

# IF I HAD A TIME MACHINE



Created by the students of  
Pottstown School District 2023  
Sponsored by McDonald's  
Pottstown, PA

**Barth Elementary  
McDonald's Contest Winners  
2022-2023**

**5K- Aston Stephen**

**1st- Skylar Simms-Wilson**

**2nd- Cherish Smith**

**3rd- Gabriel Matlack**

**4th- Nusaibah Bint-Jamal**

**Aston Stephen**  
**Kindergarten, Barth**  
**Mrs. Yorgey**

If I had a time machine I would go to see a volcano erupt.

**Skylar Simms-Wilson**

**1st Grade, Barth**

**Mrs. Lammey**

### Going Back in Time

If I had a time machine, I would go back in time to see my pop-pop's mom. She was sick and my pop-pop was sad because she went to heaven. My pop-pop would cry and it made me sad. I wish she was still here. I would also go back to see what my mommy looked like and see what my daddy looked like. Also, I want to see what my pop-pop looked like and see what my mom-mom looked like. I want to see what all of my family looked like when they were kids.

**Cherish Smith**  
**2nd Grade, Barth**  
**Mrs. Kenney**

If I had a time machine I would go to the future. I want to see what I will be like when I'm a teenager. I want to see if I work harder to get on my way to a new life. I hope I take care of myself.

I want to see if I take care of my mom if she needs me or needs anything from me. I like taking care of my mom because she does everything for me. I love her so much. I can't wait to meet my teacher and to see who my friends are and if they're nice. I want to see what my second teacher would look like ro to see if I see her again.

**Gabriel Matlack**  
**3rd Grade, Barth**  
**Ms. Cora**

### If I Had a Time Machine

If I had a time machine I would see Elvis Presley, Neil Diamond, and Johnny Cash.

First I would go back to the past to see Elvis Presley in concert. I would see him sing Hound Dog, Jailhouse Rock, and All Shook Up.

Then I would see Neil Diamond's concert and see him sing Sweet Caroline. I would meet him and go on stage with him.

I would see Johnny Cash's next concert and see him sing Walk the Line.

That will be a dream that might come true. I hope it does. I would love to see the King of Rock and Roll.

**Nusaibah Bint-Jamal**

**4th Grade, Barth**

**Mrs. McDonnell**

If I had a time machine I could go back to the past or go to the future. One choice I can do is go to the past and meet someone who was important, like Martin Luther King, Jr. Or I could go to the future to see how I grew up; how did Pottstown change; or see my future job.

If I had a time machine, I would go back to the past and try to stop violence. I want to do this because I want things to be calm when we go places. I would not want to worry about dangerous things. We don't have to suffer the consequences of violence. I don't want to worry about my younger siblings when they are out front, or worry about something happening to my family when they go somewhere. The present world has a lot of violence and that is why I would go back to the past and try to stop it from developing.

Another thing I would do while I was in the past is to remove chemicals and bacteria from our rivers and oceans. Right now there are a lot of fish dying and the ocean is polluted. Who wouldn't love to see a clear ocean filled with lots of healthy fish? Imagine if people stopped throwing trash, chemicals, and other inappropriate materials into the ocean. I would love to see the ocean as clear as bathwater! Wouldn't that be nice?

These are just a couple things I would do if I had a time machine.

**Franklin Elementary  
McDonald's Contest Winners  
2022-2023**

**5K- Alice Guest**

**1st- Deaglan Harrison**

**2nd- Mia Guest**

**3rd- Ruby Buckner**

**4th- Vincent Norcia**



**Alice Guest**

**Kindergarten, Franklin**

**Miss Blair-Miller**

If I had a time machine I would go to my birthday party last year. It was so much fun. I really liked my cake.

**Deaglan Harrison**

**1st Grade, Franklin**

**Miss Collins**

If I had a time machine I would travel back to Hong Kong. I would see my grandpa. I love playing games with him.

**Mia Guest**

**2nd Grade, Franklin**

**Mrs. Hallman**

If I had a time machine I would go back two years ago so I could go to Maine on vacation. Maine is so much fun! It is eight hours away. My friend, Sawyer lives there. We like to swim and catch crayfish together. One day when I was on a floaty, Sawyer found a big crayfish and it was blue. If I had a time machine I would go back to Maine to see my friend again.

