

Short Story Contest 2022

Olive and Fred Robins Junior Short Story Contest is an annual programme held each October. Wellington County students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 are invited to submit original stories for the chance to win great prizes and publication of their work.

Thank you to each person who participated this year! We hope you enjoy these creative pieces as much as we do.

Olive and Fred Robins Junior Short Story Contest

2022 WINNER

Finleigh Sardi-Bradburn
Author of “The Honeybees”

Sophie, Jasmine, Emily, Claire and Ruby were best friends. They did everything together. They rode their bikes to school together, they played hopscotch at recess together and they were all in the same class together.

“Hey, look at this!” said Sophie. Jasmine, Emily, Claire and Ruby came running over to see what the excitement was all about. “Wanted: Girls for Flag Football tournament” read Jasmine. It turns out the school was having a flag football tournament and there were posters all over the school. “Let’s make a team and join!” said Claire who was the fastest runner in the class.

That day after school they all went over to Ruby’s house because Ruby’s mom was a seamstress and she had sewing machine. “We need a team name and team shirts!” said Emily. “UGHHHHH!!” shouted Jasmine. “What’s wrong, Jasmine?” asked Sophie. “It’s a bee!” squealed Jasmine as she ran away. The other girls laughed and said “It’s just a *honey* bee!” Jasmine joined them in time to hear Ruby say “That’s it! That’s our team name...The Honeybees!” They found some yellow fabric in Ruby’s mom’s sewing room and set to work sewing their team shirts.

The next day at school, Claire called the girls together and said, with a worried look on her face “What even is Flag Football? We don’t even know how to play! How will we ever win?” “We need a COACH!” said Emily. Just then Mr Phillips came around the corner. “Whoa, hey girls! I almost bumped into you! What are you all doing in the hallway?” he asked. “Do you know anything about flag football, Mr Phillips?” asked Sophie. “Why sure I do!” The girls all giggled and Claire said, “We want to join the Flag Football tournament but we don’t know how to play. Will you be our coach?” Just then a group of boys walked by and started to laugh. “Girls can’t play flag football!” said one boy. “Aren’t you afraid to wreck your hair?” said another boy. Mr Phillips thought about what the boys said for a moment and then smiled, looked right at the boys, and said “Of course I can! That sounds like fun! Meet me on the playground at first recess, girls.”

Every recess the girls met and practiced with Mr Phillips. Sophie was the quarterback because she could throw the farthest and Claire was the receiver because she could run the fastest and no one could ever grab her flags!

Finally, Tournament Day came. The girls were nervous. At the field they saw all the other teams. The girls on the Red Team were really tall and the Blue Team were really fast. “Don’t worry girls!” said Mr Phillips. “Just try your best!”

The girls lost their first two games. They were starting to feel like they had no chance of winning. "Come on girls! We got this! Remember that time Sophie fell off her bike and we all worked together to carry her home?" said Ruby. "Let's work together just like that again and we will be sure to win this game!" The score was tied at 12-12 with only 30 seconds left in the game. Then, Sophie threw the ball farther than anyone had seen her throw before! It was a close one but Claire caught the ball and ran her fastest to score right as the buzzer went. "We won!" said Emily and the Honeybees hugged and cheered. "Great teamwork!" said Mr Phillips. "Now your off to the finals! Just one more game, girls!"

The final game started. The Honeybees were playing the really tall Red Team. The Honeybees scored first. Then the Red team scored. The girls were getting tired! "My legs hurt!" said Claire. Time for one more play. Sophie threw the ball but it went over Claire's head! Everyone gasped! But along came Ruby who jumped and caught the ball as it sailed over Claires head. "Run Ruby, Run!" shouted Mr Phillips. And that's what Ruby did all the way to the end zone! "Bzzzzzzzzzzzz" went the buzzer to signal the end of the game. The Honeybees won!

The whole school cheered as the girls received their First Place Ribbons. "We did it!" said Jasmine, "I just knew we could!" "Girls can do anything!" said Emily.

