

I MISS SITTING AT MY DESK

A BIG, BRIGHT SCOOP OF IMAGINATION
FROM OUR VIRTUAL WORLD

QUARANTINE ANTHOLOGY PROJECT
VOLUME 4, 2021

Read and Write Kalamazoo exists to
celebrate and amplify youth voices
through the cultivation of reading and writing skills
via **joy, creativity, equity, and access.**

On March 25th, almost two weeks after Michigan schools closed and one day after the statewide stay-at-home order began in response to COVID-19, RAWK launched the Quarantine Anthology Project:

“Hello RAWKstars! We hope you are all settling in, taking care, and staying creative during the school closure! We’re all in the same situation. Stuck at home, missing our school routines, and our friends. And we don’t know what to expect next, so we have to wait. Now is a great time to write and create, of course! Not only will you keep your skills sharp, but writing about these uncertain times could help get through these next few weeks with kindness, empathy, and gratitude.”

This fourth volume wraps up the Quarantine Anthology Project as we close out a whole year of virtual school and virtual RAWK programs, and we mark a step into a new phase of life amidst medical and racial global pandemics. Throughout this publication series we’ve had the opportunity to lift up the ideas, feelings, and stories of dozens of young people throughout our community despite the physical space keeping us apart.

RAWK’s mission has always been to celebrate and amplify youth voices, but the past year has underscored why we exist and why we’re going to keep working and adapting to support the young people of Kalamazoo. Now more than ever, young people need space to process and express, to explore and grow, and to step into the inherent power of their words and stories.

. . .

The writings collected here were compiled on
June 16th, 2021.

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Sitting At
My Desk

A Big, Bright Scoop of Imagination
from our Virtual World

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My Friends, I Want Them Back

by Ingrid Aardema

Oh, I do love my friends
Friends are so much fun
I wish that coronavirus was gone
I want to see my friends again
And give them a great big hug



The Things I Love

by Mia Wilson

I love dogs

Dogs make me happy

I love my friends

Friends make me happy



Spring Poem

by Kit Theisen

Spring is great

Spring is amazing

Spring has flowers

Spring has grass

Spring has rain

I love spring

because it has sun.

Spring is important to me because it has baby animals.



School and Corona Don't Mix

by Kali Burciaga

The only thing good about virtual, there's only one
It's if you're sick you can still come to school

The bad things about it? I have millions and millions

#72 That I can't see my friends

#562 That I can't play games with my classmates

#60 I can't hug everyone

#127 No more SHOW & TELL

#531 We still have to go to school

#123 I don't know what my 2nd grade room looks like
and I won't EVER

#20 I cannot sit next to my friends

#444 I can't say what I want to play anymore

#223 I can't go on field trips only FAKE ones!

#789 No MORE FUN

#357 I cannot see my new friends

#485 I can't play on the playground anymore

#167 That I can't go to the library

#82 No more PLAYGROUND

#54 I can't do math with my teacher

#111 LEMON

#274 I miss sitting at my desk

#324 I can't see you

#890 NO P.E. OR MUSIC CLASS AND NO ART
CLASS

#940 NO YOU

#881 NO SNOWBALL FIGHT WITH LOTS OF
FRIENDS

#176 I can't play with them on the playground

#999 I can't line up with them or talk to them barely
when it's always class time and I can't have recess
with them

#1000 That I hate hate hate hate hate hate hate hate
hate hate hate hate hate hate (pretend I'm saying this
for my whole life, then I finally say) Corona



Other Ways to Make Sandwiches

by Salvador Blanco

Let's talk about the story of the man who was about to eat a sandwich but can't.

It's past lunchtime but it's about to be dinner.

He just started thinking about sandwiches and wanted to eat one but he couldn't ... maybe for dinner?