## Ruby Buckner

### 3rd Grade, Franklin

#### Miss Armentrout

If I had a time machine I would go to the future and make one of my stories come to life! This is how my story goes. I would have this dog named Flash, a border collie, and a kitten named Holly. We would go to the zoo, but sometimes Flash can be **big** trouble. When Flash, and Holly and I went to the zoo we saw zebras there, but Flash went for a ride on them. Then, Holly saw chickens and she chased them! Then, she saw a pond, a very deep pond. And even worse, fish. Holly jumped in! Next, Flash jumped in to get her! She was lucky she had a fish to eat.

After that we saw a lion. Oh no! Flash jumped in with the lions! The lion grabbed Flash. Then, Holly came. She was pretending to eat the lion's food. That made the lion ROARR! And by accident, he dropped Flash. Holly and Flash ran and climbed the fence. That's when I said, "if you keep being naughty we're going home." Flash and Holly stood there. They looked over and saw elephants. Flash and Holly rode the elephants. I let out a big sigh and started to chase Flash and Holly.

Later, we saw giraffes and Flash and Holly climbed to their heads and slid down their necks. That's when I caught them! I told them we could go to the gift shop. I was just looking around. Flash found a bone with peanut butter in it. Holly found a yarn ball. They snuck it in my purse when I wasn't looking. When I got home Holly and Flash pulled out their toys and I said, "well you guys are a sneaky couple of mischievous animals!" And, after such a crazy day, I would jump back in my time machine and start writing more stories!

**Vincent Norcia**

**4th Grade, Franklin Elementary**

**Miss Murray**

Have you ever thought about where you would go if you had a time machine? If I had a time machine, I would go into the past and into the future. First, I would go back in the past to when dinosaurs ruled the earth to try and stop the extinction of them. Then I would go into the future so I can see if I would win the McDonald's Writing Contest and what you would win. Read along to hear about how my journey would go if I had a time machine.

First, I would get into the time machine. I would take items with me to try and help stop the dinosaurs from becoming extinct. Then I would turn the dial back to when there were dinosaurs and take off! I would arrive right before they became extinct. Then I would take my items out that I brought along from the present day and try to stop the extinction. After I did that, I would go look at the dinosaurs and see what they would do. Next, I would go look at the different rocks from back then and take some with me.

After visiting the past, I would turn the dial to April 2023 and take off! When I would get there, I would go to Franklin Elementary School to hear if I would win the McDonald's Writing Contest. I would also get to see if any of my friends in other classes won and I could see what the prize would be. Also, I could see how good the other kids are at writing, hang out with my friends, and have a good time.

Once I would finish visiting the future, I would get back into the time machine and go back to present day. I think it would be so neat to go back to when the dinosaurs ruled the earth and then into the future to see if I would win the McDonald's Writing Contest. I hope you enjoyed listening to how my journey would go. Hopefully it inspired you to think about what you would do if you had a time machine.

**Lincoln Elementary  
McDonald's Contest Winners  
2022-2023**

**5K - Ian Jones**

**1st - Sophia Beach**

**2nd - Aria Cobbs**

**3rd - Jahir Smith**

**4th - Oliver Hudy**

**Ian Jones**

**Kindergarten, Lincoln**

**Mr. Sperat**

If I had a time machine, I would use it to go to New York City 'cause I really, really wanna go there.

**Sophia Beach**  
**1st Grade, Lincoln**  
**Mrs. Lafferty**

If I had a time machine, I would go back to my mom's school with my sister. I want to see my mom in her old school and with my two cousins and dad. It was 300 years ago.



**Aria Cobbs**  
**2nd Grade, Lincoln**  
**Ms. Kurtz**

If I had a time machine it would be rusty and brown with a lot, lot, lot of buttons. I would travel to the past because I would like to see my mom, dad, and me when I was a baby. But, who I would really want to see is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I want to meet him so much. I want to see him do the speech called "I Have a Dream." I wish I were alive in 1929 which is the year Dr. King was born. I would also like to see what it was like in the 1990s, 1980s, and the 1920s.

