

**Eagles, Bears, Snow, Magic
and More**

By

The Bethesda Elementary Winter Writer's Workshop

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Nohelia

My name is Nohelia. Something interesting about my name is that in my country they speak Spanish and there is this artist that makes songs in Spanish and he made a song using my name. So whenever I meet people new from my country, and I tell them my name, they tell me about the song.

- Nohelia

Anya

My name is Anya. I love this name because it is very unusual and not a lot of people have this name. My name was going to be Ella but my parents changed it to Anya because the last baby who was born at the hospital before me was named Ella! I was born in Hanoi and I lived there for 9 years, but I am completely English.

- Anya

My name is Jewels! It was a long time ago in the desert. A mother was about to have a baby. When she had the baby, it had a hand full of gems, so the mother wanted to name the baby Gems, but when she told her husband, he wanted to name her Jewels. Then they did not know what to name her, so they decided to take her to Mars and let the aliens decide. So then the aliens wanted to call her Save Me. So then they had no idea what to call her so they debated and in two days the aliens were out. One day after the debate was over they figured out the name was going to be Jewels!

- Julia W.

I am related to Pocahontas and the only doctor on the Mayflower.

-William

SEASONS AND PLACES

Winter

I wake up and there is snow! I go downstairs and to the basement to watch TV, my heart flying. As soon as my sleepy brother comes down, I turn off the TV and drag him to the window. My brother grins and turns on the TV. Then I walk up the stairs and find my dad making breakfast. Pancakes! I smile as soon as he sees me. He does a wake-up dance. I gulp down my pancakes and get on my clothes and I, my dad, my mom, and my brother go outside. The snow is so deep I can dive headfirst!

- Maddy

I always like winter best.

You can go outside, and catch snowflakes on your tongue.

And when you fall back, you land in soft snow with the snowflakes falling on your face. When you smell, all you smell is fresh snow.

The colorful world is erased. Now it's a blank piece of paper waiting to be drawn on. When you're done playing, all the snow is trampled and soiled. But you know new snow will come. As you come in, you smell hot cocoa that your mom is making. You hear the water boiling as you take off your snow equipment. Then when you go to sleep, you look out the window at your work.

Then you think, this will go gone tomorrow.

- Tommy

Summer

I always like summer best.

You can go to the beach and swim and lie on the beach chair and listen to the waves going swish, swosh.

You can lick a green-apple Popsicle while you lie on a purple soft striped blanket.

You can see beautiful birds surrounding the sunny and so bright sun.

Also you can go surfing and go to swim with the fish.

And you can smell the great salt water.

Oh, how I love the summer at Virginia Beach. - Tiara

I always like summer best because you can feel the tickles of butterflies on your face. Also because you can go to the beach and feel that cold, wavy water all over. When you get out of the blue water you feel the soft and loose sand. You can taste that cold chocolate mixed with caramel ice cream. You can touch all of those bright flowers, jumping in your hand. In my country, Peru, February is summer time so there is this holiday called Carnival when you get balloons, fill them with water and throw them at people, and you feel that wet splash directly at your face. Wait until summer and enjoy these things. - Nohelia

I lie here hanging from a tree that grabbed me up by the branch whispering in my ears, *swish swish*. - Julia W.

Sweet California

I always like summer best. You can feel the hot sand in the beach. And smell the salty sea. You can taste tomatoes, corn, and the beautiful apples. You can hear all the chirping birds in the morning. - Frederico

San Diego

I always like Thanksgiving break from school.
You can stop at the beach mission and
get a drink or and chocolate-chip pancakes
and then go boogie-boarding or surfing or just
swimming and after just lie on the beach
and you smell the salty ocean, feel the soft sand and you hear
waves crashing.
And at the end of the day
you go watch the beautiful sun.
- Carter

A Gray Day

Flowers were wilting, colorless on a Monday afternoon in
Vancouver. Gray colorless raindrops pelted down on dark, sad
houses. The pavements got dirtier and dirtier every minute. Even
though everything was wet, it felt very dry outside. Droopy plants
and bushes looked like they were waiting, just waiting for the sun
to come out and the nothingness of the clouds and sky to
disappear. - Margot

The Woods

The giant trees cast ghostly shadows on the moist, damp rainforest
floor. A species of cricket makes a loud chirp, reminding you of a
care alarm. Suddenly a mist of water sprays down like a sprinkler.
The light pours down, only a little bit of light escapes through the
night – dark forest floor. The rattling of the leaves tells you that an
animal is near and you see green eyes and a glimpse of spotted
black and yellow reminding you of a jaguar. You stay alert,
watching carefully around all edges. If something pounces, you
will be ready, but... it's gone. Disappearing like a foresty ghost.
- Alex

A Quiet Moment

A still soft cloud
Floating lightly.
Still sky. Still grass
Quiet.
Walking slowly.
Smelling sweet flowers.
Thinking. Alone.
Sun setting.
Wind blowing.
Warm house. Warm bed.
Asleep.
- Edith

Emotions

MAD: My teeth are machetes.

