

Ben Mildenhall

My Homework Stories From 3rd Grade



Wasp's Nest, October 24, 2001

Once, when we had come back from England, I found a wasp's nest on the wall of our house. It was very big and it kind of looked like some gray sheets wrapped around somebody's head. We had bought some spray, but we decided to let a different person do it. After a while, some of it was bitten of by squirrels and you could actually see the honey combs. When a man came over to get rid of it, we watched out the basement window. It looked like it was very hard because in one hand he held the killer spray and in the other, he held a no sting spray. When it was gone, there were little strings left from where it was. I think they are still there.

While it was still there, mom and dad kept making phone calls and looking stuff up on the internet. They found out that they were hornets. They thought that they shouldn't spray the wasp's nest. It was very big. It was something to look at. It was a problem. But we got rid of it.

# Panda

I got Panda when my mom got my sister Ginger. Ginger is a stuffed, black, dog. Panda was a present from mom. I got Panda at C. Foster Toys.

Panda looks like a panda bear. He has a short , stubby, tail. He has two black marbles for eyes. His fur is black and white. It is also very soft. His nose is a hard, plastic, black, nose. His paws and feet are both black. He is about one and a half feet tall. He is very cuddly.

I really like Panda. I snuggle him in my bed at nighttime. He is so soft. I like my Panda.

October 30, 2001

# The Baby Rabbit

Once I saw a baby rabbit. It was cute. It was also very little. It looked very timid and alert because its ears were sticking up and its eyes were looking around.

The rabbit had quite long ears and a little, round, fluffy, tail. It was a grayish color and had fur covering most of its body. Its body was a round shape; the ears, feet, and tail were sticking out of its round little body. It was so little that it was about 5" long and 4" wide.

When I tried to get close to it I think I actually got about a meter away from it. It is unusual because all the other times I have seen a rabbit, it ran away from me when I was about three meters away from it. It seems like rabbits are afraid of people because when people go near wild rabbits, then the rabbits run away.

I think the baby rabbit was cute because it was little. Its ears were very long. Its tail was very fluffy. It looked a little bit scared. It was probably afraid of me. The little rabbit was very cute. Maybe I will see it again sometime.

November 7, 2001

# When I Went to Jewel

When I went to Jewel, I saw many people, foods, and drinks. Many foods I saw were cereal, desserts, ice cream, crackers, bread, cheese, fruits, vegetables, and more. The people I saw were cashiers, managers, clerks, and shop assistants. There were also many aisles. There was almost an aisle for everything. Sometimes I would see my friends and say 'hi'. The people I saw there wore white uniforms and a green apron. We usually buy cereal, bread, cheese, vegetables, some fruits, and batteries. They have a cash machine and a photo development center. In one aisle, I saw a lot of frozen foods and treats and ice cream. When we buy the food, they put it in plastic bags with handles. Then we put them in the cart and take them to our car. Then we take them home. Then we eat it. Then we have to get some more food. We usually need to get new food at least once every week. We go a lot. It is fun.

November 21, 2001

# My 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

My 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party was at The Pot You Paint. It was fun. We painted things made out of clay. My Dad painted a cup. I painted a little snake jar. Sam did too. Michael painted a motorcycle. Next we ate pizza. We had cool Star Wars™ cups. There was sausage or cheese pizza. Most people chose cheese. Then we ate cake. It had white frosting and in red letters said, “Happy Birthday Ben!” It had a flag and a baseball too. It was a chocolate cake and it was delicious. Finally I opened the presents. I got two little LEGO™ guys, a Borders gift card, and some other stuff. After everyone had seen the presents we played with the balloons and people started to go home. We all had a lot of fun at my 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

December 5, 2001

## **New Zealand**

I want to go to New Zealand. I want to go because my Dad told me he wanted to go. We will be going in 2003. When we go, some of our relatives might come with us. When we go, we are planning to see both of the islands there, the North Island and the South Island.

When we go, we will ride on an airplane. It will take a very long time. We will stay there for about 3 weeks. In New Zealand, they speak English. I'm glad about that.

