

# Cross Country Zones



Cross Country Zones was an exciting day for Waitakere, as making it into the actual Zones was a big deal. 5 kids from each year were picked, separated boys to girls. As a competitor you travel to Muriwai beach (on a bus) for the majority of the day; playing around not far from the beach itself. The races are scheduled throughout the day, progressing from yr 5 to 8. Schools from all over west Auckland attended the race, setting up gazebos all over the place. Quite a sight.

The race itself consisted of multiple numbers of laps for each age group: Year 5's had 2 kilometers, year 6's 2.5 and so on until the year 8's of which had 3.5k. There was a small part of the race around 1k of which was beach, the rest was on grass or stone. There were a few checkpoints where kid's around 11-13 sat in chairs and cheered us on. In my perspective they basically got to watch us perish in the sun and sand. Overall, it was a terrific event that all competitors loved, and will look forward to next year.

**By Elise**

Photo credit: P Butler



# Japanese Visitors

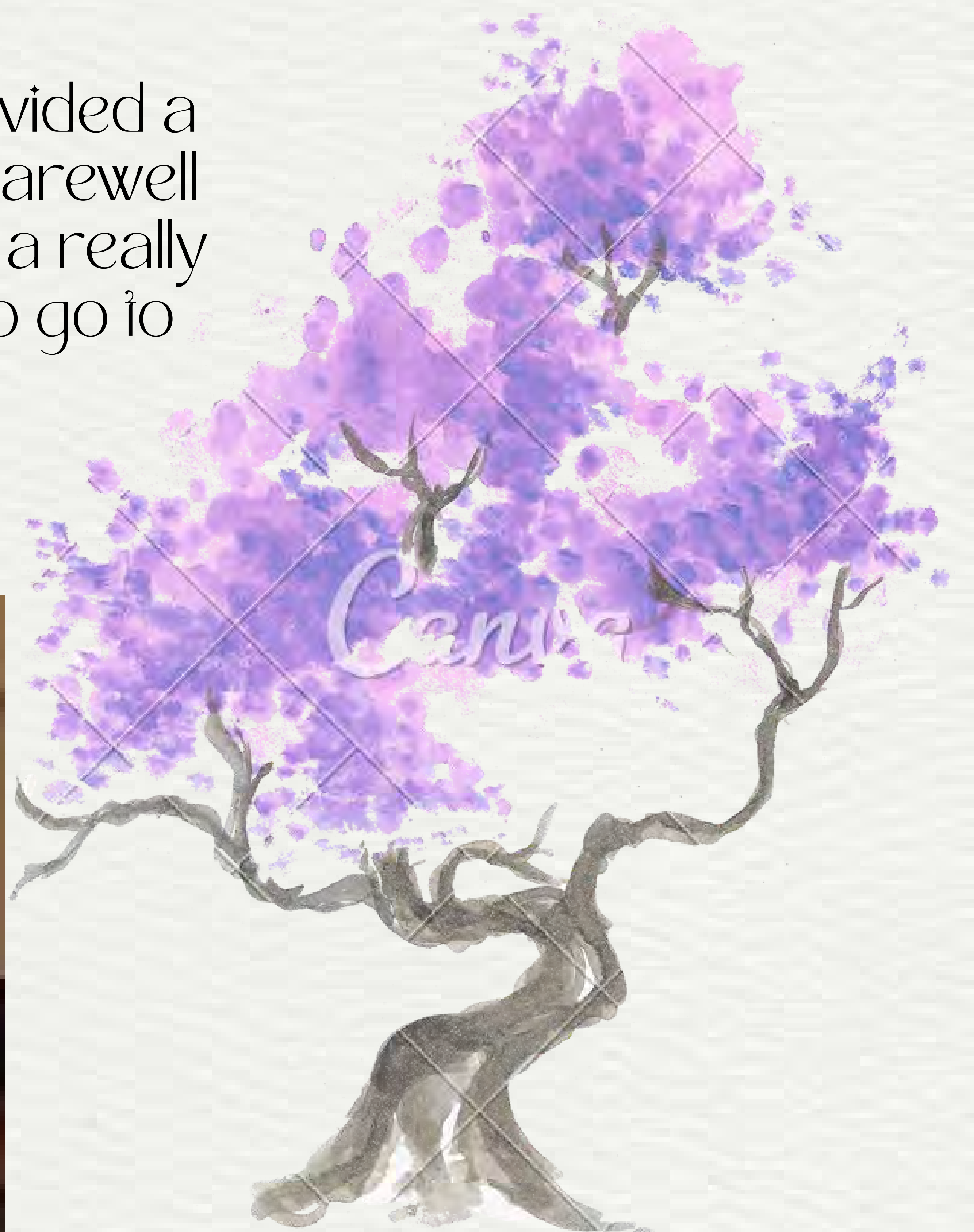
A few weeks ago, our school had some Japanese students visiting. The Japanese students were learning more and more English and when they left, they spoke it very well. All of them were very kind, considerate and easy to make friends with. When they visited, they were given buddies that hung out with them and showed them around the school. During the Japanese visit, we learned a lot about Japan particularly the language and we learnt about their culture. They taught us all about Japan.



