I’m the one paying for it!” Sibrena said jokingly.

”Next stop is shorewood!!” Her husband hollered.

“I have to go” The woman said.

She leaves and these strange men come aboard. They sit down next to her! The men have black hair and blue eyes but what set them apart from others was their greedy hands and selfish grin.

She says “Hi, do you need anything?” .

They reply in a gravelly voice

“Do you know the conductor?”

“My husband?” She questions.

They stuff a piece of cloth in her mouth. She felt a scream forming in her throat and terror filled her eyes. Her husband burst out the door! The leader commands one of his lackeys to tackle him and the men tied them up. One of his lackeys slips to the front and starts driving the train.

Sibrena hears her husband mutters under his breath, “don’t knock the coal over,”.

“What do you mean?”

“When I burst out the door my bag of coals knocked over near the fire but never in the fire!!”.

A couple seconds later, a wave of people flooded out the end of the train as Sibrena and her husband were stuck in the front not able to escape.

“JAMES, what we are going to do!?” Sibrena wailed, Desperate to hear an answer. Her husband frowned grimly, not able to speak. Suddenly, a wail cried out throughout the Train. It was right next to her! It was the woman!

“Hey, are you okay” Sibrena shouted.

“Can you help me!!” Said a weak voice. The baby started crying! No reply.

“They’re dead” Sibrena said grimly. The golden flames got closer as people fled. They died with the train but they made a deal to the grim reaper, that he could put any passengers he wanted on that train as long as they drove it. To this day, they drive the train for all eternity! Sometimes you can hear a baby crying! The mother is still looking. Now you know what happened to the ghost train.

The Haunted Bridge

By: Nathan Berkowitz

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

“Bye mom!”

“Bye Isaac!”

Isaac loves to run, he loves the way the wind slapped against his face as he pushes through the wind! As he was running he saw a sliver of gold in the bushes it turned out it was a golden pocket watch, he had been looking for a watch anyways so he picked it up and kept running. He felt wind blowing against his face as he ran. He got onto a trail, the oak leaf trail because he liked all the trees blowing in the wind, he started to run across the bridge. He slowed down to stop to look over the bridge. It suddenly started to rain, which turned into a storm, the clouds went gray. It felt like he had ran a billion miles. He didn't mind the rain. He suddenly heard a rumbling sound as a bright green and yellow train came shooting down the bridge. He couldn't see at all into the train. He had just moved to this new village yesterday so he didn't know what was happening, he shot to the side of the track just in time and he heard a voice say “I want it, i know you have it.” It almost sounded like what his dad's voice was like. Isaac ran away as fast as he could and went home. He told his mom and she said tomorrow she would come with him.

So at the same time the next day he always went on his run, 7:00 they went on a run. He told his mom to stay clear of the track. At 7:15 the train came and the voice said “ I want it, I know you have it.” “There did you hear that?” Isaac asked his mom.

“What.”

“That voice did you hear it?”

“No, what did it say?”

It said, “I want it, I know you have it.”

“Don't be silly let's go back.”

“Mom!”

“What!!”

“I'm not lying!”

He felt my heart beating a million times a second. He couldn't believe his own MOM didn't believe him.

“Lets just go home.” said mom

“Fine.”

The moment we got home I ran to my room and slammed the door. I felt like I could push the house down with one touch.

That night he heard a sound on his window. It went scratch,scratch,scratch, he headed outside and he saw his dad. Not alive of course but as a ghost It was standing outside. It said“I know you have it, and I'm here to get it.” Isaac screamed but before he could get away, CRUNCH!

After that nobody saw him again. The next day Isaac's mom went outside and saw the remains of Isaacs bones lying on the ground!

The Story Of The Ghost Train

By: Nick Owan

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

“There are a lot of people in the train station! It’s like a thousand!” I thought to myself. I was just heading to the ticket booth to get my ticket, but it was hard to stand because the people were pushing and shoving. Once I got to be third in line a tall man with strong arms started to cut in line.