I would not travel to the future because I think that the future will be a trainwreck. It will be crazy! More and more electronics will be made. All that the people will think about are phones. The future will be insane! I think the past would be more beautiful which is why I would prefer to travel there.

**Jahir Smith**  
**3rd Grade, Lincoln**  
**Mrs. Duncan**

One day I woke up and saw a time machine in my room. I was so surprised that I got up from my bed. Then I put on my socks and went downstairs. I told my mom and dad. My dad said that he bought it for me. I was so surprised that my dad had gotten me a time machine! So, I went upstairs and got my stuff to go to prehistoric times. The time of the dinosaurs! My dad called me for dinner and he came into my room where he saw me with my stuff. Then he told me that he will go with me. We brought my mom too. They packed their stuff. It was finally time to go in the time machine. After we went in I saw a brachiosaurus and its kid. Then, I saw a raptor and took out my camera. I took a picture and the raptor saw me. Then me, my mom, and dad started running! I got tired. My dad picked me up and started running so we could go faster. I looked back and saw the raptor was gone. I told my mom and dad. When I told them they were shocked! Then we sat down and made a hut. My dad started to go hunting for meat. I asked if I could come. He said yes. So, I started walking with him. We started talking about nature. We saw a T Rex! I was so surprised that I turned back. Next, my dad saw me and saw the T. Rex. He ran with me until we were at the hut. Finally, we went back to present times. I showed my brother a picture of our adventure. My brother didn't believe me!

**Oliver Hudy**  
**4th Grade, Lincoln**  
**Mr. Wagner**

### **On the Titanic**

Boom!!! I heard a really loud noise in my backyard, so I looked outside the laundry room window, and I saw that there was a time machine in my backyard! I knew what I was going to do! I was going to go to the sinking of the Titanic, and save more people from it, so that it can be less titanic. So I went to the time machine, typed in "April 14th, 1912", and typed the location in, and pulled the big, red lever. Before I could open my eyes, I was already shocked, I was on the actual Titanic! It was 2:00 pm April 14th, 1912, about one hundred years before I was born!

When I was heading towards the bridge to warn Edward Smith about the iceberg ahead, I accidentally bumped into him! That was unexpected! "Captain Smith", I said, "there is an iceberg in the way of our course," "Oh, don't be so silly, young man", he said, "even if there was, the boat would still float!" I was kind of mad that he didn't listen to me, but there were still the lookout people! "Excuse me kind sirs", I said to the lookout people, "I just wanted to let you know that there is an iceberg up ahead." "Haha!" one of them laughed loudly, "no there isn't!" I was furious! Neither the captain, nor the lookout people listened to me! Maybe I could warn some of the passengers? No, they probably wouldn't listen to me either. I was so caught up with warning the captain and lookout people, I didn't realize it was already 10:00 pm! I went to a random cabin that wasn't taken. There were no second, or third class cabins left, so I looked for a first class cabin. When I entered the first class hallway, I ran into a crewmate, guarding the hallway. "Why aren't you in your cabin, safe and sleeping?" the guard asked. "I'm looking for my wallet," I lied. "I think I dropped it in the pool". "Then why are you here? The pool's over there." "I forgot where the pool is." I lied once again. "Well the pool is closed, but I do have the pool room key, just don't tell the captain that I let you in there, okay?" "Okay," I said, fearfully. SCREECH!! The iceberg just hit, and since there were no intercoms on the Titanic, the captain and navigation crew had to go around and tell everyone that the ship had been hit by an iceberg. The ship wasn't tipping at all, so everyone just played it cool, but I knew what was going to happen. At about 1:00 am, the ship really started to sink. I helped everyone into lifeboats, and so did Molly Brown! Eventually, Molly got on a lifeboat, and rode off. BUT I WAS STILL ON THE SHIP!!! I went down to third class to help everyone, but 6 of the cabins were already flooded, but at least they got out in time! Eventually, I found most of the third class people. I talked to the crewmates sternly, after a little while, he let them out. When we all got up to the boat deck, all of the lifeboats were gone! We all ripped out some wood, steel, and iron from the boat deck, and made little lifeboats out of them, with some waterproof tape and waterproof super glue, we also made some oars. About 400 people decided to go down with the ship, good people.