Peanut butter and jelly

Ham and cheese

Tuna fish and sardines with ham

Roast beef

Grilled cheese with muenster cheese

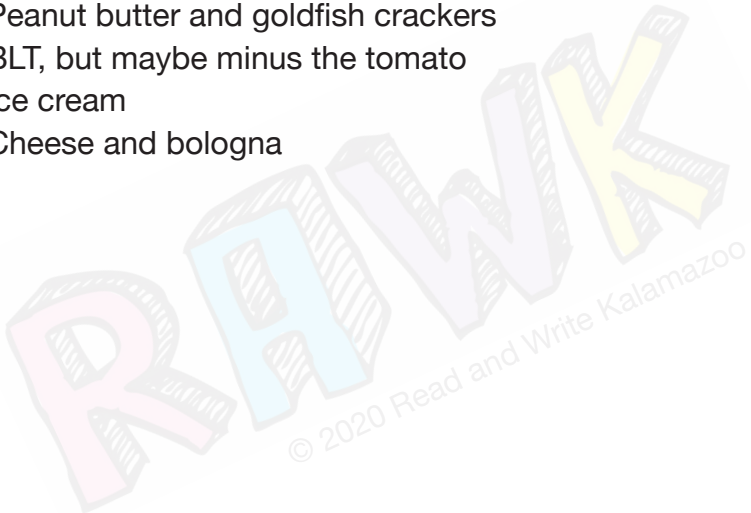
Peanut butter and banana

Peanut butter and goldfish crackers

BLT, but maybe minus the tomato

Ice cream

Cheese and bologna



Salvador



RAW
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All About Colors

by Amaya Olivo

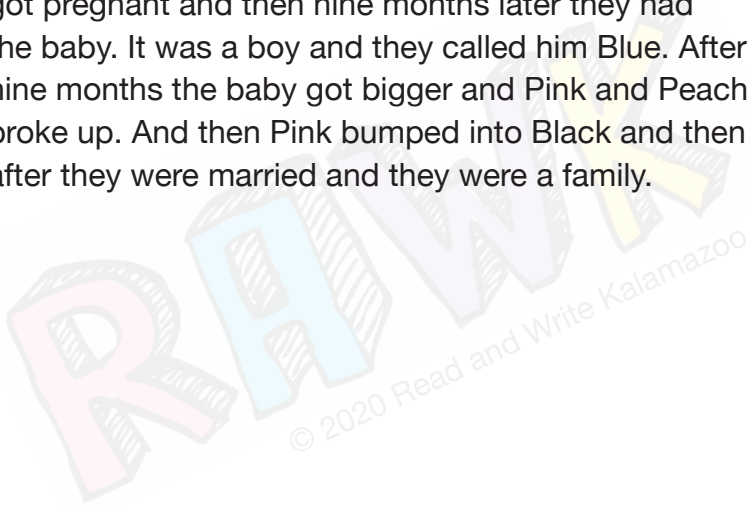
Peach was wearing a fancy outfit, like a suit. And then Purple was wearing a dress and the color was white with white high heels.

Peach and Purple went on a date in a fancy restaurant with a buffet. Fancy food, fancy plates, fancy spoons, and a fancy door! Everything looks, like, so fancy. The doors are fancy, the knobs — the beautiful knobs — they're golden.

Then Peach got in a problem with Purple and then they broke up, right in the fancy restaurant.

Then Peach left and he bumped into the girl who was called Pink.

They were married and then after two months Pink got pregnant and then nine months later they had the baby. It was a boy and they called him Blue. After nine months the baby got bigger and Pink and Peach broke up. And then Pink bumped into Black and then after they were married and they were a family.



Haiku Poem

by Max Bormann

Bundle of cuddle
As sweet as dark chocolate bars
Allie is her name

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Sasuke Uchiha's Life: Short, Short, Short, Like a Million x a Million Short Version

by Eliseo Blanco

Sasuke Uchiha is the name of an Anime character from a show called Naruto. Sasuke is part of the Team 7 which is a Ninja Team that Naruto, who is the main character of the show is in but he is part of a clan called the Uchiha clan.

His clan was slaughtered by the eldest son of the Uchiha clan, Itachi Uchiha, who did it for ... you will have to watch the super long show for that, but Sasuke found his brother and fought him and then his brother died and then his brother was reanimated which is a forbidden jutsu, but his brother said the actual reason he didn't kill Sasuke is because he would always love him.

Then Sasuke went to the area where the 4th Great Ninja War was happening and said the most unimaginable thing — “I will be hokage” — and everyone made a face like *bruh naw, man naw*, and then years later he had a daughter.

SASUKE



Eliseo
25/5/2021

Me

by Soleil Valeii

I'm a poet so it might be hard to understand me.
And I'm demanding that everyone has equal rights.