New Zealand is located right next to Australia. It is about one third of the size of Australia. It is not actually part of Australia, just an island right next to it.

When I go, I hope to see at least one volcano. We will go during the summer. I hope it will be fun. Maybe I will get to sit on the window side of the airplane. Then I can see all the cities as we pass over. It will be fun. I can't wait.

December 12, 2001

# Cernan Space Center

On December 11,2001 we went to the Cernan Space Center. It was fun. Our class (Ms. White's class) and Mrs. Rock's class rode on the bus together.

First, the bus ride was fun and bumpy. It was also very short. Next, after the bus ride we went in and watched a movie called "Discover The Planets" and after that they showed us two laser shows. I liked the second one best. It was funny and it suddenly popped up when everyone was clapping. Everyone was surprised. Finally, we went into the gift shop. There were a lot of things there. There was even a whole wall just with candy. I finally decided on an orange key chain that showed three little dinosaurs fighting.

I really liked going to the Cernan Space Center. I hope I will get to go there sometime again.

December 16, 2001

# The Lord of the Rings

One of my favorite books is The Lord of the Rings. It is so long that it was divided into three sections, The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, and The Return of the King. I like it because it's exciting. It was just made into a movie as well as a book.

It is about a ring that was made by the bad guy, Sauron and the group of hobbits who tried to destroy it because it gave Sauron power over everything. Hobbits are like little people. The names of the hobbits in the group who went out to destroy the ring were Frodo, Merry, Pippin, and Sam. Frodo was the main character. When they went to destroy the ring, they had to go to Mount Doom because that was the only place it could be destroyed because it was made there. On their journey they encountered many dangerous things. Mount Doom was in the middle of Mordor, where Sauron lived.

The ring was one of all the rings that were made. It was the most powerful ring of all. It could take control of everything. On its side it says, "*One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.*" The rings that were made were, three for the Elven-kings, seven for the Dwarf-lords, and nine for Mortal Men.

In the end, the only people to go to go to Mount Doom were Sam and Frodo. My favorite character is Frodo. I like him because he never gives up.

This book is one of my favorite books because I like adventures. The movie of it was good too.

January 15, 2002

# *My Visit to the School* *Library*

One day after school I went to the school library. I went there by myself. I like to go there because it's close. But I wish I could get more books out. At the Public Library I can get as many books as I want, but I can't keep them for as long as I want. At the school library, books are never overdue. That's why I like the school library.

When I went to the school library, I went to check out a book about black holes. I wanted to check out a book about black holes because I am interested in them. I also went to return a book. Other kinds of books I have checked out are books about rockets, missiles, volcanoes, biographies, and fiction. Sometimes the librarian suggests books. I usually like them. The librarian is very helpful.

It took a short time at the school library because I had put the book I wanted on hold. Sometimes I take a long time when I go because I don't know what book to pick out. I like to go to the school library. I can use it for many things. Sometimes I use it for information. But usually I use it for fun.

January 22, 2002

# *When I Grow Up, I Will Be A* *Biologist*

When I grow up, I will be a biologist. A biologist is a scientist who studies plants, animals, and people. I think it would be interesting to be a biologist.

A biologist has to go to college and get a degree. Maybe they could get a Ph. D. in biology. Then you would have to go to meetings. I think it would be fun to be a biologist.

Then you would get to study plants and animals. You might even find a new species of animal or plant. You would go a lot of places and you would look at a lot of things such as mushrooms to mountain lions. You could be anywhere. You could be in Alaska or you could be in Africa. Biologists can travel around the world.

If you were a biologist you would probably have about five computers to store all of your information on. Or you might have a dozen file cabinets. You might have two computers on animals, two computers on plants, and one on humans. You might have four file cabinets on each. Organizing your work might be hard.

Being a biologist might be tough. Your plane to Australia might have been canceled. You might have carelessly dropped a stack of papers. You might not have gotten enough sleep. But it would still be fun.

January 30, 2002

# I Like The Violin

February 6, 2002

I like to play the violin. I like to play it because I like it. I started to play four years ago. My sister plays the violin too.