HAPPY: Butterfly fluttering in the blue sky.

THANKFUL: The flowers bloomed for days in spring.

EMBARASSED: I forgot to put on my belt and my pants fell down.

ANGER: I'll kick you to China.

SAD: The leaves on the trees gently fall down in fall.

RAGE: My hair is as sharp as lion claws.

SAD: The eclipse took up the whole day.

THANKFUL: The stars were so bright in space.

- Frederico

HOW TO

How to Draw a Flower

1. Make a circle.
2. Make two parallel lines
3. Make half circles on the circle

- William

How to Make a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich

First get lots of bread.

Then put butter on one loaf of bread.

Then go to the bottom of the sea and get a jellyfish.
Swim to China and squeeze the jelly out.

Then swim back and put the jelly on the bread.

Then eat.

If you're still alive!

-Evan

How to Use a Braille Typewriter

1. You should buy a Braille and Braille paper from the office.
2. Slide the Braille paper under the little bar.
3. Make sure the holes on the Braille paper are on the left.
4. Also, make sure the levers are up.
5. When you get the Braille paper in the Braille, flip the levers down.
6. Use the roly things on either side of the Braille to roll the Braille paper in until you can't roll any more.

- Allie

How to Climb a Tree

1. Get a rope.
2. Find a tree.
3. Find a branch on the tree.
4. Throw the rope over the branch.
5. Tie the rope to your waist.
6. Get a friend to pull the other end of the rope.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until you get to the top of the tree.
8. Get directions from someone else who actually knows how to climb a tree.

-Edith

How to Fly

1. You find the tallest chair and climb up.
2. Close your eyes and think about Barney and his hit song, "I love you, you love me."
3. You flap your arms like a chicken.
4. You jump up, still flapping and weeee WUMP!
5. You get up try again.

Isn't that fun?

(Do not try this at home!)

- Maddy

How to Eat Cheese

1. You eat cheese.
 2. You eat more cheese.
 3. You say, "I love cheese."
 4. You say, "I hate cheese."
 5. You say, "WHAT THE HECK!"
 6. You find a mouse that wants to eat your cheese.
- Sawyer

THOUGHTS OF A BABY POLAR BEAR

Warm and cozy in my mama's fur, I lie here on the frozen rock-solid snow of the Arctic, listening to the howl of the treacherous wind. Then I raise my chin in order to hear my mama talk of the singing wolves, the hooting Arctic owls, and the seals, food for all the mamas to hunt from the cold seas, beyond the Arctic. After Mama tells me this, I snuggle down into her fur once again and take a bear nap.

- Margot

If I were a polar bear cub and I was dreaming I would be in the Arctic dashing through the snow then hitting the trees to get snow all over me so I could scare my mother.

- Duncan

I lie here, cold and shivering, but alive, and my mother and father I know are out there calling my name, with my dad comforting my mother, telling her over and over again that it will be okay and that they will surely find me okay, waiting patiently. But ohhhh, they have no idea what is going on with their cub, shivering, chattering, cold, depressed and about to get hypothermia waiting, but not patiently, impatiently, near death, almost wanting some hunters to come along and kill me with the rifles they carry on their backs when they go hunting for animal skins and meat to sell, trade, eat and whatever else those hunters do with their prizes from nature or animals.

- Aiden

MAGIC

SATURDAY

Every Saturday I go to the market. We like to buy blueberries for our pancakes on Sunday breakfast. Then we buy salmon for dinner. One morning, I bought an ice cream from the ice cream truck because it was hot. Just as I was getting in the car a magic carpet flew by! I got on. Bye dad! I flew home before my dad.
- Alden

ANOTHER MORNING

An alien walks into your house and makes hot chocolate, puts space rocks in it, and calls the space rocks marshmallows.
- Tiara

AND ANOTHER MORNING

Everybody was coming into school that typical morning. Once we were all sitting down, our teacher turned on the TV for the morning announcements. Everybody turned to watch. The show started out how it always starts. But then the person on the TV started doing the tango. Then everybody who was working on the set started doing it! Then everybody in our class started doing it. As I was tangoing, I wondered what else could happen today!
- Carter

THOUGHTS OF A TRAPPED EAGLE

I could sure use a mouse to comfort my troubles. Besides, I am stuck to this Twoglog's weird glove. Also in a few minutes now I'll probably be surrounded by building creatures with all of them shouting off-tune/sick bird noises.