All of our Waitakere primary students had a lot of fun and enjoyed the time that they spent with the Japanese visitors. Our school has had two different groups of Japanese students visit and both times we have had the most fun. During the time that they spent we had a Powhiri and they joined the year 7 and 8s for almost their entire trip. The year 7 and 8s were lucky enough to be able to work with the Japanese visitors. The Japanese visitors taught me a lot and it was a really amazing experience.

I really enjoyed the Japanese students visiting, it provided a great experience for the year 7 and 8s. We had a farewell ceremony for them and the next day they left. It was a really fun and great experience. I hope next time we get to go to Japan!

By Belle Porter





# 5 More Minutes

I am a hermit crab, and my blankets are my shell, sitting in the rock-pool of my bed.

Mum is the waves crashing in and disturbing my peace.

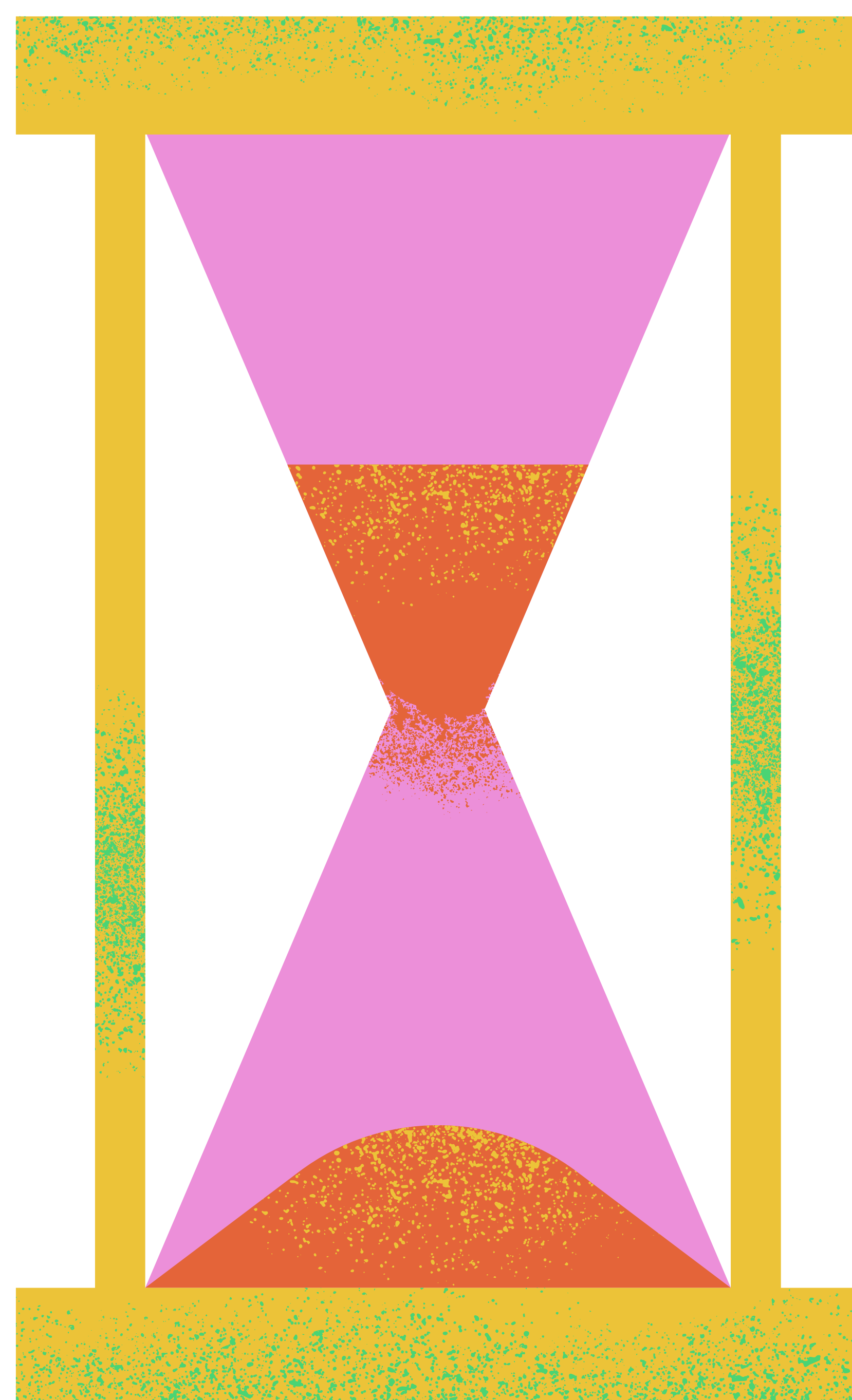
My sister is the seagull picking at me with her loud beak.