I have to do two things when I practice: pieces and technique. My Technique practice consists of Schradiek, arpeggios, double-stops, and spiccato and vibrato. Schradiek wrote exercises that you play for your fingers. They stay on one string. You have to play them pretty fast. That's what I do when I practice.

In orchestra I play Rhapsody on Themes by Rachmaninoff. It is five pages and it is very hard. Orchestra ends at 9:15 and I get to bed very late. I'm practicing it because we are playing it in Minneapolis at a Suzuki conference. People play pieces there and experts help them know how they could play better. I could possibly have a solo.

At my lesson I have lots of fun. I play my pieces and my teacher tells me what to work on.

I have to rosin my bow and clean the fingerboard on my violin. I have to take care of my violin. I have a half size violin. My sister has a smaller violin than me.

I like to play my violin.

# *Being Tall*

Do you think that being hot or tall makes life more interesting? I think that being tall would make life more interesting. Being tall would make life more interesting because you could reach into high places, you could see over other people, and you could reach for things.

First, I think that being tall would make life more interesting because you could reach into high places. In a kitchen with high cupboards, if you were tall, you could reach them. You could jump to the lowest limbs of a high tree. if you needed to change a light bulb, then it would be easy. There are many times when being tall is an advantage.

Next, I think that being tall would make life more interesting because you would see over other people. At the Museum of Science and Industry there is a place where most of the time it is crowded. In a movie theater you could see over people. Being able to see over people is an advantage.

Finally, if you are tall you can reach things that are far away. If you are sitting on the couch and you don't want to get up then you could reach over for another book. If you were painting then you could reach over for the green instead of walking over to

get it. You are luck if you can reach for far away things.

In conclusion, being tall is more interesting because you can reach high places, you can see over people, and you can reach far away things.

March 9, 2002

# *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*

In the story *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, the problem is that the goats want to get to the other side of the bridge to eat the grass but there is a troll living underneath the bridge that eats everything that tries to get across. The first goat tries to trick the troll. He says, "The next goat is much bigger than me." So the troll lets him cross. Then the next one does the same thing. The troll lets him cross too. Then the last goat comes along. The troll comes out and says, "I'm going to eat you!" Then the goat says, "No you're not!" He pushes the troll into the water and joins the other goats. The troll was never seen again.

All three goats solved the problem. They got to eat the grass. They ended up happy. All of them safely crossed the bridge.

April 17, 2002

# *When I Played in the Kids Musical*

In 2001, last year, I played the violin in the yearly kid's musical at Calvary Memorial Church, our church. It was in May. I played because they asked me to play. I was accompanied by the piano. I played "Turkey in the Straw." There were people dancing while I played. It was fun. I made one mistake. People thought that I was great. My mistake was that I forgot to repeat.

April 23, 2002

# *The Oak Park and Garfield Park Conservatories*

During spring break, me, my mom, and Esther (my sister) went to the Oak Park and Garfield Park Conservatories. We went on Wednesday. It was very fun.

First we went to Oak Park Conservatory. There were three rooms. In one room there were some humongous fish. In another room there was a little case with plants that eat flies and other little animals. There was also a green parrot that could nearly say “hi” and “help.”

Then we went to the Garfield Park Conservatory. It had Chihuly glass sculptures scattered among the rooms. There were some really tall trees. One room had what Chicago was like 100,000 years ago. It was mostly green. It was very busy there. Finally, we went home.

I had a great time at the conservatories. Even though the Garfield Park Conservatory was larger than the Oak Park Conservatory I still had a great time at both conservatories.

May 1, 2002

# *My Violin Teacher's Dogs*

My violin teacher's dogs are Shih Tzus. They are called Fugacci and Giuseppi. Fugacci is colored light-brown and white. He likes to lick you a lot. Sometimes he is funny, like when he puts his tongue in and out of his mouth and goes 'alala'. He is 11 years old. He is usually very happy. Giuseppi is colored black and white. He doesn't lick people as much as Fugacci, but sometimes he licks you. He is 9 years old. They are both very fun. They never bite anyone. They are very lively. Everyone enjoys having them. Sometimes when we play the violin, they howl along. They are really neat.

May 13, 2002