“Hey!” I said when he shoved in front of me. That triggered him.

“Whatcha gonna do about it? Huh?” I let him skip me.

Later I got my ticket and sat down, I’ve been waiting to get on the 400 for about two hours already. Finally an announcement came and it said train 400 is arriving soon. Then the 400 came and I got on the 400 it was beautiful! it was a air conditioned, *and* there was a nice comfy seat.

Twenty minutes later my eyes got heavy, everything got quiet, and I was asleep.

About an hour later the train started to slow down, I could not tell because I was asleep. Then i woke up by a horn, it sounded like a horn from a train! BOOM! Right when I heard the big boom I started to see a bright light and it was so peaceful, I heard ringing bells and horns and trains but not too loud, just the right amount of sound I had started to rise but then, i fell back down but, the weirdest part was is that, it didn’t hurt. But then i saw it i saw my body just lying there! It was so scary, but i didn’t understand what had happened, my hands were shaking. But I saw the train, it was standing on the track not broken or anything, but it was kind of a fog it was

the ghost train somehow I knew how to drive it so I hopped in the train and I drove it right over the bridge of shorewood at 9:30-10:00.

Now every night I go on and people watch me but, sometimes if you look close enough you can see me.

The Mysterious Ghost

By: Rachel Pack
5th Grade
Lake Bluff Elementary

One day there was a girl named Amber. Amber had bright, long, shiny, curly, red hair. Amber was not so tall, she was one of the shortest kids in her class. Amber was 7 and a half years old. Amber loves to explore, everyday after school she goes around the block and looks at things, but she is not allowed to cross the street. Amber has a picture book of all the things that she found. One day Amber was just walking around with her notebook and her sparkly pink pen, and she found this huge field with nothing in it. No one was there except for Amber, so Amber walked more into the field,. Then in the distance there she saw a huge figure. She ran up to it and it was... a train! It was HUGE!!!! “Wow, how have I never seen this before?” said Amber. She looked at it and read it. “400?”sid Amber. Then quickly Amber sketched the train in her notebook..Then their was a cold breeze that sent chills up her body. Then she heard “Amber, time for dinner.” That was her mom. “I’ll see you tomorrow.” she whispered. At the dinner table it was Amber, Amber’s mom and dad, and the most annoying brother of all time, Amber’s little brother Tommy. Tommy had bright red curly hair just like Amber. Tommy was 5 years old. Amber did not like Tommy, he always followed her around and did what she did. At the dinner table Amber’s dad asked

“How was your day Tommy?

“It was ok.” answered Tommy.

“And Amber how was yours?” asked her dad. “It was awesome... I saw a train that crashed in the huge field, I read it and it said 400 on the side of it, I drew it in my notebook... wanna see it.” Asked Amber.

Without hearing if her mom and dad said yes she ran to her backpack and got her notebook of all the things that she finds. "Look, this is the train, see it says 400 on the side." said Amber.

"Wow, you are very creative." said Amber's mom.

"There is no crashed train". Said Tommy.

"Is too". Said Amber.

"Is not." said Tommy.

"Is too". Said Amber.

"Is not, is not, is IS NOT! said Tommy.

"Kids, kids settle down and eat your dinner". Said Amber's dad.

The next morning Amber asked her mom if she could go explore around.

"Pick up your room first and then you can go but have to be back in 3 hours." said her mom.

"Ok." said Amber.

Amber hurried back to her room and picked up her room as fast as she could. She didn't have school that day because it was saturday. Then Tommy walked by Amber's room.

"Where are you going?" asked Tommy.

"Nowhere" answered Amber.

"Can I come with you?" asked Tommy.

"No" answered Amber.

"I'm telling mom!" said Tommy.

"Ugh" sighed Amber.

“MOM!!!” screamed Tommy.

“What.” asked Amber’s mom.

“Amber won’t let me go exploring with her.”