Dad is the toioi waving silently atop the sand dunes, watching from afar.

The Mum-waves continue crashing around me, peeling my shell of blankets, forcing me into the cold morning chill.

My seagull sister cries out louder and louder.

"Five more minutes!" I groan, even though I know those minutes mean I will miss the bus.



Scarlett Walter  
Age: 12 years old



The title 'FLUFFY' is written in a large, black, hand-drawn font. The letters are slightly irregular and connected. Above the 'F' and 'Y' are two simple line drawings of cat ears. The background features several faint, grey paw prints scattered across the page.

# FLUFFY

The sun shone through the leaves making curious shapes on the wet soil. Glimmering beads of dew had settled on the fresh grass. Bees hummed in and around the newly opened flowers. Anis huddled close to an old sticky lolly wrapper, collecting the last of its sugary substance. Yellow eyes surveyed this scene, combing it for any danger. A small chipmunk peeked out of a Chinkapin Oak tree; the cat's sleek body prowled closer. The chipmunk spied a hazelnut on the ground, looking around to make sure the fiery eyes were not following him. He sped down the tree towards the tasty nut and seized it in his tiny paws. The chipmunk peeked over his shoulder; the cat pounced.

After hunting down her meal, the cat tightened her jaws over the helpless body. Then padded over to her den in the bushes and dropped it onto the dry dirt. As her sightless kitten mewled and cried, she pawed at the chipmunk which tried to escape. After playing with the chipmunk, the mother cat lay down and ate it. Then, as the kitten got tired and droopy, it curled up and fell asleep, snuggling close to its mother.

As spring rolled into summer, the kitten started to open her eyes, she started to see, look, and live. The calm river was wilder than usual, all the snow at the top of the mountain peaks was melting, sending a cascade of water down the mountainside. It glistened in the summer sun attracting fox and deer to drink at the edge of the river. The butterflies were busier, the bumblebees were louder, the leaves grew faster, and the foxes grew hungrier. Soon they realised, after everyone else, feeding their young was becoming difficult. They needed prey, they needed food. They smelt the cat's den close by, and they stalked closer.