We all watched as the vast ship slipped beneath the waves. Plunk! The rear mast hit the water fastly. Finally, the stern was fully submerged. We will always remember all of the 550 people that went down in the disaster. About 4 hours after the ship went down, the R.M.S.

## (The Titanic Continued)

Carpathia came and lifted up all of the lifeboats, except for two of the homemade lifeboats. We were all wondering what happened to the two lifeboats, and then something amazing happened; one of the third class passengers swam about 200 feet in the freezing cold water, to come on the ship. We were wondering why he was swimming. It turns out that the lifeboats that didn't come to the ship, actually sank. When we got to New York City, we saw some newspaper boys handing out papers that said, "Titanic Disaster - Great Loss of Life", which made us all remember all of the people that died in the sinking. We got to the nearest store, which was apparently where my time machine had traveled on its own, so I hopped in, said goodbye to everyone, and clicked the "Present" button, and then I was at my house in about 1.56 seconds. To get there, the time machine tells you how long it took to get to your place every two times you use it. When I got home, I pressed the shrink button, carried it up to my bedroom, and put it on my desk. I think that I did a good job with saving people on the Titanic, plus, before I left, they gave me the title of "The Unsinkable Oliver Hudy", kind of like "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". When I got to my room, I thought to myself, "Are any of those people still alive?" I hope that at least two of them are still alive. I also hope that I will use the time machine again someday.

The End

**Rupert Elementary  
McDonald's Contest Winners  
2022-2023**

**5k- Jack Ferguson**

**1st- Cheryl Tekpetey**

**2nd- Max Francisco**

**3rd- Makenzie Suber**

**4th- Sebastian Fegeley**

**Jack Ferguson**  
**Kindergarten, Rupert**  
**Mrs. Gresko**

I saw construction robots in the future.

**Cheryl Tekpetey**  
**1st Grade, Rupert**  
**Mrs. Bellevou**

If I had a time machine I would go back to Urban Air. Last time, I enjoyed jumping on the trampoline. And I was there with my brother. And I went to the ball pit. This time, I want to go on the zipline.

**Max Francisco**  
**2nd Grade, Rupert**  
**Miss Callaghan**

If I had a time machine, I would go back in time and visit the Jurassic Period. But I would also go to the Ice Age. In the Jurassic Period, I would explore the jungles and try to discover secrets that humankind has not discovered yet and then travel back and tell scientists. In the Ice Age, I would like to get saber tooth tiger DNA and compare it to tiger DNA and see if it will prove that my theory is right that some animals from the past are sort of like some animals in human time. But if I could ride a woolly mammoth, I would ride to the ice and study how thick it is and how cold it is. If I could go back and see cavemen, I would like to see their culture and see how they survive. I could see how they live and how long they live.



**Makenzie Suber**  
**3rd Grade, Rupert**  
**Mrs. Pippert**

I found a strange machine and I stepped into it and I pressed the button. The button I pressed was 2019, when I lost my uncle. I felt strange when I woke up and I ran and hugged my uncle. We spent the whole day with each other. Then I had to go back to 2023. I went back and it was dinner time. We ate and my mom asked where I was. I said I was with my uncle. She looked at Dad and Dad looked at me like I was crazy. I couldn't blame him. It was bedtime, so I went to sleep.

**Sebastian Fegeley**  
**4th Grade, Rupert**  
**Mr. Frederick**

If I had a time machine I would go to a place I have never been to. It would be the prehistoric time. Why? Because I want to see how dinosaurs went extinct. Also, I want to see creatures that lived, explore, and touch dinosaurs! So, I went to the time machine and went to prehistoric time. When I got there, it was amazing! I saw waterfalls, vines, dinosaurs, and jungle trees. I was on a cliff. When I walked, I saw a cave. Of course, I went into the cave. I heard a loud sound in the darkness. So, I brought out my flashlight and I saw an injured T-rex. It looked like it had almost a ripped leg and scars. It was scary at first because it tried to bite me. But it couldn't move. Luckily, I brought bandages and tape. So, I wrapped the bandages around T-rex's legs. Then I wrapped the tape around the bandages. After the T-rex recovered it let me pet it. It was amazing to pet a T-rex. Later on I went back where the time machine was. I was hungry. So, I ate my lunch. After that I felt tired so I went to sleep. In the morning I saw an asteroid coming to earth and all the dinosaurs were looking. So, I knew that's how the dinosaurs went extinct. So, I ran in the time machine and pressed the date and the year.

