

T H E R E W E W A L K I N W I S D O M ' S W A Y S



A Fairfield Production



Book 3 of 3

There We Walk in Wisdom's Ways

A Product of the English Language
Applied Learning Programme

T H E R E W E W A L K I N W I S D O M ' S W A Y S



A Fairfield Production

Foreword

2023 marks Fairfield's 135th Founder's Day. It also marks the third and final book in a trilogy that has been leading up to this year to celebrate Fairfield's 135th birthday.

While the first and second book focused on poetry and comics respectively, this third book focuses on creative writing. The Fairfield wRiters underwent workshops on creating interesting characters and how to make a storyline interesting and engaging while conveying the chosen message to readers. This publication seeks to transport you into unknown worlds and enliven your imagination, no matter your age. The wRiters share with you the worlds that they have created and hopefully will take you on a journey.

The stories are also coupled with images that have been sourced using DALL·E by OpenAI which is "an AI system that can create realistic images and art from a description in natural language". We have chosen to leverage the advances of technology to bring the words alive and add meaning to the story as images and words work together to create the worlds. The images were sourced by Mrs Rena Tham and Miss Sofia Parkash who carefully crafted the prompts and refined them to get the best images to match the stories.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this publication and perhaps even spur you to write a creative piece of your own. I would like to thank the teachers in charge of the Fairfield wRiters in the Applied Learning Programme for their dedication and hard work in nurturing the passion of young wRiters and providing a platform for their voices.

Mdm Law Li Mei
Principal





Prologue

It is the year 2023 and this is the story of Class 6K, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary).

"Aren't we lucky that we have the privilege of opening the time capsule on our school's 135th anniversary?" Mrs. Sim gushed as she placed the time capsule on the teacher's table at the front of the class.

Forty pairs of eyes stared back at Mrs. Sim.

Boredom.

Disinterest.

Apathy.

The students of 6K had been born into privilege – the privilege of attending a school that was well-regarded and yet they seemed oblivious to that fact. Mrs. Sim was undeterred. Many students had passed through her hands and she knew just what they needed – to learn how to appreciate what they had : a good education at a good school.

"Alright, class. Gather round," she announced with a twinkle in her eye. Groans could be heard as the students gathered indifferently around the time capsule. Mrs. Sim looked pointedly at each student and whispered, "Steel yourselves. It is going to be a bumpy ride." As Mrs. Sim opened the time capsule, a blinding light enveloped them ...

Universe 4AB-7681
Class 8 Universe
Commonly known as : ANAMALIA

Writers:

Primary 4A
Li Miaorong
Paige Lim Xinyi
Liao Ruixuan Elizabeth

Primary 4B
Emma Grace Lee
Ong Yan Qi Cherine
Loh Wan Xuan Clarisse

Teacher Advisor: Mrs Jacquelin Wong



6

It was dark. It seemed as if I was weightless, floating in this empty void. Mrs. Sim's face flashed through the darkness. I tried to reach out to her hand but she vanished in no time. Her face seemed like a reflection, drifting in and out, in and out, repeatedly. Before I could figure out what was happening, I lost consciousness...

Bang! A sudden jerk brought light again.

I woke up with a jolt. I looked down to check the time. I looked down at my hands and ... "AAAAGGGGGHHHH!!!" All I saw was a pair of furry paws. I had become an animal? What animal was I? Where was I? I looked in my pocket mirror to see what animal I was. What I saw made me jump. I looked around. Mrs. Sim was gone. All I could see was a big, fat penguin standing right beside me.

"Who are you?" I questioned demandingly.

"I am Paige," the chubby penguin replied innocently, "Who are you, sly and c cunning..."

Before she could finish her sentence, I furrowed my bushy brow, looking at her defensively. The emperor chick penguin fluffed up her feathers, taking a small step back.

"I am not sly and cunning," I glared at her, "I am Jane."

"Ok, chill man. Chill," said the chubby penguin, Paige. I tried to recall who Paige w was but I could not. The name Paige did seem familiar though. Somehow, I felt like I knew this chubby penguin very, very well.

"Is that really you, Jane? Jane who always ties two pigtails?" Paige queried.

"Yes. And you are Paige Lim, right? The Paige who wears glasses?" I questioned, still in doubt.

"Of course! Why didn't I know this was Class 6K any earlier?" Penguin Paige exclaimed.



„So... we have been teleported by Mrs. Sims' time capsule to this universe called...“

„Animal World!“ I replied in unison. For now, this was the only „person“ I knew in this world. I studied my surroundings and realised that the classroom ceiling was slightly lower as animals are not as tall as humans. Piggy and I were at the front of the classroom where a huge whiteboard was placed. Feeling a surge of relief and excitement, I quickly tugged Piggy's bird wing out of the classroom. Suddenly, we were pulled back into the mountain again. „What is that?“ I asked myself.

„No. You're seeing something different from what I am,“ a ghostly voice replied. A female grey kitten unlatched itself and the mountain disappeared. „Miaorong!“ I exclaimed, pinching the fluffy kitten. I could still recognise her facial features although she was an animal. „This is Piggy. Remember her? You have known her since last year,“ I introduced.

Her bright black eyes shone with happiness. „Miaorong!“ I exclaimed, pinching the fluffy kitten. I could still recognise her facial features although she was an animal. „This is Piggy. Remember her? You have known her since last year,“ I introduced.

„I am not alone! I thought I would be abandoned in this world forever!“ Miaorong rejoiced.

„Together, Miaorong the kitten, Penguin and I, the Fox, scrambled out of 6K's classroom, curios to explore the „Animal Fairfield“. I, the one and only cheeky fox, suggested that we go to the staffroom. „No! Don't go there! What if...“ Miaorong pleaded.

„What if they don't care that we go in? Isn't this the animal world? They won't really care like the human world. Anyway, we're animals. I only care when we get scolded in the classroom,“ Miaorong said. Together, Miaorong the kitten, Penguin and I, the Fox, scrambled out of 6K's classroom, curios to explore the „Animal Fairfield“. I, the one and only cheeky fox, suggested that we go to the staffroom. „No! Don't go there! What if...“ Miaorong pleaded.

"Mrs. Yan!" Paige cried, calling in a chirpy voice. Paige had seen Mrs. Yan's lanyard containing her identity card. Mrs. Yan was a white belly sea eagle. She walked out of the staffroom, waving back. The staffroom was slightly shorter than the human world's staffroom and the roller chairs were replaced by short wooden stools. The keyboards of laptops were slanted too. A dog teacher had his back legs on the slanted keyboard. Fairfield in animal form was very different indeed!