As the leaves turned rich yellow and golden brown. Fluffy stomped and rolled in the fallen foliage, ripping and rustling it. Her smooth silky body strolled into an enormous meadow full of naïve mushrooms and ferns. Running through the Black Eyed Susans, she spotted a small patch of orange; it huddled in a hole in a hollow tree, quivering. As Fluffy moved closer, she saw it, a fox. She turned back around and sped towards the den in the bushes, back towards her mother, and the dry dirt, back to her home.

A chilling amount of snow fell that night. Frost covered the feline as she slept. Her mother sneezed, Fluffy woke with a start, her whiskers had frozen together. She prowled toward the exit. Fluffy's slim body carefully picked its way along the ground. Her paws were cold and wet, but she didn't care. Her body was shaking, but she didn't care. Her fur was standing on end, but she didn't care. A glint of red in the field caught her off guard, a fox was ready to pounce. He crept towards her, softly growling. All she was thinking about was warm milk and her fuzzy snuggly mum, her fur shivered at the sight of the predatory beast. Scared, Fluffy made her way back to her den and walked over to her mother, she lay down next to her. She looked up at her mum and sighed, "I saw something, it was orange, and growling, I think it's called a fox." "A what? A fox? My golly, you better call Fire."

Fluffy's mum said, "What? Fire? What kind of a name is that!"

Swoosh woosh whiz. Suddenly they heard a whimper and a yelp, like someone had been ripped into pieces. The most horrible cry you could ever hear, like a mother being pulled from their baby, no longer together, the sound of a broken heart. Or a fox being burned alive, the yelp could be heard from across the forest. Slowly, Fluffy peeked around the corner of a leaf.



She was just able to see a shaggy circle of blue and purple, lined with white glimmers, a trick to the eye. And if you ever built the courage to touch it, you would be sucked away into another realm.

Fluffy moved towards it, looking into the abyss she saw a glimmer, out of the corner of her eye. It was a tiny girl, running in a forest, with trees as tall as the clouds and a small opening in the roots to a tunnel. The girl stopped, and picked up a huge bug, she plopped it onto a fern and started to climb a tree next to her. Then the scene changed and turned into a tiger running in a field with grass at his ankles. Another girl was riding on his back, they were being chased, by something that looked like a huge bunny with wings. How strange.

"Cat!"

A huge booming voice echoed in the kitten's ears. Not nearly as loud as the yelp from before but louder than any normal cat could produce. Quickly, Fluffy turned around 'what was that' she wondered. Then, she slowly looked up. Denim pants came into view, then a huge round belly, two straps attached to his pants and two large circular buttons held them together. She looked further up, a pink chubby face smiled down at her, a small tuft of hair grew on top of his otherwise bald head.

Fluffy backed away a little and hissed. The thing was big, and tall. Fluffy remembered her mother talking about this, it's called a Human. But it was different, and glowing. "Fire"

Fluffy whispered under her breath. The man loomed above her, his long-bared flicking flames and ashes in her direction. "Hello kitty cat" the man said calmly, he bent down and let her sniff his finger. "My name is Fire. Were you the one who called me?"

She didn't answer, but she could tell he didn't expect her too. "Hello Fire, my name is Fluffy".

she spoke in a small, scared voice. Fire replied with a kind-hearted chuckle. "I can't understand you Kitty. But I tell you what, I just saved you from that pack of foxes over there."