People get in fights every minute for that one thing!
But it seems impossible!

It's like knitting an impossible scarf, like learning to
ride a bike, like 100 other hard things.

And here I am singing my feelings to people
hoping ... hoping that somewhere in their hearts they
agree with me before the bad stuff happens again.



What Is Poetry?

by Soleil Valeii

Poetry can be rhyming which is much harder
than miming,

Poetry is like slowly climbing a tree

Let's start from the bottom.



Covid-19

by Soleil Valeii

Covid-19 is mean, better not catch it, so sit and enjoy the ride.

Imagine this, it's like a curvy slide — boop ya down — but it's hell down there so ...

Sell all ya crap and pay for the vaccine!
Ya seen da news every one in da street's drinking booze without a mask!

So I ask you to wear a mask.



Virtual School

by Claire Rathbun

No friends in a classroom, no pencils — no fun!
Please tell me it's over, and summer's begun!



Dogs

by Carter Steppes

Dogs keep
are like the animal of the future they help you and
You company, they are always around for you at
time of need



Gaming

by Jacob Williams

Time to play ...

Friends

CLICK!

FASTER!

Plot

Fear inducing

Button mashing

Skill

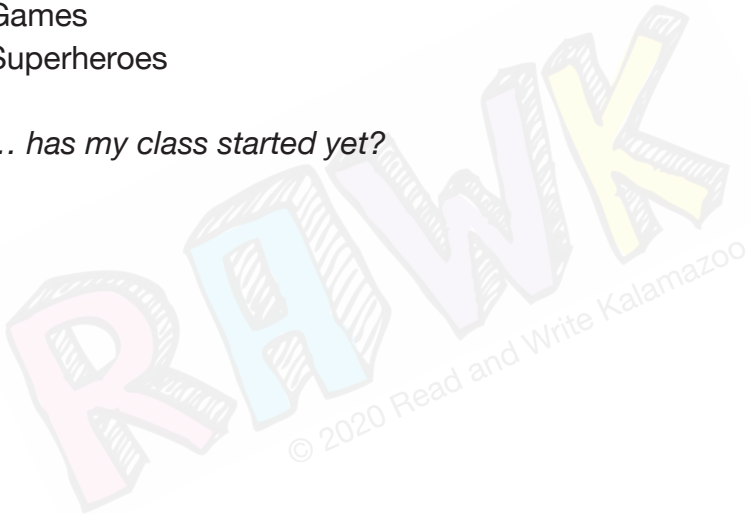
Speed

TV

Games

Superheroes

... has my class started yet?



I Sense Spring

by Jacob Williams

Barefoot in the spring

Toes that have not touched the dirt in so, so long.

Ouch!

Pain

Rocks

Sharp

Pokey

Ouch!

Time to get shoes on.



Family (a haiku)

by Vivian Doud

they are nice and kind
they bring joy, funniness I'd
be lonely without them

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Cat Poem Trilogy

by Charlie Duffy

Cat I

My cat likes to play
I've seen her a lot today.

Cat II

Contemplative
About to jump
Total fur ball of energy

Tallulah

Cute
Very energetic
I love her
Meowing at a chipmunk
Running around our house
My cat

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Shape Poem

by Kendall Hermann

The destruction of the flower
The petals are falling off its stem,

on the ground,

on the ground,

on the ground!

The stem is in

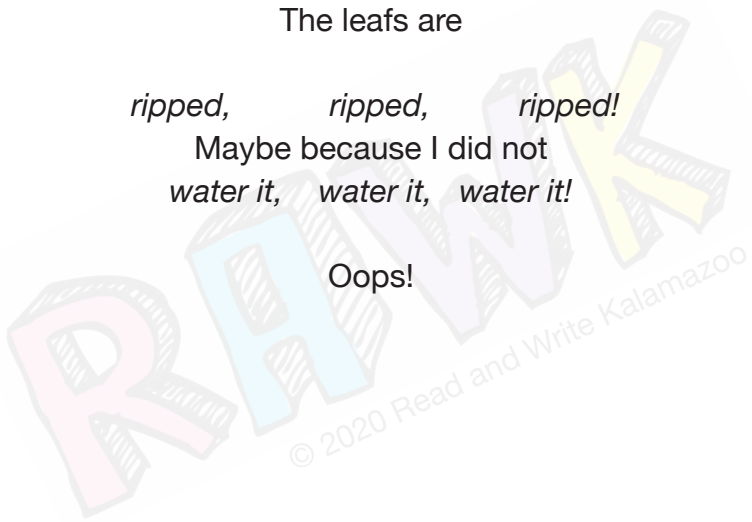
pieces, pieces, pieces!