The End

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2022 WINNER

Jack Moore
Author of "Peanut Tails"

AHHH, WHO STOLE ROBERT!

Two hours earlier...

Hi my name is Charlie, Charlie the chipmunk. But I'm a lucky chipmunk because I get free peanuts from humans. Unlike my stinky old neighbour Red Squirrel the red squirrel. Like what kind of name is that? Anyway, do you like peanuts? That's a silly question, everybody like peanuts! Let me tell a story that involves peanuts and mystery.

Earlier in the day, I was running over to the nearby cottagers, who by the way love to give me silly names like Bert. Whoever heard of a chipmunk named Bert? Anyway, they had peanuts, so I scrambled up their deck to get some, but Red Squirrel came out of nowhere and chased me up and out of a tree. I fell onto the cottagers' dock. Suddenly, their German Shepherd came charging at me. I had to abort into the freezing cold lake! As I tried to scramble up the side of the dock, the dog had the nerve to pick me up in his smelly dog mouth. My karate training kicked in and I stuck my toe up his nose, which led to another unplanned dip in the lake!

Soon after, I returned home to my favourite tunnel, but I immediately felt that something wasn't quite right. A second later, I realized my triple peanut pal, otherwise known as Robert, was gone! AHHHHHHH! WHO STOLE ROBERT! I know who stole Robert, it must have been snail! Wait, no, that's not right, it's definitely Red Squirrel! I ran straight to his nest up in the mother oak tree. When I got there, he was collecting acorns. I walked up to him with my cheeks all puffed out and said "Give Me Back My Peanut!". "What? I didn't take your peanut Mr. Mini-Mouse, so scram" said Red squirrel with a grin. "I know you took Robert" I said with gritted teeth as I walked away.

As I angrily returned to my tunnel, a black squirrel rushed up from behind me in a scurry of leaves and said "I couldn't help but over hear about your peanut problem. I'd be happy to figure it out with you, and get to the bottom of this". We went into my secret bunker, well, it's just my favourite hidey hole where I kept Robert. We looked around and discovered that something had dug another tunnel leading into mine. My new and unusual companion found a paw print in the soft dirt and said "let's see where this tunnel leads us!". After what felt like

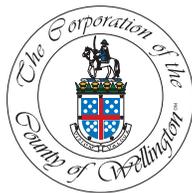
hours, but could have been minutes, we heard a commotion ahead of us. We stopped to listen, and out came a SKUNK! We got out of there as fast as we could. It turns out we didn't get out of fast enough. Sometime shortly after, we found ourselves in the human's garden, rolling around in some juicy rotting tomatoes. Black squirrel asked "are you sure this will work, this stuff is disgusting!". "I'm pretty sure that I saw the humans use this stuff on their crazy dog when he found a skunk last spring" I replied.

After rolling in the leftover tomatoes, we still stunk, but we had a job to do. We headed back to my bunker and checked out the mysterious hole again. As I looked up, I noticed some black and white fur stuck in the dirt above my head and said "the skunk must have taken Robert, but I'm not going back down that tunnel to get him". When I turned to leave, my foot kicked something in the dirt. I investigated and was so excited at my discovery I yelled, "Robert, it's you!". We hugged, well I hugged Robert, for a very long time. When I showed black squirrel what I had found and where, he got up, turned and walked away mumbling, "I am not getting paid enough for this". I then yelled back "paid, who said anything about getting paid, but THANK YOU! Skunk sprayed buds for life". "Ya, sure we're bffs" black squirrel whispered sarcastically.

After celebrating with Robert, I made my way to Red Squirrel's nest and apologized. Red Squirrel's only reply was "ya ya sure, whatever squirt, just get out of here, you STINK!".

If you are wondering whatever happened to black squirrel and I, well since no other animals could stand our skunk like smell, we became pretty close buds. And as for Red Squirrel, well that's a whole other story.

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