Amber’s Mom gave Amber a look of anger. “Let your brother go with you.”

said Amber’s mom. “But... I... fine.” said Amber.

“Thank you.” said Amber’s mom.

“Whooooo.” said Tommy.

“But Tommy you have to listen to Amber, when says it’s time to go home then you

listen and don’t whine.” said Amber’s mom.

“Ok.” said Tommy.

While Amber and Tommy were exploring, Tommy asked Amber... “Is this crashed train

really real?”

“Yes.” answered Amber.

“It is in the big field right by the park.” said Amber.

“Can we go look?” asked Tommy.

“No, we have to go home, we can’t be late for dinner.” said Amber.

“But I want to stay!!!!” screamed Tommy.

“I’m in charge.” said Amber.

“Fine.” said Tommy.

The next day Tommy was at his friend’s house. So Amber asked her mom... “Can I go

exploring?”

“Yes.” answered her mom.

So Amber went. She went to the giant field. It was empty. No one was there except for Amber.

And then a cold wind rushed through Amber’s hair. Just like before on Friday when the cold wind gave Amber chills. She felt a something tap her on the shoulder. She turned around and...

“Ahhhhhhh!!!”

Amber screamed. There was a tall skinny ghost! Amber ran. But then she heard this sweet little

quiet voice say,

“Wait, don’t be scared.”

All of a sudden Amber stopped and turned around. She looked at the ghost. It had old looking clothes. The ghost also had a black hat on that looked like someone had worn in the 30s

“Hello.”

The ghost said.

“Hi.”

Amber was shaking that is how scared she was. But then she looked at the ghost and she could see that the ghost was just as scared as she was. The ghost said

“I was in that train, it had crashed, it was going on the tracks just like an ordinary day, but then something was wrong, the conductor had been going really fast, and then he was serving, and all of the sudden the train was in the field. People were screaming, people were trying to jump out the windows, and other people were holding their kids as hard as they could. I was in shock I just stood there thinking it was just a dream. Then the train crashed into a huge rock the size of a mountain.” “There were no survivors.”

said the ghost.

“Wow, when did this happen?”

asked Amber.

“It was on saturday 1934, I was 16, I was a young lad.” said the ghost.

“So, what did you.....”

“Amber time for dinner!” said Amber’s mom.

“I have to go, see you later.” said Amber.

“Ok bye, bye.” said the ghost.

Then whoosh!! Amber felt a cold breeze and the ghost was gone. Amber thought that she would see the ghost again, but she never did. Then when she was 22 she designed a train. It had very comfy seating and very nice service. It was the grand opening of Amber’s train.

“I’m so nervous, do you think anyone will come.” Amber asked.

“Of course honey, you will do great.” said her mom. Amber decided to name her train... The Ghost Train, in honor of the ghost that she talked with and all the other people on the train. Then suddenly Amber felt a cold breeze... kind of like the one that she felt when she was younger when the ghost came in the field... but... it couldn’t be. Then something tapped her on the shoulder, she turned around and it was the ghost! They smiled at each other and Amber never saw that ghost again.

Survivors

By: Santiago Muirhead
5th Grade
Lake Bluff Elementary

Introduction

[The air was filled with morning dew and the Grass was letting It's morning drops and as the smoke was clearing.] And the 400 Was chugging passed it was just like a ghost coming through. The 400 passed farms and Cities. It traveled 400 Miles in 400 minutes including stops the trains back then and now are super fancy. They have dining room tables and places where you can and moving chairs. but back then was really expensive to go on these trains and in one day tons of people went on the train But the train the 400 but only do one more run after that they would have had 1 million more dollars if the train was still running but they decided not to.

And that's the history of the ghost train, And that's the real version of the ghost train.

One beautiful morning Henry was playing with his dog max and at the same time the 400 streaming past his house henry loved trains and wished that he could ride on the 400 inside clara saw henry looking at the 400 and yelled at him and said “ you will never ride on that train” clara hated trans. After that baby ben was crying when the train whistle blew. Hours past and henry

was getting Inpatient that time his dad sprinted up the hill henry could see that he was ether happy, confused and intrested.he did not bolt through the door but he also did not ram the door.