The leafs are

ripped, ripped, ripped!

Maybe because I did not
water it, water it, water it!

Oops!



Recipe for a Video Game

by Trevor Leskowski

You will need:

4 cups of software coders

3 cups of a Hollywood-script storyline

6 tablespoons of options and upgrades

2 handfuls of matching skill players into the same virtual room

1.5 teaspoons of competition

½ cup of continuous action

1 pinch of cool avatars

Here are the steps for creating poetry my way:

Cool the refrigerator to 38 degrees Fahrenheit — to keep it cool.

In a large bowl, combine 3 cups of a Hollywood-script storyline, 6 tablespoons of options and upgrades, and 1 pinch of cool avatars

Blend at 300 MPS internet speed for 30 seconds, until blended.

Add the 2 handfuls of matching skill players into the same virtual room

Spread 1.5 teaspoons of competition

Sprinkle ½ cup of continuous action

Cool for 2 weeks with cool videos from YouTube personalities

Remove from the refrigerator and eat immediately.

If desired, add a pinch of changing the settings to different environments and worlds.
Serve with controller.



Fourth of July

by Drew Nicolai

I hear the boom.

I see the sparkle, the flash.

The smell of smoke fills the air.

But not smoke, only ... sulphur.

I can feel my heart racing,
and the fireworks make my body shake.

I taste the sweet flavor

of the red-white-and-blue popsicles
we eat while we watch.

Boom!



The Garden Snake

by Rebecca Ruivivar

There once was a long garden snake.
He was always chased by a rake.
So then he went down
Very deep underground
And moved right next to a lake!



Recipe for Poetry Liam's Way

by Liam Scobie

Mix in:

Lots of love

An abundance of color

A big, bright scoop of imagination

A sprinkle rhyme

A little bit of rhythm

A pinch of repetition

A pinch of repetition

Mix in:

Animals — lions and wolves

Some snow and rainbows

for a poetic EXPLOSION!



Africa (haiku)

by Malaika Sow

I love Africa.
She is the Motherland. She
is home and good food.



Superdog

by Jack Stefanick

Superdog flies through the air
fighting danger everywhere

saving lives is his skill
freezing evil icy still

as day ends he hangs his cape
as criminals sneakily escape.



Acrostic

by Lillian Stempek

Naughty little kitten

I love him

My favorite animal

Broke my hairbrush

Umm ... doesn't like being held

So cute

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The Cat

by Lillian Stempek

The cat
Pounces just like that
Fast as lightning
Always look for the silver lining
That is The Cat

The Kitten
Snoring, sleeping
Scratching, screaming
Cuter than I've ever written
About

The Cat
Jumps on the table
I hope it's stable
Enough to hold the weight
Of The Cat that made
Me squeal,
It was so cute.

Always look for the silver lining
That is The Cat

Da Kewl Clan (a Google hangout)

by Milana Vorobyov

Doing crazy things

Always checking up on each other

Keen thoughts are made

Eating ice cream at Treat Street

Why can't we make memes?

Laughing at outrageous things

Creating wholesome memes

Lying down on our beds, in our homes

Always having fun on screen

Not being a rude clan



Summer Camp

by Mirah Wimsatt

Roasting S'mores

Having fun

Making new friends

Making really cool crafts

Sleep sleep sleeping in our bunks



Limerick

by Taegan Rademacher

There once was a fox named Kazoo.
Everyday applying shampoo.
So he lathered his body
And it became polka-dotty
That fox turned a new shade of blue.

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Summer

by Taegan Rademacher

Smearing on sunscreen.

Under a beach umbrella in the sand.

Making sand castles.

Melting ice cream.

Everyone swimming.

Ready for fun in the sun.



Trees (shape poem)

by Taegan Rademacher

Trees.

Beautiful green.