"Excuse me!" We turned around, seeing a squirrel in a wheelchair and a dog pushing her towards us. We quickly stood aside, letting her pass. As we tried to go back to 6K's classroom to figure out where we should sleep for the night, 'Ringgg! Ringgg!' the shrill ring of freedom echoed through the school.

"Oh no! What should we do? Do we have to stay here today? Should we just go home? We have writing lessons after school today! Do you think the rest of 6K are here and will be attending too? Do you think they are animals too?" I cried.





"I don't know if they are but if we need to stay but don't want to, we will tell our parents that they cancelled it today. Then, if the teachers ask us why we did not stay back, we will tell them we forgot about it," said Paige calmly.

"If this is Animal Fairfield World, the rest of the students here should be animals too. Anyway, we should just skip that lesson. We are animals now. Why should we be studying?" Paige remarked with a mischievous glint in her penguin eyes.

Since we had time, having skipped the writing class, we started exploring Animal Fairfield. We saw a canteen with stalls with animal food instead of human food. Trees were everywhere, a pond for the fish students and even a beach! All the students were all kinds of different animals - mammals, reptiles, insects, amphibians and sea animals.

The next day at school, as expected, the teacher, Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf, brought us out of the classroom and asked us why we had not stayed back for the writing course the previous day. "I forgot that we needed to stay back," I lied.

"Me too!" Paige added.

"Me three!" Miaorong copied. All of us smiled at one another.

"This is not good! You guys are one group and all of you had forgotten? This is an especially important piece of writing and all of you didn't prepare for it?" Mrs. Tham the Arctic Wolf yelled.

I tried not to roll my eyes. Who would care about this silly course? Only an old, grumpy teacher called Mrs. Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf, I thought to myself. From the corner of my eye, I could see Miaorong's head bowed down in shame.

"You MUST stay back today to finish up your writing!" Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf reprimanded, "Even if you have any other commitments, I'll make sure your parents know about it and make sure you know the consequences very soon! Don't ever repeat this again!"

Suddenly, a fog enveloped us and a cool chill set in. We shivered as a ghostly voice was heard.

"You did not show RESPECT for your teacher's time and effort and you did not display INTEGRITY by skipping such an important lesson. It also shows that all of you were irresponsible! Don't you remember that RESPECT and INTEGRITY are your school values?" The words surrounded us and lingered in the air.

"Who was that?" I asked in fear. Paige seemed to be ignoring the ghostly voice although she glanced at me. It seemed like she had heard it too. Penguin Paige pretended like she was invincible and continued to shout at Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf. Did Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf hear what I had heard?

"But it is not fair!" Paige shouted at our teacher, "We just forgot to stay back and you give us such a severe punishment!"

12

"How dare you shout at me! You are going for detention after school!" Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf commanded.

At that point, something in me snapped. I rolled my eyes and clenched my fists.

"Urghh!" I felt like I was about to explode. I tried to restrain myself but could not bear it any longer. I shouted at the top of my lungs and punched a wall, interrupting the classes going on.

"You are also going for detention for interrupting other classes!" Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf continued.

Just as I was about to raise my furry paw to do more damage, Paige suddenly stopped me with her wing. She gave me a stern stare and shook her head. That brought me back to reality. What had I done?

Miaorong looked like she wanted to crawl under a rock. I started to cry silently. I felt so guilty for shouting at the teacher and disrespecting her. Oh dear! What have I done? I thought in my head as I covered my mouth with my paws.



11

13

Miaorong started running back to her seat as fast as she could. "I want to get out of this mess," she muttered under her breath. Paige was standing outside the classroom together with me, staring into nothing, in disbelief at what had happened. "I hope that the principal will not punish us," Paige muttered.

"Me too..." I replied.

It began to become foggy again and the temperature dropped. We knew what was coming. "You are liars. Pure and Honest - are you sure?" whispered the ghostly voice. We froze.

"Yes, we lied. We skipped the lesson on purpose so we deserve to be punished," Miaorong blurted out. I suddenly felt ashamed of myself. I had totally forgotten about the values we had been taught at Fairfield. Just because we were animals now in Animal Fairfield, I had totally disregarded Fairfield's values. We should practice the values even though we are not in our school!

14

"What kind of punishment?" I asked, "Don't tell me it's going to be caning!"

"The principal will cane us on our buttocks and I'm ready for that all. Anyway, your parents cane you at home too," Miaorong answered.

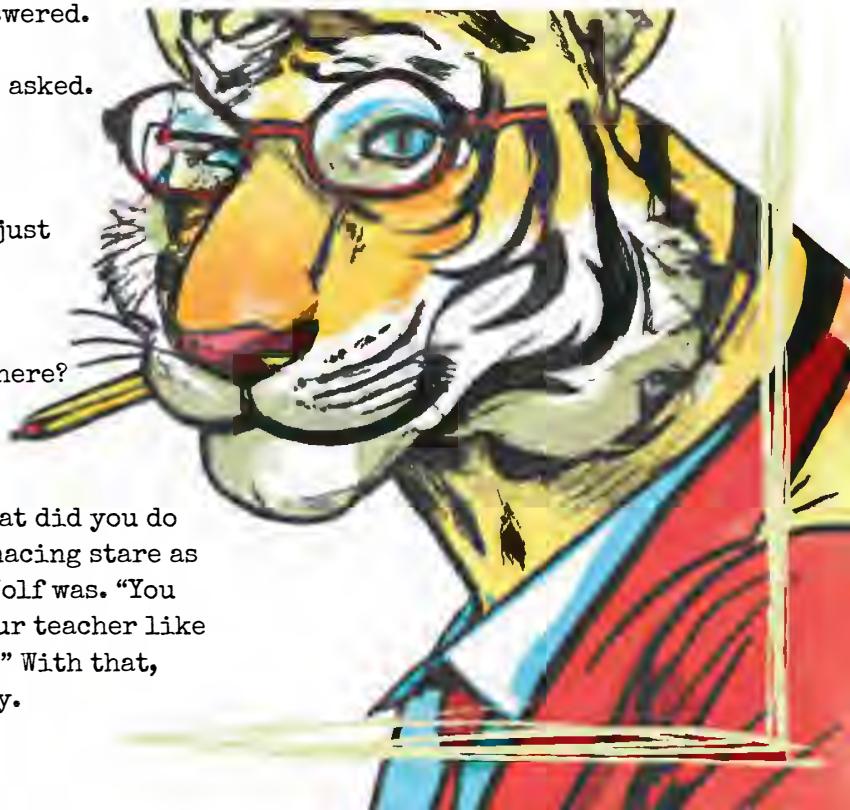
"Sometimes, but are you ready?!" Paige asked.