**Pottstown Middle School  
McDonald's Contest Winners  
2022-2023**

**5th- Luke Carvalho**

**6th- Alexandra Green**

**7th- Leyna Johnson**

**8th- Jayden Bell**

**Luke Carvalho**  
**5th Grade, PMS**  
**Ms. Wilson**

One day I was messing around with my two friends, Aaron and Chase. We were exploring abandoned houses, when we came across a really big house. We decided to check it out since it looked pretty old and abandoned. We decided to check out the upstairs first, so we could work our way down in order. There were three bedrooms, two bathrooms, four storage closets, and what looked to be a living room all just on the second floor! Then we worked our way downstairs. We saw another bedroom, a kitchen, a dining room, another living room, and two more bathrooms on the main floor! This place was huge!

Once we made it to the basement of the house, it was strange because the lights still worked and there was a bunch of weird equipment. There was another bathroom, and a big room with even more weird equipment. Aaron walked away from Chase and me, while we stayed behind and checked out more of the equipment. After a little bit more searching around Aaron said, "I found a big machine and you guys should come check it out". Chase and I got there just as Aaron pressed a big green button, and then all of a sudden we were all getting sucked into a portal looking thing. A second later we looked to be in a city that had robots and humans!

All three of us were in awe and looking around at where we were. There were flying cars, robots making and selling stuff for humans to buy, and trains going so fast you would miss them in the blink of an eye. We started walking around and looking around at all of this crazy stuff that we have never seen before. Chase pointed out that the stuff was extremely cheaper than what we are used to, but sadly none of us brought money. Then we realized that we didn't know where we were, so we asked a lady walking past us, and she said we were in New York City! We also asked what year it was, and then she looked at us in a weird way and said, it's 2123. How do you not know that? We just said thank you and walked away in awe since a few minutes ago we were in 2023.

We walked up to a big looking toy store and decided to check it out. Inside it was giant. There were aisles upon aisles all filled with toys. There were so many different types of toys that we had never seen before! After that we checked out a lot more stuff. We started walking back to where we appeared from. Then all of a sudden we were getting sucked back into the same portal as earlier, and appeared back in the same weird basement.

We all decided to call it a day and head home because we were all still in shock. We decided to keep the story to ourselves because nobody would believe us, but years later here we are back at the same old house this time to capture it on film.

**Alexandra Green**  
**6th Grade, PMS**  
**Mrs. Pasquale**

***If I had a time machine***

Once upon a time a girl named Alex was in her campground and was swimming in the pool with her two friends, Christian and Michael, and two sisters, Lilly and Felicity. All of them were playing Marco Polo when, suddenly, the pool filter sucked them all up, taking them to this weird place with glowing crystals.

They looked to their left and saw a time machine that would take anyone in the past. When they looked to their right, there was another time machine that goes to the future. Christain said, "Hey guys! Why don't we go in the past and try to go and bring back dinosaurs!"

Michael said, "Yeah! Let's do it! It sounds fun and exciting!"

Lilly replied, "Eh, it's too risky. What if they destroy our world?"

Alex answered, "It does sound fun though."

Christain responded, "What do you think Felicity? It's up to you."

"I love dinosaurs! Let's do it!" It's gonna be so fun!" Felicity said.

Lilly questioned, "B-but what happens if we get stuck there?"

Micheal replied, "We won't. It's not that— dangerous"

Lilly gave in, "Eh, okay if you say so."

Then the group of kids walked into the time machine and put in the dinosaurs' years. Alex cried, "Woah, that was a bumpy ride!"