Oxygen, shade, home.

Animals nest and play.

Flowers and fruit to enjoy.

N

A

T

U

R

E

And all its beauty.



Fishing (haiku)

by Brody McCamman

A peaceful fun. Big
splash, the fish bends the pole. Reel
in slippery bass.

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I Love Hockey

by Brody McCamman

I love hockey!

smacking the puck and making a bar down shot

carrying the puck at a fast pace

so fast *leaving* others behind

they can't catch up

sharp turns

fast feet

stickhandling around the opponent

Three wingers charge the net

I catch the pass

the wristshot flies by the goalie's glove

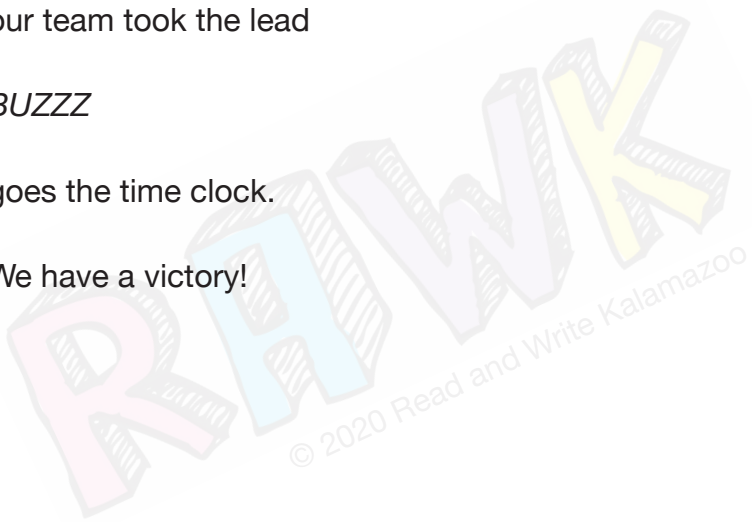
and lands in the top corner of the net

our team took the lead

BUZZZ

goes the time clock.

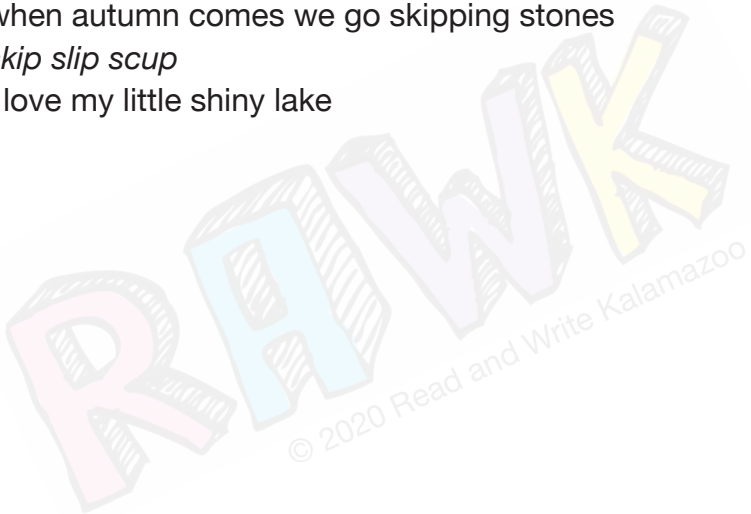
We have a victory!



Little Shiny Lake

by Penelope C. Greci

The shiny lake near our home
So close
we always go ice skating in winter
bundled up tight
it has a horrible sound though
screech scratch scur
in spring we go fishing
in our little motor boat
sput splut put
we go swimming in the summer
it sounds like a big rain storm
all the legs and arms kicking
splish splash splosh
when autumn comes we go skipping stones
skip slip scup
I love my little shiny lake