- Alex

I can escape out the hole by pecking out of it! Next I will see if the coast is clear. Then I will grab on to the next bar and keep on going to the ladder. I do not want to fall down a four-story building. Then I will go down to the field to the highway. I will fly over the road. When I land, I will hunt field mice. I will eat them. Next I will go to sleep. I will dream about finding my family. I will wake up and go on my way.

- Sawyer

I was running through the cloud
around and around.

I felt the open air
and left tear drops everywhere.

- Veronica

How am I supposed to get out of this trap and why did that stupid guy put this trap under me so I am stuck on sticky stuff? My mom and dad must be scared out of their wits. They might even be flying around looking for me. But they will never find me. I am stuck on top of a table because I flew in the house and before I landed that guy put the sticky stuff there and I didn't notice until I had already landed on the sticky stuff. Poor me. Oh, look here comes a 12-year-old boy. He looks kind.

- Allie

I hope they caught me for a spy agency. – Julia S.

If I can find a hole, I can escape. Everything is a blur. I was flying. I found some prey. I swooped down, but then it moved. I tried again, but it hid in the tall grass. I landed on the prey, but it was an imitation. Suddenly, from nowhere appeared these creatures with 5 meaty hooks on their paws. They grabbed me, and stuck this thin claw-like thing in my neck. A liquid flowed into me and I felt weak. I stopped struggling and flopped to the ground. I could now see their faces clearly. They had a clump of fur on their heads, a lump in the middle with two holes on the bottom. Their mouths were flat and thin. They put me in a box with cold, strong and silver bars. They put me on this rectangular monster. I heard it roar, and then it ran forward. This is when I passed out. I woke up back at home. I tried to fly away, but I hit the sky. It was another imitation. One of the creatures came in and dropped some food. I thought to myself, "If they capture me, why do they feed me?" I guess I'll never know. Now, I'll wait until I find an opening. Then my family will worry no more.

- Tommy

I wish I could fly. Then I could go with my friends. My wings won't flap. I am so sad. But one day a woman bird came and taught me to fly!

- Tiara

Flash! Blink blink! I wonder, why are these strangers taking pictures of me? I must be the best. I will brag to my friends. The flash is blinding me. Ow ow blink blind blind. Help!!!

- Evan

An Eternal Argument

Dog: I'm better.

Cat: I'm better.

Dog: I'm better.

Cat: I'm better.

Dog: I'm better.

Cat: I'm better.

Dog: I'm better.

Cat: I'm better.

Both: I'm better.

Narrator: Both win! Cats are cuter. Dog are more loyal.

Dog: I'll prove I'm better. I can bark, you can't!

Cat: I can catch mice.

Dog: Well, at least I have an important job chasing sheep and cows.

Cat: Newfoundred nonsense, chasing animals who won't budge. No sense in that!

Narrator: The end.

Julia S.

BUG STORIES

Flow

This is Flow. It looks just like a ladybug except it has flowers on it. My bug loves potato chips. Not just any chips, salt and vinegar chips. My bug lives in a flower so it camouflages. What my bug wants is a friend, but, sadly, it lost its dear teddy bear.

-Anya

Sho-Shu

My bug's name is Sho-Shu. He feels like clay and grows up to 10 inches. His nose looks like a shovel. His ears are so small they look like dots. He loves to eat paper towels. He especially loves to search the Internet. Sho-Shu is scared of the color white. He's lost his friend and lives in a shoe.

- Alden

My name is Jewels! It was a long time ago in the desert. A mother was about to have a baby. When she had the baby, it had a hand full of gems, so the mother wanted to name the baby Gems, but when she told her husband, he wanted to name her Jewels. Then they did not know what to name her, so they decided to take her to Mars and let the aliens decide. So then the aliens wanted to call her Save Me. So then they had no idea what to call her so they debated and in two days the aliens were out. One day after the debate was over they figured out the name was going to be Jewels!

- Julia W.

Anakinorus

The evening sun beat down on the small green leaf as it floated gently onto the muddy road. Covered in mud and under the leaf sat a small creature named Anakinorus. It had a worm-like body and two legs. When standing it was as tall as your pointer finger. Its small black eyes could only see the brown mud under the dark leaf. Three tubes sat below the blue stripes that lined its pinkish body.

Anakinorus was a rather cowardly bug. Crickets, family members, people and trucks are some of the things Anakinorus feared. Though when Anakinorus was brave, it would take down a thousand crickets if it had to.

When Anakinorus needed a home, it would make little holes in trees with its legs, and crawl inside. It would sit lazily in its hole. Whenever it needed food, it would burrow even farther into the tree. It used its tube-shaped mouth to suck up sap. Whenever it needed water, it would try to suck the water from the roots of the tree.