When he

got inside he told us the news he said it in an inpatient way.

Seconds later the house was Like a barn on fire and that reminded Henry of time in Castle when a great fire happened that's how he move down to the Milwaukee region because they had better firefighters and his dad found a new job down there as paper printer. Henry and Clara went to light glove while baby been at home with Mom was great very cozy prepared for the winter dad said we had to leave immediately because the train would not stop and wait for us so we had to pack all of our clothes Henry asked if Max could not come Papa that the Shepherds would take care of Max for the weekend. Henry was frustrated but happy. At the string station Henry had never seen the Clock Tower and the railroad but most of all of 400 in real life stopped right in front of him he thought this was a dream but wasn't when the conductor said it was amazing I was about to fall asleep when I heard three men stomping around they look very tough and wore all black they said to me” back off that's my spot” Add back. We were halfway through and I was getting quite dark outside that's really excited but then I saw grey clouds overhead I was glad that we were in a train minutes later start pouring down rain and at that same time the creeps before we're going to the the conductor's room I was thinking maybe they worked here so I went to eat something when I came back I cell one of them standing outside with a pistol in his hands he said if anybody who got close where to get shot at the same time the train was side to side it seemed like it would go forever but all of a sudden a lightning bolt struck One of the sides of the train that caused the train to fall over to the other side and crashed. Right on the woods Sparks

were flying everywhere it was depressing seeing people tumbling and breaking bones hundreds were shedding blood. In more more moaning hundreds dying thousands wounded and then no one thought this would happen but the train burst into flames wounded as passengers being burned to ashes it was a terrible site smoke filled the air dad was punching at the window get out mom was helping Clara up Henry was running straight towards the window but baby Ben was nowhere in sight screams and shouts as the fire was arising it was like in Castle when the woods burnt to the ground. They scrambled to the top and leaped as the train exploited and pieces went flying off by the time they landed on the ground Half the train blew up and the woods was on fire. mom dad and ran To the cave Henry curiously walked along the same time and let it shine couple feet away from the cave solar fish move out of his spot he told his mom and dad that they are to get out of here before he saw them and see them up so they walked and walked until they found a hole big enough for them all to fit but Henry didn't want to wanted to get rid of those Bandits so until he found the cave and the Bandit for the stick that Henry had thrown a walk down there while Henry in the cave he couldn't believe his eyes when he walked in there diamonds and necklace of all kinds tons of food and a little wooden box that caught Henry's attention walked over there and picked it up carefully And opened it inside was a little ticket I flipped it over and it said 400 train destination Saint Paul. he couldn't believe his eyes the same time I heard footsteps he grabbed the box and hid under the table the Bandits came over this sat down he held his breath he waited 30 minutes till they left he ran as As as he could and jumped into the hole but when he got up you notice that his mom was missing Clara and dad were still there but no sign of mom."where's mom?"asked henry

Dad said"she was right next to us I don't know where she is know"

Henry and Henry's dad were helping Clara and her broken ribs and her arm was bleeding badly.

Days past and it kept raining non stop. And now one heard of them again but beware still out there for revenge.

The Train Station

By: Sneha M.
5th Grade
Lake Bluff

Once upon a time there was a boy named Charlie he had just turned 9 years old, his birthday was on September 9th. One day Charlie's mom said "Let's go to Chicago!" "Okay," Charlie replied. Charlie was very happy about going to Chicago, he didn't go to Chicago that often.

When they arrived at the train station, Charlie couldn't find his mom in the crowd, he weaved his way around the crowd. Charlie assumed that the red train with the blue stripes, was the one his mom was on, Charlie jumped on the train, just as it was about to leave. He was safely inside the train. He asked someone where the train was headed.

"I'm going to Milwaukee." The stranger said meanly.

The train stopped moving, Charlie got off the train.

