**Willie and Willy’s Writing Workshop: Where It All Began**

Growing up in the heart of Chicago, Ellie Zaczek had always wondered what everyone’s story was. From the neighbors across the hall in her apartment building who had lived there since she could remember, to the occasional passersby on the street outside that she observed from her second-floor room, she wondered what circumstances had led each person to where they were at that exact moment. Because of all this wonder, she began to make up stories for each person she would see. One day, the family across the hall moved into the building seventy years ago when they were forced out of their home by a war, and the next, the passerby outside had just moved into the city from rural Indiana and was lost while exploring the city. She eventually wrote more stories that won awards, and that led to her writing books. Because of her love of writing, she began working at a local university where she mentored students and taught classes. It was a very rewarding experience, as she saw her younger self in many of the students, especially these two named Willie and Willy. Although they had visions of fantastical stories of lions and dragons battling to the death in the wild, to heavier ones of parents losing a child, they always had a hard time expressing their thoughts on paper. This is what Ellie did best: translate dreams into words, especially to be shared and enjoyed by many more than herself and the writer. Willie and Willy eventually blossomed into seasoned authors that went on to become very successful, and they never forgot about all the guidance Ellie gave them back when they were struggling. In their honor, when Ellie decided to open her own business to cater to the needs of amateur and professional writers alike, she named her company after her two star pupils. In the end, she showed that anyone can become a great writer with the right tools. Now, Ellie frequently consults with up and coming writers as well as more tenured ones to determine which products and services will be most useful for them to create beautiful, colorful, magnificent stories.