Basketball

By Harrison Bryce

Bouncing,
blocking
shooting
scoring
stealing
dribbling
buzzer

10

9

8

7

6

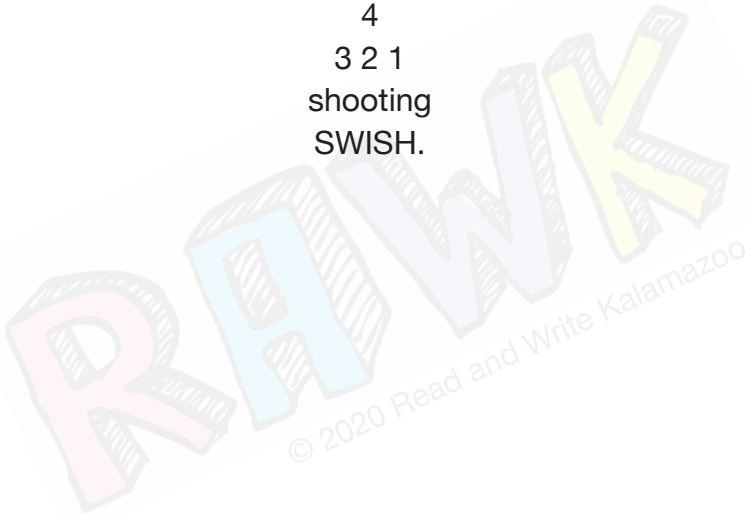
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shooting

SWISH.



The Journey of Seth the Seeker *(an excerpt)*

by Henry Deutsch

Prologue

One day in the Kingdom of Wisdom, something terribly important happened. Of course, not every journey of note occurs there. Certainly not for a boy named Seth anyway, as we shall see.

Chapter One: The Portal TV

Seth was the opposite of creative. He took ideas from everything else. So you would assume he watched a lot of TV. If you assumed that, your assumption is correct. This boy sat in front of the TV before school, after school, at night, every time he could. When he wasn't at the TV, he was doing his homework but copying from someone else. He wasn't badly behaved, but he didn't behave well.

One day when he was sitting in front of the TV, a new ad came on. The ad said, "Buy one, get one free. Portal TV." And the boy thought, *Wow, that's a wonky name for a TV. Well anyway, it sounds fun. I don't like this old one anyway, I need a new screen.*

So he convinced his parents to get him the Portal TV. His parents said "Fine, but we really don't think you need another TV."

When the Portal TV came, instead of setting it up in his living room, he wanted it to be his private

TV, so he set it up in his room. When he got it set up, he turned it on. There was only one channel. It was called the Portal TV Basic. He said to himself, “Wow, that’s a waste of money. So let’s see if this channel’s any good.”

And all there was was this blank, glitchy screen. And then all of a sudden he started getting drowsy and tired.

Finally he woke up. He said, “Huh, what’s going on?” Then he saw the TV turn on a red flash, a green flash, and a yellow flash. Then — *BOOM!*

He opened his eyes. and he was in a new world. All he saw around him was darkness. He tried to walk forward. *BOOONGGG!* He tried to walk behind him. *BIIIIINNNNG!* He tried both the sides and the TV went *DIING ... DOOONNNNG!* And then he finally jumped up, hit his head, and fell unconscious.

This time he woke up in another new world. Except he could see things. He saw this little old shack. He walked towards it. All it looked like was an old barn with a little one-car garage. So he knocked on the door. No answer. He knocked a little harder. The door opened by itself. He looked around. No one was there. He stepped in. There was a light on. So then he looked around. All he saw was a basic living room — a couch, a chair, a small desk table. He walked a little further in. Then he saw a dining table with two chairs. Then he saw a small kitchen with two cups, two plates, two bowls, and two bigger plates. The whole house was a big circle.

So he turned back through the kitchen and he

saw a very small stairwell going down and it looked like it went on forever. So he stepped out the back door, grabbed a pebble, brought it back in. He took the pebble, put it in his left hand and he threw it down the stairs. He didn't hear it hit until a minute later. He saw this small flickering light up ahead. Then he saw lights come up on the ceiling of the stairwell, and it just went *DINK ... DINK ... DINK*. Every little *dink*, a new light came on closer and closer towards him. Finally the last one came on, then it shut off. He slowly went down. After he passed every light, every time, it would shut off. When he got down there all he noticed was a gigantic TV. And all he did was stare at it for a while. And then he heard a growl. A moan. A whimper. He said, "Who's there?" He picked up the pebble he'd thrown, put it in his hand, turned around, and looked up the stairs.

He saw in the corners of his eyes a flicker of light, a big light, turned on. He turned around and on the TV he saw a massive white screen with a face on it, a big face that looked like its eyes were closed.

Seth said, "What in the world? If this even is my world."