Charlie fell, his knee started to bleed, tears welled up in his eyes, suddenly he saw a white shadowy figure. He couldn't believe his eyes, the white shadowy figure was a ghost!

Charlie was very scared, he had a knot in his stomach.

Charlie couldn't breathe, finally after 5 minutes Charlie managed to calm down.

"Can you take me to Chicago?" Charlie asked the ghost.

"I will buy you a ticket, that way you can go to Chicago." The ghost said. Charlie found the ghost's advice very helpful. "Where are we going?"

“You are going to ride on the ghost train.” “We have to go to the ghost train if you’re ever going to find your mom.” The ghost said. They walked and walked until Charlie felt like he couldn’t take another step, finally they got to the ghost station. The ghost that walked with Charlie, paid for the ticket. After the ghost was done paying for the ticket, Charlie got on the train and said good-bye to the ghost. The ghost disappeared. Suddenly, Charlie noticed something weird, it was 12:00, but the train was still moving, Charlie jumped off the train. He saw his mom and he found himself in Milwaukee. Suddenly, his alarm clock rang, he woke up and ran downstairs, and told his mom about his dream. ”You should make a model of the ghost train.” His mother suggested. Charlie ran upstairs to make a model of the ghost train, Charlie finished his model, it had 3 windows and the train was white and in big bold lettering were the words ghost train. Charlie already knew that there was a ghost train.”Charlie started studying ghost train history. “Mom,did you know that there used to be a train on Capitol Drive?” Charlie asked. “I didn’t know that.” Charlie’s mom replied. The next day, Charlie gave a presentation at his school about the ghost train, at the end of his presentation, Charlie wondered if he would ever see the ghost train or the ghost.

The Ghost train

By: Soren Wall

5th grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

A twelve year old boy named Max was taking a walk in an empty park in a town about 80 miles north-west of Chicago. All of a sudden the birds stopped whistling, the trees stopped swaying, everything was still and silent. Just then a ear piercing whistle broke the silence. A clear, green glowing train came out of the trees and went right past him. Right before the last car went past Max a hand stuck out of a window and pulled him in. Max was sprawled on the floor of the second to last car. When he picked himself up he finally got a good look at the car, it looked like every other passenger train Max had been on only nicer. It had velvet seats, big windows, a sunroof, and a fancy looking carpet. He even saw a poster that said *Welcome to the 400* in fat letters. He almost forgot how terrified he was until he saw the ghosts. A dozen or so were walking right towards him. They all had overalls and work hats on. Then Max yelled, "Where am I? What do you want from me? Why-" he had a hundred more questions.

He got interrupted by a ghost with a raspy voice that said "you were the only person in the park. We couldn't risk you telling your little friends you saw a ghost."

"I'm just a little kid, nobody would believe me" Max said hoping it was believable.

"Even so, we couldn't risk it. You will be living here the rest of your life." said a small and fat ghost.

"Please? I swear I won't tell anybody."

Max begged. But the answer was the same each time. Three days later, he finally convinced the ghosts to let him go so they made him swear he would never tell a soul about the time when he

saw a train full of ghosts. The ghost train rumbled stopped at the same park that they had found Max, Max walked down the hard cold metal stairs of the ghost train. when he got off he turned around to thank them but they were all ready gone. He new that his parents would be worried sick so he rushed home to explain it all. When Max opened the front door his dog, Rossie ran down the hall and started licking his ankles. Max smiled and said "I love you to." then Rossie went off to play with one of her chew toys. Max walked into the kitchen to explain everything to his mom.

"Back all ready?" asked his mom. Max was pretty confuse and he was about to say so, but his mom kept talking " you were only there for fifteen minutes and I thought you said that you were going to the park for a while and fifteen minutes is hardly a while." Max was super confused so he just said,

"I decided to come home early". His mom just nodded her head. Max slowly walked up the stairs to his room then sat down on his bed to think about what just happened. Suddenly it hite him, while he was with the ghosts no time had past at all. Nobody will ever know about the time when he saw a train full of ghosts.