"Yea!" I copied, fidgeting my paws.

"I am ready because I know that I have just lied to a teacher and skipped the lesson intentionally," Miaorong sighed.

"What is the commotion going on out there? You are disturbing my lesson next door!" growled Mrs. Wong the Siberian Tiger who had come in from the other classroom.

She was concerned about the commotion. "What did you do to your teacher?" she asked, giving us a menacing stare as she noticed how upset Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf was. "You must have done something grave to upset your teacher like this. You should reflect on your behaviour!" With that, she left, leaving us to feel even more guilty.



"Although we are ready for the consequences, should we tell them that we don't belong here? What else would we say?" Paige asked.

"What?! We can't just say we're from another universe! Everyone will think that we're out of our minds and will send us to a therapist," Miaorong added.

"That would be very bad!" Paige muttered, bowing down her head.

"Yup. Really bad," I copied.

Finally, we reached the principal's office. "I am so nervous!" Paige muttered as her furry body was trembling with fear.

"Gulp... I'm scared. Will we get caned?" I asked, shaking like a leaf. I took some deep breaths and knocked on the principal's office door.

"Hello, you girls are going to sit at the tables here and reflect on what you have done wrong for the whole day!" our principal, Mdm. Law the Sun Bear commanded as she was pointing to four tables in front of her.

We all knew what we had done wrong. We got down to work. We wrote till night fell. We planned to apologise to Mrs Tham the Arctic Wolf the next day for our terrible behaviour.



"Do you think we can meet up someday to finish what we missed out for the writing course?" I asked, trying to right our wrong.

"Good idea!" Paige agreed.

"Yes, you can. I am glad that all of you have realised the error of your ways. Now, go back home and promise me you will behave better the next time," Mdm. Law counselled.

As we were walking down the staircase, a ghostly voice greeted us. We took a small step back and nearly tripped down the stairs. We could see some ghostly shadows illuminating the staircase wall.

"I have been following you since you arrived. You have finally exhibited the values that your school has taught you. You have come to appreciate what has been gifted to you. And so, it is time for you to leave this world!" the ghostly voice declared.

I backed away, afraid of what would happen next. Miaorong seemed to have done the opposite. She inched closer, picking up a familiar chest box. "It is the time capsule! Jane and Paige, come here! Do you want to go home now?" Miaorong asked, buzzing with excitement.

"Aww... can't we stay any longer...?" I asked, "I like being an animal! I'm even my favourite animal!"

16

"If we leave the time capsule here until tomorrow, someone might throw it away and we can't get back to our own Fairfield!" Paige countered.

"Yes! Let's just use it to get back now! Don't you want to go back?" Miaorong added.

"Okay... let's go home..." I relented. Miaorong pried open the time capsule and...
... darkness.



Universe 5G-5627
Class 3 Universe
Commonly known as : FISH BOWL

17

Writers:

Primary 5G

Li Siyan
Mira Lim Yi Xin
Jayden Ong Jia Jun
Justin David Prince
Kallen Ting Jian Kai

Teacher Advisors:

Mrs Rena Tham
Ms Jasmeet Kaur Vij



Darkness enveloped the students as they were sucked into the time capsule as it zoomed across time and space. Beads of sweat rolled down their foreheads. Among the hysterical was a boy named Tom. He had powers.

Kind of.

Charm and Persuasion.

He could make people think that hedgehogs can fly if he put his heart into it.

That kind of power.

So anyway, the class was running around, shrieking and tripping over each other. A chill went down their spines and beads of cold sweat started trickling down their temples. No one had any idea of what was to come.

19

Suddenly, a tiny crack of light filtered through the time capsule's tiny window. It quickly widened and soon became so bright that the class had to cover their eyes. Once they had gotten used to the light, they uncovered their eyes and looked around. The once very bright light had dimmed and became a warm and cozy shine. Curious, Tom ran to the window and realised they were FALLING! He saw his life flash before his eyes. Before he could warn anyone, the capsule hit the sandy floor with an ear-breaking CRASH!

Tom stood up with ease and brushed some dust off himself. Good, he thought, he was not badly hurt. Then his heart dropped when he saw his hurt classmates. He rushed to help. Thankfully, the worst injury was only a sprained ankle. The rest survived with some minor cuts and bruises. Tom and his best friend, Josh, breathed a sigh of relief. But where was Kim, his other best friend?

"Over here!" a girl named Angela called out among some rubble. Tom and Josh rushed over hurriedly, worried something bad had happened. Fortunately, Kim was still breathing. Tom said, "She probably fainted either from shock or motion sickness."



Then, Josh suggested, "Whenever someone faints in the movies, they wake up when they are slapped. You do it, Tom."

"There is no way I'm doing it," Tom refused.

"Nope, you slap her."

"You slap her."

"No... YOU!"

The pals kept going back and forth until Angela rolled her eyes and put some wet cloth on Kim's forehead. "Where did you get that wet cloth from?" Tom asked curiously.

20

"From a crack in the wall..." Angela replied. Only then did Tom realise that they had crashed in an underwater world. The capsule was cracking and more and more water was flowing in.

"Oh no!" Josh exclaimed, "The capsule will flood and we will die!"



Some who had overheard Josh screamed and started pacing around the capsule. Other students tried using scotch tape but it fell off like dried glue. What are we going to do? Tom thought fearfully. Just then, a giant fish swam past and stopped near the capsule. He looked confused so he just knocked and said, "Uh ... hello?"

What ... I mean, who are you?"
Josh sked, terrified by the enormous fish.

"I am U3. Are you humans?" the fish asked, wrinkling his nose as if he smelled something disgusting. Tom held his breath.

"Yea, we are ... is something wrong?" he asked.

The giant fish started to get angry and said, "Humans! Disgusting things! They destroyed nearly half of our territory!" Tom looked terrified.

"I'm ... sorry ..." he muttered in a small voice.

U3 circled the capsule and asked, "I suppose you have come to take over this small, defenseless part of our territory?" Josh, Tom and Angela shook their heads quickly.

"No! We ... don't even know where we are ... for now," Angela stuttered.

U3 looked surprised, but said, "I forgot you are not fish. It is Year 1984 as you may call it," he replied.

"1984? But ... there wasn't a fish kingdom in 1984..." Angela muttered, confused.