"Yeah, that was kinda bumpy and a little scary." Michael agreed. A triceratops walked by them.

Felicity whispers in shock, "Wow! I thought I would never see a dinosaur!"

Lilly says, "Okay, this was a bad idea, but I kinda like seeing cool things that you would never see in the world now."

"THIS IS AMAZING!" Christain declared.

"Okay, yeah, this is pretty cool," agreed Lilly.

Felicity asked, "Can we go explore?!?"

Lilly exclaimed, "No! Stay here with us. It's too dangerous!"

Alex said, "Oh c'mon, Lilly. Let's all explore. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Everyone replied, except Lilly, "Yeah! C'mon Lilly. It will be so much fun!" as a herd of Ankylosauruses walks by.

Everyone yelled, "Woah!"

Alex said, "Hey Lilly, now do you wanna go explore?" Everyone gave Lilly puppy eyes.

"Okay, fine. Let's do it!"

Everyone yelled, "Yay!"

Felicity claimed, "OMG, yay, can't wait!"

**Leyna Johnson**  
**7th Grade, PMS**  
**Mr. Homan**

If I had a time machine, I would go about 500 years into the future, and go to the Amazon Rainforest. Why would I go almost 500 years into the future? Well, I want to see what climate change does to the environment. I would also like it to be in the springtime because that time of year is when everything is alive. If the climate is really hot and dead, I will see what I need to tell people to do in the present to prevent that from happening. If the climate is the same, I will travel more into the future. If the climate is much better, I will let science take its course. Now let's travel!

### **The Introduction**

"Hit it!" I declared to the launch manager. "Okay 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 GO!" They shouted. ---WAIT. I should explain a few things first. I was 12 years old when I found a time machine. I found it by accident. I was lost in a forest, and then I found a big metal box with a glass door opening, and LOTS of buttons. Once I found my way back, I reported it to the park, who reported it to the local government, who reported it to the big government, who REPORTED IT TO NASA! And this all happened within months. Wow! I know it sounds like a lot, but it was bigger than I thought. It was a time machine! Since I found it, NASA asked me to complete a mission for them. In 8 hours, they wanted me to see if it worked and look around. Well, little did they know, I wanted to complete more than that...--- Now let's get back to the story. The time machine was shaking me forward and back, left and right, then ZAP. I could NOT stay conscious.

### **The New Land**

May 1st, 2523 10:00 AM

I was so dizzy! It felt like I was in a desert! *Maybe it took me somewhere else. It could've malfunctioned.* I thought. Someone hovered over me and held the cool, sweet water up to my lips. I drank greedily hoping there was enough for them. "Are you okay?" they said. "Owwww," I moaned. "Where and when am I?" I asked them. "When?" they questioned. "I guess the date is May 1st 2523. You're also in what used to be the Amazon Rainforest, but is now the Amazon Desert." I abruptly sat up. "WHAT?! This is the Amazon Rainforest?!" The place looks like a dried up twig. No life, no forest.

"Whoa, calm down. My name is Abigail, but you can call me Abby. What's your name?" she said. "Mm mm my name is Leyna." "Well hi Leyna. Where are your parents? Do I need to get on my hover mobile 2001 and drive you home?" she said with a hint of concern. "I'm fine. Where's the nearest lab?" I replied. "Well you're in luck. My lab is nearby. Let's go and you can explain on the way," she mustered through my amazement.

### **The Explanation**

May 1st, 2523 12:07 PM

We hopped into the hover mobile 2001 and went a whopping 100 miles per hour! I was so focused on not throwing up that I couldn't tell Abby what happened. I was also experiencing some suspicion. Suspicion about Abby? *She seems so familiar in an odd and creepy way.* Suspicion set aside, she seems friendly and helpful. I hope I can trust her.

After we got to Abby's lab, we hopped out of the hover mobile 2001 and headed straight toward the lab. The lab was newly updated, all shiny and clear. After we were inside, Abby asked, "Soooo, what happened to you?" "Well, I time traveled," I said. "Whoa, wait, WHAT?" she responded with great surprise. "I came here to see what climate change does to the earth. And I think I got my answer," I said, trying to sound reassuring. "Well you got that right, people completely ruined it!" she said, sounding defeated.