The Ghost of 400

By: Jenna Abu-zahra

5th Grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

I was going down the stairs of my front porch, “We need to get going, or we’ll miss the opening off the 400 train.” I explained to Chip, (My cat) while walking on the sidewalk. I was racing all through Shorewood, I was kicking light cold stones and dry dead leaves, the crisp air smelled of fall.

All through the beautiful Oak leaf trail I saw the light red Shorewood high school building and the Wisconsin Athletic Club through the bushes and brambles. The bushes were rustling and the sky was turning light gray, dusk was arising. I could barely spot the bridge, there were so many people crowding around the train, A whole stampede to be exact.

I swerved through the crowd with chip tailing behind, I saw the HUUUge train, it was like the size of ten elephants stacked up on each other! It was green and yellow, and on the inside it had luxurious red velvet seating. The train was placed on dark brown Mahogany train tracks! I was amazed by what I saw. until, I saw the conductor of the train... IT was a ghost! A real live ghost. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing!

I rubbed my eyes over and over again. But the ghost was still there. I slowly walked up to him, my belly turning and my hands sweating. He was standing on the stairs to the train “HI, I..I’m Melia.” I stammered nervously to the ghost.

“Hiyaa! My name is Jeffry, but you can call me Jeff.” He said whimsically with a grin on his face

”O..Okay.” I stammered in reply.

“Would you like to take a ride on the train?” Jeff asked trying to be friendly. “Sure!” I said excitedly in return.

I hopped on step-by-step, I gazed everywhere, it was the most beautiful train I had ever seen! It had waitresses in every corner, There were beautiful bright yellow lights on the ceiling, and a whole other room for the kids to play and rest in. There was beautiful seating in the first class room and a huge window on the top of the train it was as big as 3 people stacked on top of the ceiling.

I took a seat in the corner I was facing the window waving by to Chip. I could here the start of the engine, veroosh vrooshh . We were serving on the tracks going so fast, the water you would hold would spill everywhere. The bus started going to fast and I started feeling really queasy, my stomach turned and tossed.I looked out the window and saw a beautiful tropical forest , it had monkeys swinging from vine to vine. And dolphins flipping in the air and the brightest green grass all over!

As I was looking past the Oak Leaf trail I saw Chip and all the other people waiting in line to try the wondrous train.

“Byaa, Melia!” Jeff said as I got down the train

“By Jeff!” I replied, I was still shocked that a real live ghost was driving the train.

The next day when I came out to meet chip in our backyard he wasn't there! So I walked up to my front porch and I could see him sitting on one of our wooden chairs ,waiting for me. Once chip saw me he bounded over and swung himself on top of my shoulder. I guess that meant we should get going I thought.

I was walking by staring at the wondrous waterfall placed by the Shorewood Oak leaf trail, I saw beautiful fish silver and all jumping and leaping in the misty air. The water was as flat and calm as glass
I stared,astounded at what I saw, little gray dolphins swimming all around leaping in the air, gliding with the fish, the shining sun was shimmering through the cloud above us.

I could barely spot the bridge, but as I looked a little closer I saw that no one was there, it was completely deserted! I walked up astonished that no one was there! Just yesterday this place was completely crowded I thought. I slowly walked over, the fog blinded me with its misty sting. I spotted the train but there was no one in it. As I walked up I called his name, Jeff's name. There was no reply.. I walked up, waving the fog out my way,. I walked closer and closer I could see a train figure, i extended my fingertips and rubbed them on the faded train . “ Waaghhh !!!!” I screamed as the train fell on its side. My eyes grew wider and wider as I looked at the train laying down on its wooden train tracks. I decided it was best for me to go home .

The Next Day..