U3 laughed, "Of course you wouldn't know. Humans, foolish creatures they are. They never notice us, of course. Do you know what a tsunami is? All those gigantic waves destroying everything in its path? Those were sent by us as an act of anger to warn humans to stop destroying our home." Tom nodded quickly.

Only then did the children realise Kim was staring blankly at U3 and looked like she was going to lose her sanity. "Uh, hello ... U3 or something ... can you help us? We need a new time capsule," she asked politely.

"Normally, I wouldn't ..." U3 said slowly and the hearts of the students fell but he continued, "but I like your little friend Tom here. He seems very nice and loves the environment." Tom was shocked. How did he know that? U3 tapped his temple and mouthed mind reading. "I will take Tom, Angela and Josh with me."

Josh was eager to go but Kim shook his head and replied, "Josh can't go. He needs to help tend to the injured." Josh was reluctant to stay but he knew that staying was where he would be of the most use and thus, he eventually conceded. U3 nodded and then used magic to seal the cracks on the time capsule. He warned that the seal would not last long.



U3 brought Tom and Angela into the water and magically, "I can breathe!" Angela gasped. U3 told them to grab onto his scales and swam off at the speed of light. When they stopped zooming, U3 told them to hide in the blueberry bushes at the side of a big mansion. U3 warned, "This is Mr. Claws' mansion. He loves to hoard things and I'm sure he has a time capsule in there. We might be able to steal it but be careful. He is dangerously evil." The children gulped. They hoped they would make it out alive. They were reluctant but knew that they had to be brave and persevere for the benefit of the students of Class 6K who had been sent to this world. They could no longer be selfish and self-centred, thinking only of themselves.

U3 gave Angela and Tom each a watch and said, "If you need help, just set the time to three-o-five." Only Tom and Angela could enter the mansion because they were small and U3 would only attract a whole lot of attention. With U3 quietly wishing them good luck, they slipped into the storage room window.

"Okay ... we need to get from here to the display room." The two kids studied the map that U3 had given them. They silently slipped past the crab guards of Mr. Claws. Once they reached the display room, they immediately saw the time capsule, glittering with gold and diamonds. "Woah!" Tom gasped. Around the time capsule, the hoard of items that Mr. Claws collected shone like the stars - piles of silver items, gold goblets and ancient scrolls.

"How are we going to lift that?" Angela asked nervously. Tom shrugged. It seemed like their mission had reached a barrier.

Suddenly, Tom excitedly pointed towards a silver remote. The label said: Can lift anything. He took the remote and pressed it. A blue light flashed out and surrounded the capsule, lifting it up. "Good job!" Angela praised. They used the remote to silently carry the capsule. But how were they going to get out?

Tom noticed a button that said: Turn Invisible. He pressed it and the capsule suddenly vanished. They kept on carrying it carefully but suddenly ... CLANK! The capsule had banged into a wall, making a loud racket. The blue light surrounding the capsule flickered and disappeared. Guards rushed into the display room. "Stop right there!" a guard shouted.

24



Tom yelled, "Not if I can help it!" He took a large metal basket and threw it at the window, shattering the glass. He reconnected the blue light to the capsule and he and Angela jumped out of the window.

Angela was panting hard but they couldn't rest now. Hundreds of crab guards were hot on their heels. She and Tom zoomed through the water, dragging the capsule along. It felt strangely easy to carry a heavy gold and diamond capsule. Must be the water lifting it up, Tom thought.

Unfortunately, not long after, the Crab guards caught them. Angela and Tom squirmed and screamed but no one could hear them - sound does not travel well underwater in the open sea. To make matters worse, the bubbles around Angela's and Tom's ability to breathe underwater was waning. They were quickly losing air and drowning. Tom held his breath long enough to put his watch to three o' five.

Suddenly, a whirlwind of rainbow colours surrounded them. It was hundreds and hundreds of rainbow-coloured fish! Among them was the gigantic fish, U3. He quickly rushed to Tom and Angela, snapping his fins to allow them to breathe underwater again. Tom heaved a sigh of relief and Angela started gulping the air like she was going to die.

The rainbow fish attacked the crab guards and soon they ran off. Tom wanted to cheer but was stopped by a cold laugh. It was Mr. Claws! He laughed menacingly and blasted away the rainbow fish. "Run!" U3 hissed, "I'll hold him off!" Then he whispered to Tom, "Run to the corals. Hide behind one. I will lead him to the sharp coral reefs." Tom nodded and he and Angela swam away hurriedly.

Once they reached the coral reef, they hid behind some seaweed. Not long after, U3 and Mr. Claws, still battling, appeared at the reef. Mr. Claws was much more powerful than U3, blasting him with magic steam that burned his scales but nothing could penetrate the powerful armour of U3. U3 led Mr. Claws to a particularly sharp coral that dipped down to an abyss. It felt like it was happening in slow motion.

Mr. Claws dived at U3, preparing to blast him into smithereens. U3 jumped aside at the last minute and Mr. Claws fell into the abyss of sharp corals. "Nooooooooo!" he screamed as the shadows swallowed him. U3 dived into the abyss and came back with a coral necklace. He scooped up Tom and Angela, zooming back to the rest of the class.



26

Suddenly, a gigantic whale swam up to them. Well, it looked like a whale but had razor-sharp teeth. Tom gulped in fear. U3 told them, "This is an aquawhale. It can bring you to your destination. However, you must tame it. Tom looked terrified and wanted to bolt but he knew what to do. "Hey, buddy. Would you like to play?" he charmed, picking up a piece of coral. Tom threw the coral into the distance and the aquawhale went to get it and brought it back with lightning speed. Tom gave the sweetest smile he could muster and said, "Now, buddy... give it to me." The aquawhale obediently dropped the piece of coral as Tom kept smiling and said, "If you want to play more, let us get on your back." The aquawhale bowed down and U3, Tom and Angela climbed onto its back.

Within a few seconds, they were already at the broken capsule. The condition of the capsule had worsened. The sealed cracks were bursting open and Tom could hear terrified screams of horror inside. "Tom, Tom!" Josh rushed out of the capsule but forgot he couldn't breathe underwater. U3 snapped his fins. "Phew!" Josh breathed a sigh of relief, then said worriedly, "We have to leave soon. Did you get it?"

Tom grinned and he placed the new capsule next to the broken one. U3 clapped and an air tunnel appeared in between the two capsules. Slowly, the few injured class members entered the new capsule.

Before they left, U3 asked Tom, Angela, Josh and Kim to step out of the capsule for a moment. He said to them, "You have displayed such courage, perseverance, service and sacrifice to save your classmates. I do not know who or what has cultivated these values in you but I hope you will remember what you have demonstrated here. Please take this coral necklace. It will bring back memories of what you accomplished when you need it the most." Angela was wiping her eyes when Tom stepped up and took the necklace. It smelled of sea salt and fish.