*(continued)*

"Can you help?" I uttered. "Well surely! I have been trying to restore the climate for years now, and it's not getting any better despite my efforts. If we change the past, we might actually stop it!" She said excitedly. "Well, do you have any research?" I said. "Why yes. I'll grab it and you can read it in the jeep," she said as she walked into the other room. She handed me the paper. "Okay then, let's go!" I announced with hope.

### **The Exploration**

May 1st, 2523 12:32 PM

We hopped into Abby's jeep that had a ton of features, like scuba mode, treetop mode, and camouflage mode. I tried to hide my excitement. We were sadly just going to be on normal mode the whole time. Even though I'm on a mission, I wish I could play around for fun.

Abby started the jeep and we zoomed right past the lots of nothingness it had become. It felt like we were on a rollercoaster! As we were driving, I read the research paper that described what started climate change and the timeline of climate change. "What do you think of the research?" she said. "It's very helpful and informative," I said. "Good!" she said excitedly.

Once we stopped, Abby handed me a bottle of water and a first aid kit, a compass, a flashlight, some sunscreen, another water bottle, and another first aid kit! I looked at her with confusion. "You can never be too careful!" she said, handing me a small backpack. "I guess so," I said. "What do you want to do first?" she said. "Well first, I would like to do some tests on the air, soil, and water. Then, I would like to explore a little. And finally, I would like to-- Wait, do you hear that?" I said with concern. Abby squinted into the distance. Then her eyes widened with deep concern.

### **The Earthnado**

"Get into the jeep NOW," she said very sternly. We both ran for the jeep. I looked to the west and saw some type of spiral. "What's going on?" I said, very panicky as we hopped into the jeep. "It's just an earthnado," she said while pressing the protection/emergency button. "A, what now?" I said. "Oh, I guess you've never had one. It's just an earthquake and tornado mixed together. They're starting to be more common around here," she said.

The jeep was now surrounded by a big bubble of protection with a few air holes. "What will we do?" I cried out. "It's completely fine. The bubble should protect us, but just in case, you and I will wear helmets." she said without a hint of fear. She handed me a helmet. We both put them on immediately. About ten seconds later, we were being shaken around like nobody's business. Then it felt like we were falling down, down, down until it was only darkness.

### **The Pit**

Around 2:15

I heard the deflating of the bubble then I heard something. "Owww." Someone moaned. Wait, not just anyone. That's Abby! I grabbed the flashlight and pointed it at her. "Are you okay?" I asked. "Ugh, I think I broke my right wrist. Honestly, I'm surprised it's not worse," she said. I grabbed the first aid kit, and bandaged her wrist up.

She thanked me and said, "Okay well I guess we fell down a pit. There's got to be a first for everything!" While she talked, I studied the area around us. "I think there's a fly button on the jeep. Why don't we head up? Leyna, are you listening? she said. "Do you have my test bag?" I said. "Yeah it's right here, but why-- "This is the perfect spot to do the tests," I said with excitement. "Really? Why would you think that?" she said. "Of course I'll still need to do some tests on ground level, but this might be the hidden secret," I said.

*(continued)*

"You might be onto something, but we need to get up there ASAP. We could be crushed by the Quaker Makers," she said with a bit of concern. The engine started steaming behind Abby. "The what?" I questioned. "Oh right! I forgot you weren't from this time period. A Quaker Maker does the exact opposite of its name. It puts the crack of the quake back together," she said matter of factly. "Well, I need this information. Do you think you can work on the engine?" I said pleadingly. "Wait why the, ohhhhh," she said, turning around. "Okay, I will work on it, but please try to hurry up. I DO NOT want to be crushed."

Abby hopped out of the jeep and started working on the engine. I went away from the steaming engine and started doing tests on the soil and air. About twenty minutes later I heard rumbling and it wasn't from my stomach. I grabbed the tests and sprinted back to the jeep. Thankfully there was no steam, but Abby looked worried. "What is it?" I said. "The engine is weak and I'm afraid it will only go halfway up. A rock must have bounced off the ground and created a hole in the engine when we fell. The space being filled is our only chance of both of us surviving. It needs to support the rest of the engine," she said. "How big is it?" I said. She made a circle with her hands.