“ Melia!” My mom shouted from the kitchen. “What,” I replied from the living room, I was lying down watching my favorite morning cartoons. “ Can you go on the trail and fetch me

those grape leaves.” She replied even louder. I felt like my ears were about to fall off! “ Why? Just get some from the garden outside.” I commented back annoyed that I was missing my cartoon. “ No, grandma likes those, and plus it’ll do you good to walk outside instead of sitting like a couch potato.” Mom argued. “Fine.” I gave in while slowly lifting my body off my couch.

As I walked back to the bridge (a little scared I’ll admit) I saw.. Nothing!!

I really saw nothing!! The train wasn’t there! I walked closer and closer to the train tracks but nothing was there! I was astonished! It seemed like the train disappeared in thin air! He was gone!Jeff wasn’t there!

I was struck with shock! I knew it wasn’t the trains destiny to stay here forever, But each time I passed my ghost train I would remember the ghost of 400.

The Ghost Train THAT Lives

5th grade

Lake Bluff Elementary

BY SYRUS Caprice BRATCHETT.JR

There were two ten year old boys named Jeff and Billy Bob who were best friends. They were crossing the bridge to go home from basketball practice. They were taking a shortcut. Billy Bob told Jeff about the ghost train. It was a real train that comes to get you at night and keeps you on the train all night. No one can escape. The Ghost train is the scariest place ever and it was in their town. Jeff's eyes got huge. He was frightened of the ghost train.

Billy Bob laughed so hard he cried! He said he was just kidding but Jeff was still scared. It was getting dark and they were still walking on the bridge when they heard a whistle like a train. Billy Bob said, "That wasn't me!"

Jeff said, "It wasn't me either!"

The boys looked around. There were no cars or buses under the bridge. The traffic light was off and the only sound was the train whistle. Jeff thought that Billy Bob was joking. Bob looked very scared so when Jeff looked at him, he knew, it wasn't Billy Bob this time. Jeff pulled out his phone and called his parents for help. It rang 10 times but no one picked up. Then Jeff heard breathing. A voice said, "I'm coming for you."

When Jeff was on the railroad track he looked very tall but Billy Bob was just the same height. Then they both looked down and Jeff was on the railroad track alone. The track was right under Jeff's feet. Both boys looked down and Jeff was on the track. Then Jeff jumped down off

the train track and rolled down a hill. Billy Bob hit the track with a rock. It turned gluey and slimy. Jeff touched it and he told Billy Bob, “ It feels weird!”

Then the train whistle came again. A girl's head was hanging out of the train window and scared them. They started running but the train was getting closer and closer until it almost got them. They both jumped on the other side the train but then the ghost train disappeared. It was the first time actually seeing the train. When it came back for them again, it kept chasing them until they got home. But they never got home! They went missing for ten months. Everyone got so scared. Jeff and Billy were trapped on the ghost train and did not know what to do so they screamed. But suddenly, then they were home. When they got home, they realized it was a dream but it wasn't! They went back to the railroad, and it happened! But this time, the train wasn't on the side of them, it was in front of them and they got slimed. They walked home smelling so bad that the only way to get the slime off of them was to take a bath in tomato juice and roll in the dirt. They walked right through town, down Capitol Drive and no one recognized them. The ghost train was still chasing them and a ghost was coming off the train to possess Billy Bob and Jeff. They are still missing today.

The Legend of the 400

By: Ben J. West

5th grade

Lake Bluff Elementary School

I could feel the breeze of the misty night. It was like someone was breathing down my neck. I asked my dad “What happened to the 400,” so my dad tells me the story, “but the first thing I need you to know,” said Dad, “is that the train was spectacular. A bright yellow and green so don't think less of it.” said Dad.

“It was 1963 the conductor said the axel was rusty ,but they still went, that was there big mistake...

Half way threw, I was eating dinner we were on a bridge. then we started to slide and people started to faint and I saw a mist,a glowing mist of what looked like the creator of the 400. But then the train fell but I just went right threw, than in mid air it disappeared into the cold, cold mist so every night it goes by you can't see it but you can hear it so they set up sensors with lights so you can see it,and sometimes you can still hear the screams of the people.”