Through the glass—
Angela waved goodbye with
away. A great flash of light
Angela and their
ground. They looked around
their classroom.

paned window, Tom and
teary eyes to U3 as he swam
suddenly appeared and Tom,
classmates fell to the
at the familiar lighting of



Universe 6E-1284

Class 1 Universe

Commonly known as : THE WATER FOREST

29

Writers:

Primary 6E

Naomi Tie

Ho Ho Teng Carys

Julien See Xu Peng

Joash Tay Jiang Hong

Adolphus Lim Ying Hao

Teacher Advisors:

Ms Natasha Shamine Pannirsilvam

Ms Geetha D/O R Rajendran



30

Lillian's eyes fluttered open. She groaned; her head was throbbing with pain. She felt strange.

"Where am I?" she wondered drowsily. Her eyes widened as the realisation hit her.

We just leapt to another universe! Memories came flooding back. She flexed her fingers. She felt like herself except her clothes were different. She wore a white collared top with a green checkered tie and skirt to match - Fairfield's version of a uniform in this world.

"Look who finally woke up. Took you long enough," a voice sneered beside her - Brad, her annoyingly snobbish table partner. Lillian rolled her eyes.

"Hello, we just leapt to a whole other universe! How can you expect me not to be drowsy?!" she challenged, giving him her signature 'shut up or die' death stare.

She looked around. She was in a classroom that was not a classroom. The walls and ceiling were made of wood, no, tree bark, and the floor, grass with dandelions dotting it with white spots. The chairs were mushrooms, the table even bigger mushrooms and the whiteboard was a chalkboard. What was supposed to be the back wall were huge sliding glass door panels, allowing sunlight to flow in and served as doors to an enormous balcony outside.

"Is everyone all right? So, wow, in a new universe again! Why don't we head out to the balcony to check it out?" Mrs. Sim said cheerfully. The students from Class 6K who had landed up in this world stood up hurriedly and made a beeline for the doors.

"In an orderly manner, please! No pushing or pulling!" she added. Everyone rolled their eyes and groans echoed after. But everyone's annoyance ended as soon as they caught the view outside.

Lillian's breath caught in her throat. The sky was so blue and the sun was shining brightly. The air was fresh and crisp unlike the polluted air of Earth. Below them was a river with clear waters and huge lily pads floated on it, carrying children playing at a playground and teenagers doing their favourite sports. Giant mangrove trees surrounded the river with windows in its trunks; heads of people peeked out from them. Cocoons hung from its branches, acting like little houses. Towering dandelions swayed in the breeze as people grabbed hold of the seed stems to float away to their destination. Some people rode on the backs of fish to get to where they wanted.

The whole place was shrouded in a beautiful mist which was what made it so... magical.

"Are we in... a tree?" Brad asked. Everyone looked up. Indeed, their supposed building was a huge mangrove tree.

"Wow" they breathed.

"See? I'm always right, unlike you," he teased Lillian smugly.

"As if," Lillian retorted. Brad looked down from the balcony.

"Brad! Don't do that! You're going to fall headfirst off the balcony!" Mrs Sim warned. The class snickered, grateful for the opportunity to use their favourite catchphrase.

"Ya Breadhead," they teased. Brad glared at them and folded his arms crossly.

32

"Now you look like a grumpy old man," Lillian taunted.

"I don't get it. Why me? Why do they always 'ya' me?" he spoke.

"Ya Breadhead," Lillian replied, and walked off, leaving Brad to mutter something about girls under his breath.

Suddenly, there was a crackling noise and the place 'glitched', disappearing and coming back in a haze of red, green and blue, then returning to its original form.

"What was that?" Scared whispers flitted around the class.

"Hello, Class 6K and welcome to my wonderful video game," a voice said. Screams from the girls and startled yells from the boys erupted as they looked around frantically to see where the voice was coming from.

"Relax, relax, you can't find me anyway. Welcome to this world everyone. You can call me the game master. You must pass two challenges to earn your place in this wonderful world or go to the next universe. Now, let me explain the instructions: You will be divided into groups of three and four. Together, you must overcome whatever challenges are in store for you. The hint is teamwork. Work together to achieve your goal! Good luck," it finished. Everyone panicked.

"It's okay 6K, calm down. If you don't want this challenge, let's just use the time capsule to go to another universe," Mrs. Sim said. But no sooner than the words came out of her mouth, the time capsule disappeared. More screams, and they glitched out.

"Now where are we? Urgh, I feel like I left my stomach behind. Glitching is so nauseating,"

Lillian moaned. Brad appeared right behind her and retched. Then, pixels of red, green and blue appeared beside them and formed their classmate - Will.

"Oh... that was unpleasant," he groaned, clutching his stomach.

"Where are we?" Lillian asked, frowning.

34

"This must be the first challenge, duh," Brad mocked. Lillian rolled her eyes and shook her head at his immaturity.

"W-What is the first challenge...?" Will asked nervously, stammering.

"Welcome to the first challenge," the voice announced, making them jump, "Your task is to put out the forest fire with these buckets of water." Buckets of water flashed into existence. The ominous voice was replaced with an icy silence, leaving them confused and mystified.

"What forest fire?" Will asked in a hollow voice, "And what's that crackling noise?" It was barely audible but still there. Suddenly, fire erupted around them. Flames licked the air. Black smoke unfurled and sparks went flying as they gazed in horror at the carnage before them.

"RUN!!" Brad yelled.

"What?! What about the challenge?" Lillian cried, wringing her hands.

"Are you crazy?! I'm not about to risk my life for this stupid challenge!"

"Don't you want to go home?"



“There will be no home to go to if we DIE!”

“STOP!!” Will bellowed, “Why are you arguing at a time like this?! Challenge or not, we must save these people! It’s our duty as a Fairsian!”

Lillian and Brad looked down at their feet, ashamed. They looked around. People were running for their lives. Trees were flashing red as they took damage from the fire, burning down as birds squawked as they flew overhead.

“I hate to admit it but you’re right. We must save them!” Brad said fearfully but with determination, hands shaking. Lillian nodded firmly. They looked up at the raging inferno before them. Lillian and Brad rushed to douse the fire with water from the buckets and Will ran into the burning trees to save people.

Bucket after bucket of water, person after person saved, the clear, constant thought of resilience and not giving up was fixed in their minds, fueling them to keep going and yet their efforts were futile. Soon, they were backed up against a river.