"I have an idea. I know it's risky, but it might be our only chance." I stuffed a water bottle in the hole and started the engine. The walls started enclosing, faster and faster by the second. Abby hit the fly button and we headed up. The walls are still closing. We dipped down then up, down then up. Abby gave the engine a little tap and we went up. We were 3 feet from the surface then, CRUNCH! The walls closed in on the jeep. Abby and I grabbed our supplies and hopped out of the jeep. Within seconds of our escape the walls smushed the jeep.

### **Abby's Connection**

5:18

"Well that was a smart idea to use the water bottle!" Abby said. "Well I'm glad you're prepared," I said. "So what year is your present? And what's your last name?" Abby said curiously. "2023 is my present and my last name is Johnson," I said. "Really?!" Abby said with loads of excitement. "Yes..." I said.

"Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, OH MY GOSH." Abby screamed. "What is it?" I said. "I was looking at my family tree the other day and well you're my great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother," Abby said. "WHAT?! This is such a shock. I can't believe this..." I said, eyes widening. "Me either," Abby said.

"I would love to ask you more questions, but I have to get back to my time soon." I said. "Okay one more thing," Abby said. "What is it?" I asked. "Keep going down this path. You won't regret it," she said with a smile. I hopped into the time machine. "Thanks for everything," I said. Then the door closed. I hit one of the many buttons then, ZAP.

### **Epilogue**

After I got back, I told NASA about what happened. Since they have a lot on their hands, I started a very successful environmental group called, "Environmentalists Against Climate Change (EACC)." Millions of people joined and we eventually stopped climate change with the help of the test data. I was very proud of EACC. I couldn't have been successful without them.

### **What I Would Do**

I am a very big environmentalist and have always been curious about what the future would be like with climate change. This essay is not factual. This is based on my predictions. As much as I would love a time machine, I would like to convince more people to act now rather than get a time machine to prove it. I want them to be proactive rather than reactive.



**Jayden Bell**  
**8th Grade, PMS**  
**Mrs. Christy**

If I had a time machine, I would go visit historical events and live them. We learn about history in SS, but it's not the same as being there. I want to understand how people during the Revolutionary War lived, just the everyday people affected the most. I want to understand the lives of the Aztec, one of the first Native-American tribes. There are many things I would do if I had a time machine.

The first thing I would do if I had a time machine is go visit Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. I would get some insight on how the men, women, and children were affected by this war and having their stuff. I'd also like to ask why the native sides chose the side of the war they did. I'm sure there was more to it than just "cause this one is more likely to win" as we're led to believe in Social Studies class. Maybe if I'm lucky, I'd get to talk to some higher ups and ask them how their lives are going during this tough time, or make a journal out of it.

The second thing I would do if I had a time machine would be to visit the Aztecs. They were a Native-American tribe located in the land that is now known as Mexico. I'd like to learn more about their culture and lives in a way you only can if you're actually there. I'd ask them more about why they sacrificed humans specifically out of all creatures, alive, to their gods if they were so mighty and such a blessing. I'd also ask them what made them decide to first celebrate the Day of the Dead. Was it because of these sacrifices? Did they just decide they wanted to create a major holiday about the dead? I think these are all questions that could have interesting answers depending on who I asked.

The last thing I would do if I had a machine is go visit the maker of jazz, Buddy Bolden. As a jazz musician myself, I think he's the one out of these I'd be the most interested in. I would ask him, how did he come up with this concept? Playing music but sleazier and more, well, jazzy. Considering the people who create it make the name, I'd ask him why he decided to call it jazz of all things he could. I think a conversation with a founder of one of the most popular genres of music would not only be very cool, but also very informative about the genre I plan to major in.

There's a lot more things I could put into this, but only so much space! It would be super interesting to go visit historical things. Some of the things I would visit would be the Revolutionary War, The Aztecs, the inventor of jazz and so much more! That's what I would do if I had a time machine.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to the winners and all the students  
who shared their stories for their  
schools!



Marcia & Bruce Graham  
Owner/Operators