“How?” I asked

“I don't know,” said my dad ,

“But it was fine it was still going to be it's last run because they didn't have the money to keep it up and running” said my dad

“Choo choo!” that's the train said dad.

“Should I tell him,” asked dad.

“No!” said mom “Absolutely not, he’s too young”

Mom looks at me “And I’m not ready.”

THE CURSE

By: Theresa B.
5th Grade
Lake Bluff Elementary

Once there was a 12 year old girl named Rebecca. She was sitting very quietly on the couch until something unusual appeared in her head it was something about biking “That’s weird Why should i go bike riding it’s raining” Rebecca Said with a very confused look on her face, “Well why not “ She shrugged putting on her jacket feeling like someone strange was watch her from across the room. She got very scared and feeling like the person was following her so she darted out the door. When she got out she ran as fast as she could to her bike. She looked behind her and saw a shadowy figure. She pedalled as fast as she could in the rain to the bike trail. She biked all the way to the capital bridge And stopped in the middle of it with a weird look on her face. There was a note in front of her. As she was looking weirdly at it She said, “Why is there a note just lying around here”. Rebecca got off her wet bike and picked up the strange note. It was soggy and ripped But she could still read it The note said: **Whoever Stays on the bridge for one minute will be cursed Forever,** “Well we better be getting off the bridge” A Boy Said While he was behind Rebecca, “Yah “ Rebecca agreed. She looked closely at the time, “Umm well we stood on here for a minute” Rebecca Said. They both were very had concerned looked. “What even is the Curse!” Rebecca said looking around for any signs. She stops and spots this weird ghostly looking train the boy looks at it too. Very scared they both got on there bikes and biked together as fast as they could. The train was following them! Rebecca looks behind her and saw the train. She squinted her eyes and saw the dark figure in the window, It was not blurry any

more this time she could see more of the dark figure it had a hat and a plaid shirt on. The train got faster and faster but for some reason it was not that loud, “ JUMP!! ” The boy Started getting ready to jump off his red shining bike. Rebecca glared at him shaking. “You know i can just ride down the hill “ Rebecca said when the boy already jumped off. “Yeah, it's more dangerous” The boy yelled. The train got closer and closer to her its engine was quiet. She kept biking until the train was right up to here tire and then....the train went through her, “What the?” Rebecca said confused of what just happened to her. The train keep going until it faded away its beautiful green flashing lights blended in with the bright green leaves. Rebecca biked back to the boy, “what’s your name” Rebecca said with her hair all messed up, “Jack. My name is Jack, And you name is Rebecca?” Jack said with a grin on his face. Rebecca sighed in confusion, “How do you know my-” “the year book” Jack said interrupting her, “Oh, so you're the one from my class huh?” Rebecca Said trying to get more info, “ You know i can’t answer all your questions.” Jack said still having a happy grin on his face. “Well i should get going” Rebecca said getting ready to petal, ”Ok. Well bye” Jack said waving bye to her. When Rebecca got back home She looked around seeing if the shadowy figure was back in the little corner but it was writing on the wall. ”What the...” Rebecca said while walking to the little corner. Rebecca walked closely to the corner wondering what it said it was all blurry but some she could see it. It said: **You will see the ghost train tonight.** Rebecca’s eyes widened. 20 minutes passed, Rebecca Looked out the window while she was still studying the writing.it was dark outside and her mom was coming home any minute. She ran all the way to her room turned off her light and jumped in her bed and closed her eye. When she closed her eyes she could see the ghost train coming for her she opened her eyes in shock ”What just happened. ” Rebecca said shaking. Rebecca looked out her

window it was day and she could smell pancakes. So she jumped right out of her bed and got dressed. 5 days passed and the same thing happened to her over and over again. But one day something happened she walked back the bridge with her family and walked back home. When it was night she fell asleep and nothing happened. She woke up feeling great, Rebecca walked out of her room, but The shadowy figure was still watching her from that corner of her room.