Brad was growing desperate. He didn’t think they could hold on any longer. Soot coated his nostrils; Lillian was coughing badly and Will’s skin was peeling from the intense heat of the inferno.

“I can’t give up,” he chided himself, “I mustn’t give up. NEVER CAN I GIVE UP!!” he roared and something clicked inside him. His hands moved by instinct. Water from the river surged up and attacked the fire, dousing it in an instant with a loud sizzling sound. Part of him screamed with relief. Part of him was rendered speechless with shock. Part of him froze in fear.

“What just happened?” Lillian was first to speak. Her mouth was agape though she didn’t realise it.

“Did-Did he just douse the fire with water that... that he controlled?!” Will was astounded. Brad was staring at his hands, eyes wide with disbelief.

“I...” he moved his hands upwards and the water followed. It mimicked his every move.

“Whoa,” he breathed, “I-I can control water... I can... I can control water! Oh my goodness! This is awesome!!! I am awesome! I always knew I was special! Unlike you,” he crowed.



Lillian couldn't resist the urge to roll her eyes. Again.

"I guess this is the way of the universe," Will spoke up.

"Congratulations Brad!" the voice chuckled, startling them, "It looks like you've discovered your special ability. One of the first! But don't get too complacent! Lillian and Will, your turns are yet to come."

"Ya Breadhead," Lillian smirked. Brad elbowed her, grumbling.

"You were able to use resilience to overcome this challenge. Now I will transport you to your second challenge. You must retrieve a hidden treasure from a cave deep in the forest. Travel by river. Pass the obstacles in your way using teamwork and the spirit of serving and giving. Good luck!"

38

The trio was only given a fraction of a second to register before they glitched out.

"Whoa!" Lillian, Brad and Will appeared at the same time, head spinning.

"Man, I forgot this makes me sick," Lillian gagged. Brad and Will wore similar dizzy expressions on their faces. Recovering, they looked around.

They couldn't help but gasp in awe. It was a totally different perspective than the view from the tree-school-building but breathtaking all the same. They were standing on a floating lily pad and drifting down a lazy river. A huge pink water lily flower hung above their heads and trees towered over them like great wooden giants. Silver fish swam alongside them, and the occasional huge shadow of an eagle flew overhead.

"Let's start the challenge," Brad declared, first to step out of the 'speechless with the sheer beauty' state. "Onward! Let's ride on a fish and ask it to take us to whatever cave the creepy voice was talking about." Will and Lillian nodded in agreement.

"Don't get cocky now, Brad. Just because we passed the first challenge, doesn't mean we can pass this one," Lillian reminded him with a wag of her finger.

A silver fish soon came along. Seats were attached to its back. They climbed on but the fish didn't move.



"Oi, fish! Hurry up and take us to the cave!" Brad demanded with a look of fierce determination. The fish didn't budge. Brad's determined face contorted into annoyance.

"Hey, hurry up!" Brad tried again, more forcefully. Still, the fish stayed still. Brad looked ready to explode with frustration. Will tapped his shoulder.

"Brad, show respect to the fish. It's our guide to our goal after all," Will chided. Brad folded his arms defiantly.

"As if you can. It's just an animal for goodness' sake." He sounded pissed. Will felt himself grow angry.

Don't disrespect the fish! Will had always been fond of animals.

He leant over to where the fish's ear was. His voice was as soft and gentle as a calm breeze. "Fishy! Could you please take us to the cave of the hidden treasure? We would be incredibly grateful for your help and I apologise for my friend's behaviour earlier." The fish obeyed at once. Flicking its elegant silver tail, it chugged off at full speed.

"What?" Will asked. Lillian and Brad were gaping at him like he was an alien.

"You-you...j-just," Lillian couldn't form the words. "You talked to the fish?!"

"I did?!" Will looked just as astonished as them. "Let me try again." Closing his eyes, he thought about commanding birds to fly nearer to them. He opened his mouth but the words that came out weren't English; a series of clicking and whistles. He heard Lillian's cry of surprise as a swallow swooped over them and a sense of pride swelled within him.

"This must be my special ability!" Will's eyes were alit with happiness... but not for long. A rushing noise was heard. Simultaneously, the three turned their heads, paralysed with fear.

"WATERFALL!!!" Lillian screamed. The fish had been swept away by the current and stuck in the waterfall pull.

"Go fish go!" Will tried his best to motivate the fish while Lillian and Brad tried their best to paddle it backwards... but failed.



"AAAAAARGHH!!!" They screamed their throats raw as they plunged into the nothingness below them.

"Isaiah 41:10, So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. God, please help us and keep your promise, I have faith in you to save us!" Lillian prayed silently and her Christian belief burned strong in her. A surge of power, and vines from the trees obeyed her command.

It wrapped around the group and fish, lifting and carrying them to safety on the calm side of the river.

"My ability!" Lillian gasped happily. Brad rolled his eyes.

40

"How did someone like you get it?!" he grumbled.

"Sore loser," Lillian laughed, too happy to care. Suddenly, the voice was back.

"Congratulations! You've passed the second challenge!" Confusion spread amongst them.

"What? But we didn't get the treasure at all!" Brad protested.

"Haha, well, the real treasure here is the gift of respect and love and reverence for God, which young Will and Lillian here have demonstrated perfectly!" it announced as Will and Lillian beamed with pride.

"Now, I'm delighted to declare that you've earned your place in this world and you can have your time capsule back. Now, let me glitch you and your friends."

A blur, and they were back in the classroom.

"Congratulations for passing all two challenges! You've demonstrated your school values with excellence. Always remember your core values! Together, continue to flourish as one Fairfield!" Then, the voice said no more.