But now in a great wind, its tree has been knocked down, leaving it with no home. Unsure of what to do, Anakinorus pokes its head out of the leaf. It starts to scurry across the mud and into the remaining forest. Suddenly, a hand comes over Anakinorus and traps it. The small bug is in the grip of a human!

The human wore black pants and a green jacket. When the human finally got to his white pickup truck, he opened his hand and yelled, "Yes! I've caught the legendary Anakinorus. I'll be rich!"

When he was about to put Anakinorus in a cage, he looked at it, curled up in a ball and shaking. As the man stared, the bug

morphed into a boy from his memory, a boy curled up in a ball shaking on the corner of the street. The faint voices of gangs roaming the street filled the boy's ears and cast fear through his veins. It was the man who had been that boy and the man knew what it was like to be trapped.

His hand descended to the forest floor and let Anakinorus crawl along.

- Matthew

Dream

If I were a bird I would dream of flying through springtime with a lot of mountains and a sunny sky that would never stop shining, like a million stars, over a meadow of beautiful flowers. That is what I would dream of. - Duncan

Loop

I lie here, while my teacher makes me write something like I lie here, while my teacher makes me, etc., and I lie here while my teacher makes me get out of this loop that goes I lie here, while my teacher, that goes I lie here, while my teacher makes me write something like, etc.

- Alex

HOMEROOM

During the morning, in homeroom, everybody sits.

Some people look at their planners.

Some people read.

Some people watch BETV.

Sometimes it's too hot or cold.

Sometimes you forget to hang up your jacket.

Sometimes you sneak something out of your lunchbox.

Sometimes you leave your pajama shirt on under your regular shirt.

Sometimes you just want to go to sleep,
but the teacher says, "Time to go to reading group."

Ugh.

But one morning, everybody starts to fall asleep and the teacher doesn't even notice.

So you fall asleep and bang your head on your desk.

But wait, where is your best friend, Sally?

"Gone, moved, not coming back," says the teacher. You cry and cry until there is a river.

"Swim!" shout your classmates.

And they jump in the river

crisscross applesauce

and flow out the door.

Then in flows Sally, sitting on an invisible chair, staring at her spelling test.

And one morning your teacher wakes you up and she's eating an ice cream cone. It is all the flavors mixed together in one big scoop.

And one morning while you are writing in your agenda in June something freaky happens. It begins to hale.

Then a storm comes and the lights go out and the computers shut down in the class for 30 minutes. Then they come back on and you discover that your teacher got shocked and got so nice that she is going to take you all out for ice cream.

One morning your teacher gives you your report card and she says,
"You've got straight As."

So you say, "Oh my gosh! Are you serious?"

This is the best thing that has ever happened to you. Your mom thinks this is a special day so you celebrate with a party and all your friends come and even your teacher comes.

But on another morning your teacher tries to write on paper with a Promethean Pen.

And then there is a substitute teacher and the kids tell her that the regular teacher dances to rap music.

And another morning, your best friend comes in with a real live scar like Harry Potter. He says that he tripped on a carpet, and fell, and his forehead pierced the corner of a brick fireplace.

During the rest of homeroom, you focus on your friend. You wonder:

Is he Harry Potter?

Then Mr. Welch comes in with Barney pajamas that read,
"I love you, you love me."

But later, during lunch, your friend tells you that she's moving.
Then your dessert falls
into the fish tank
and the eel eats it.

You get the teacher to go outside and then you lock the door and
have a party and order pizza through the window and get a DJ to
jump through the window and play music.

And your teacher comes back with a huge candy cake for
Christmas. To celebrate, you go sledding when you get home!

One morning a little boy named Bob looks outside and sees snow
just like a white blanket across the world.
Then the phone starts to ring. The teacher picks it up and a strange
expression falls across her face.

“School is over for today!” she says. “Have fun!”
Bob runs home, grabs his sled and heads for the hills.

Another morning, Julia shrieks, “Snow!” Everyone dashes to the
door and bursts through.

Then David yells, “Melanie flipped over the railing!”
The teacher rushes out and jumps over the railing to save her.
When Melanie is saved, you sit down at your desks and pretend
that nothing happened.

Another morning you look out the window and imagine yourself
outside. You hear the birds chirping and see the fall trees that
tower above you, surrounded by shining yellow flowers.
The sun rises up to its throne in the sky, as if carried by the wind.
Suddenly you snap out of it and look around.

The chairs are empty.
You hear the buzzing of the computers but
nobody is sitting in front of them.
The black board still has the homework and the lights are off.

You feel
lonely
in this dark room,
but you hear the sound of voices in the hallway.
So you run out of the room to join your class on the way to
specials.

- By the group.