Universe 5DA-3333
Class 3 Universe
Commonly known as : THE GALAXY BOTS

41

Writers:

Primary 5A
Tan Mu En
Loh Yi Xin Shanon

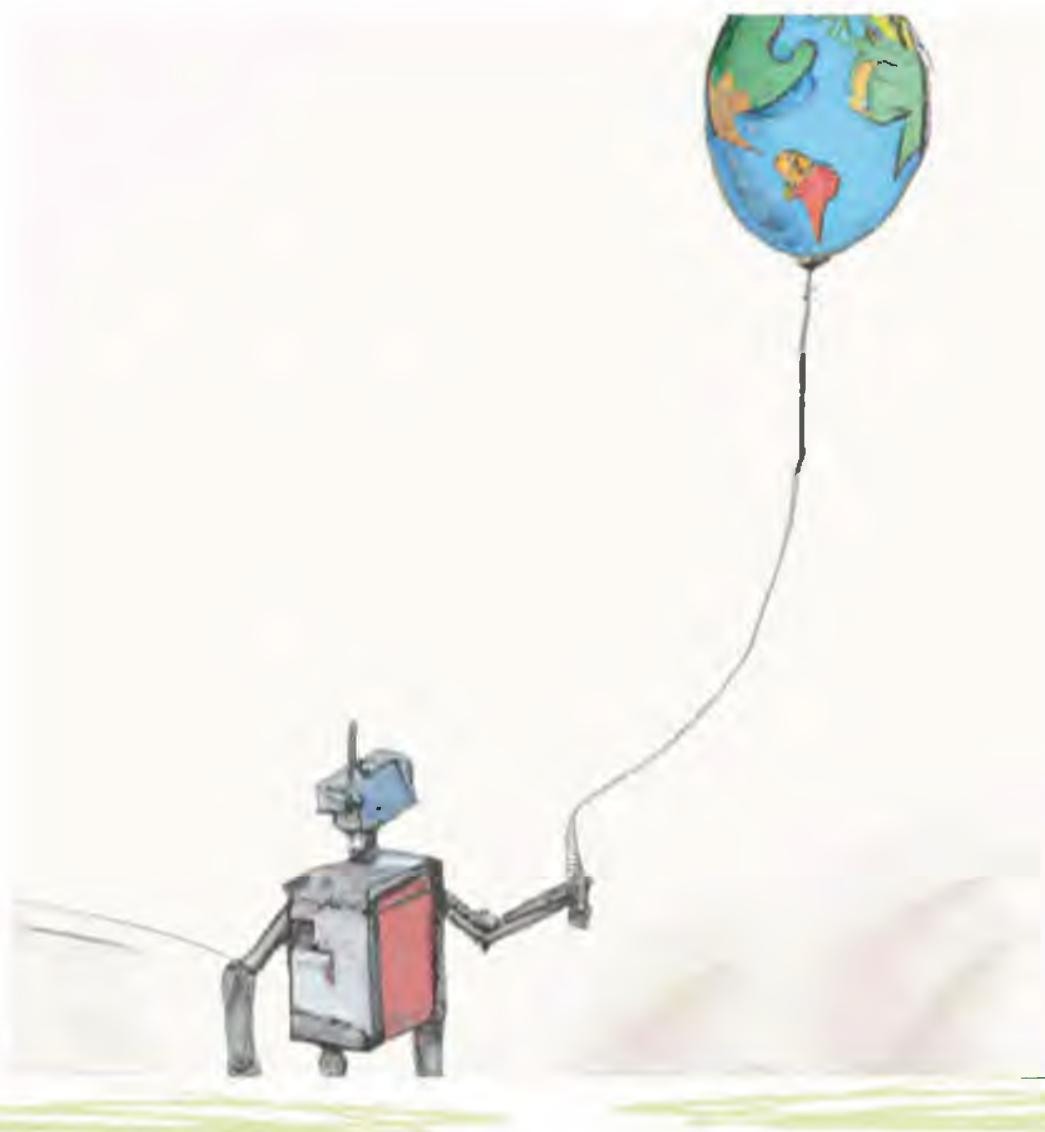
Primary 5D
Muhammad Fazyle Bin Muhammad Faddly

Teacher Advisors:
Mrs Rena Tham
Ms Jasmeet Kaur Vij



42

"Aaahhhh!" Gabby cried her eyes out. Thud! She landed on the ground. "Ouch!" She groaned in agony as she rubbed her back. She tried to call out for help but to no avail. For the past hour she had been trying to figure out where she was, how she got there and how to get back. "What is the point of trying? I give up! I am probably going to be stuck here forever!" Gabby muttered to herself. All of a sudden, there was a buzzing sound as electricity surged and the lights flickered on. From a dark and gloomy space, it transformed into a bright and busy city. Everywhere you looked, there were robots moving here and there.



"Where am I?" Gabby stammered curiously, recovering from her shock.

"You are at Galaxy Bots World City, silly!" a cheery voice declared. "The world of robots!" another excited voice added on. They popped their heads into Gabby's view. They were actual robots speaking to her! "I am Rob," the first robot introduced.

"And I am Bert!" the second robot finished the sentence.

"Together we are Robert and when you change the "e" into an "o" and take away the "r" and add an "s" at the end, it becomes robots. And when you take away the "r" and "o" it becomes bots which are us!" they chimed in delight."

Sheeeeeeeeeeeeeesh," Gabby exclaimed, impressed. Her mood changed in a split second. She jumped to her feet and began admiring the bots. "I am Gabby! Whoa, so it means my teacher Mrs Sim transported me here from 6K using the time capsule!" she blurted out unable to control her excitement. Rob and Bert's eyes widened.

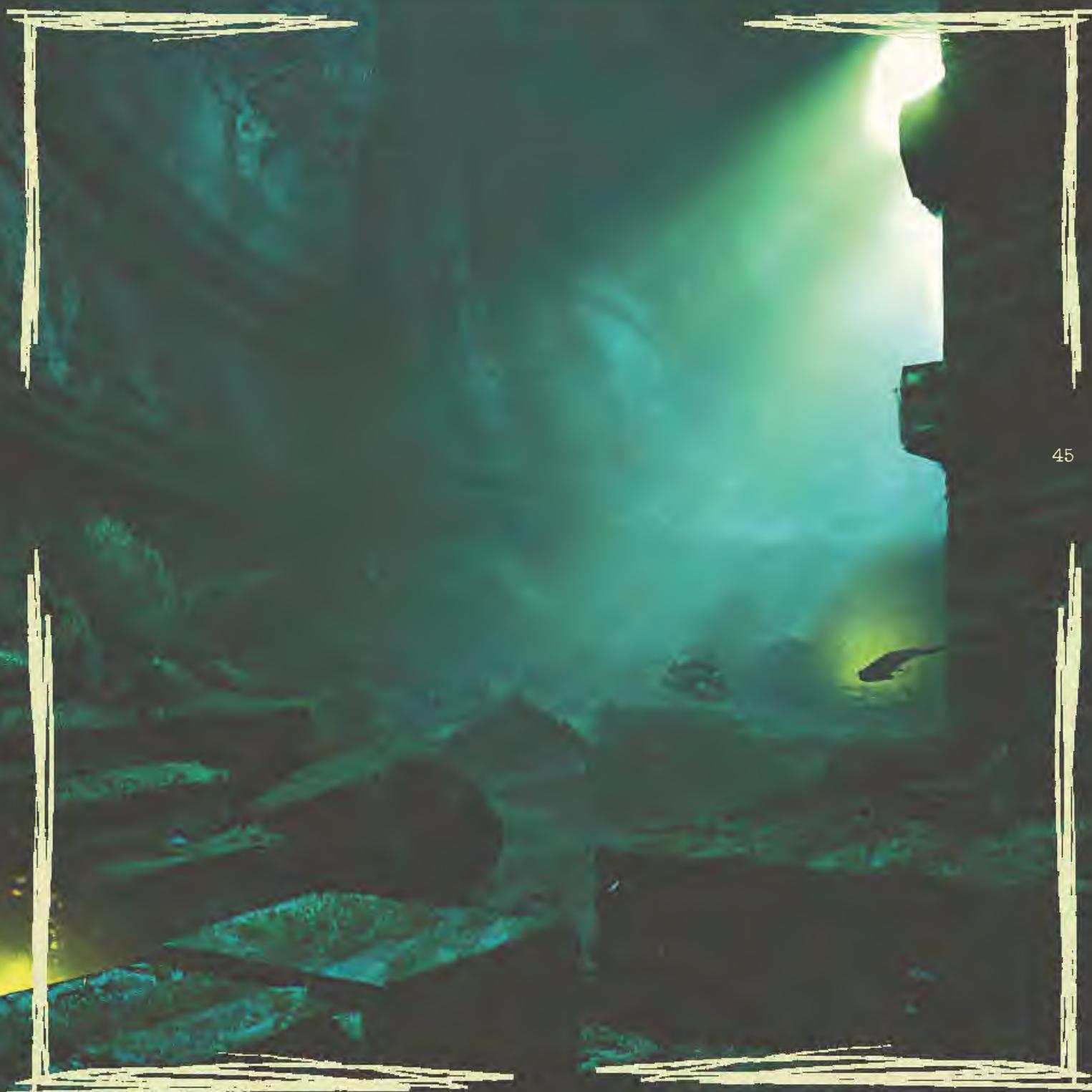
44

There was only one time capsule that could take you all around the galaxy in this world. However, it was said to be the prized possession of the God of the Galaxy Bots World. So, nobody could have it or even touch it. He was a selfish god who wanted everything. If someone ever entered his Dungeon of Doom, they would never be able to see the light of day again.

"If you want to go back to 6K, you will need to have the time capsule. However, it is with the God of the Galaxy Bots World, Kratos. Nobody is allowed to have it," Rob warned. Despite that, Gabby decided to make the hard decision - to face Kratos...

To get the time capsule, Gabby needed help. She begged Rob and Bert to help. With hesitation, they agreed and planned their way. They packed their things and headed off to the Dungeon of Doom...





With every step Gabby, Rob and Bert took, their fear mounted. Kratos' Dungeon of Doom was the opposite of Galaxy Bots World City. There were no beautiful and bright colours in sight. Instead, it was a forsaken place – dull and filled with fear. They tried to steady their breath and calm the panic that had risen within them.

"Creak!" As Gabby, Rob and Bert stepped into the Dungeon of Doom, it felt like there was spooky music playing in their heads. Fog began appearing out of nowhere and covered the entire room like a giant blanket. A soft light filtered through a small gap. Before them, there was a long hallway. Something felt strange about the tiles on the ground and the wall. Rob boldly decided to make the first step. Sweat dripped from his eyes. He carefully stepped on the tile right in front of him. Big mistake. A tile from the wall opened and shot out an arrow.

"Duck!" Rob burst out. Bert did as he said. Meanwhile, Gabby was paralysed with fear, the menacing aura holding her in an ever-tightening grip. It made her muscles tense up. Her heart almost stopped beating. Bert pulled her out of the way in time. The arrow missed them by a hair's breadth. Phew! Rob and Bert heaved a sigh of relief. On the other hand, Gabby was shaking like a leaf. If Bert had not saved her, she might have been shot. Fat tears rolled down her face. Rob and Bert's encouragement pulled her out of her misery and she gathered her courage. She got up and wiped her tears away. You can do it! Gabby thought.

Instead of taking one step at a time, Rob sacrificed his batteries by dropping them one by one on the floor to check which tile to step on. They were his favourite snack but their lives were more important. Slowly but surely, they took steady steps and reached the end of the hallway.

There it was... The time capsule was sitting right in front of their eyes. Gabby, Rob and Bert heaved a sigh of relief.

Out of the blue, a long, tall shadow formed. Footsteps could be heard. Every step it took, Gabby, Rob and Bert felt a cold shiver down their spine. Their stomachs turned to ice. They were rooted to the ground, unable to move a muscle. Colour drained from their faces and a ghastly whiteness spread over their faces. It was Kratos!

"Who are you?" Kratos' voice boomed loudly. Gabby, Rob and Bert froze in terror like a deer in headlights. They were stricken into silence. They tried to make a run for it but they were too late because the dungeon doors slammed shut. Gabby gulped and stammered in a timid voice, "Ca... can we... have... the time... time capsule?"

"Hah, no chance!" boomed Kratos. With that, he took the time capsule and began walking away. Gabby, Rob and Bert stood there, dumbfounded. We must not give up! We are so close... Gabby thought.

"Wa... wait! Please!" Gabby whimpered softly. Kratos turned around.

"Tell me why you want the multiverse crystal," Kratos demanded. Gabby gave Kratos a blow by blow of what had happened. Kratos surprised Rob and Bert. They stood in disbelief as he patiently listened to Gabby. "That is why I need the time capsule," she finished. Hope was starting to bloom...

"Hmmm, take it. Say where you want to go and you will be there in a second," Kratos replied. Kratos stretched his arm out and handed Gabby the multivers crystal. Her hands were cold and clammy.

"Thank you, thank you!" Gabby thanked Kratos profusely. Tears of joy streamed down her face. Gabby, Rob and Bert grinned from ear to ear. They could not believe what had just happened. In the end, he was not as cruel as the bots had said. It was just a myth!

It was time to say goodbye. Gabby thanked Rob and Bert gratefully and gave them a giant bear hug. She stood before the time capsule and whispered the words softly...

"Bring me back to Earth, FMS(P), Classroom 6K."

An eye-blinding light shone and darkness overtook Gabby. She was back at Fairfield. She took some time to collect herself and as she reflected. She knew why Mrs Sim had sent her Galaxy Bots World City - the school values that she had mocked and the problem-solving skills taught that she had deemed useless were in fact not! She decided to be grateful for the blessings received and appreciate what Fairfield had to offer.