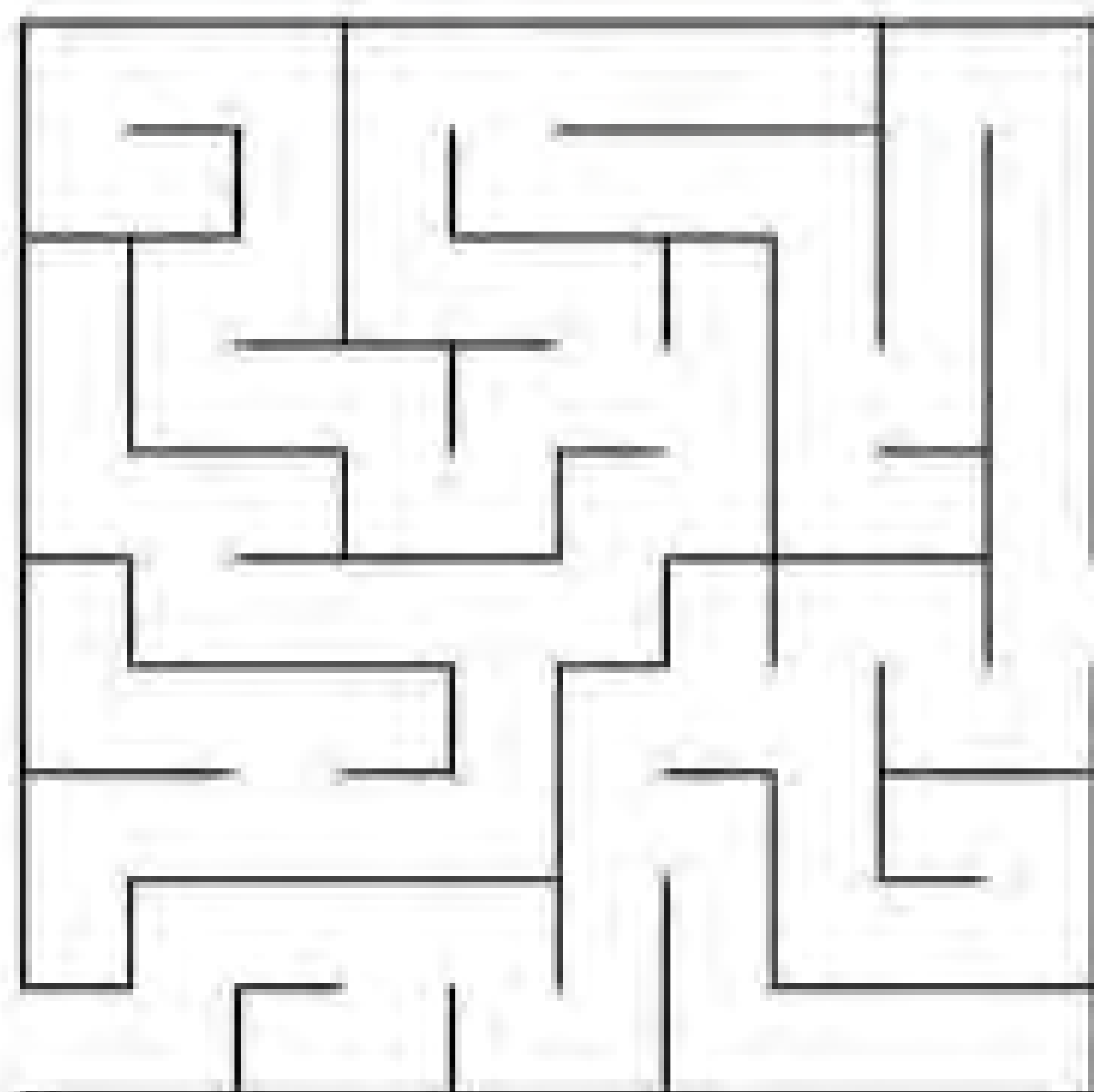
He added with a laugh. Fluffy flicked her head in the direction of where the yelp had come from. Her stomach turned and she started to feel dizzy. But before she could say anything the overweight man ran over to the portal and disappeared just as fast as he came. Slowly Fluffy wandered into the bushes, of to seek adventure. Maybe she would find somewhere where she could nestle. Or maybe she would find a friend to talk too. Either way, she left, not telling anyone. She might come back. Although, maybe not. Who's to tell? Not me anyway.

Emily Gubb  
Age: 10 years old





# Junior puzzle page



5				8	6			1
		2	7		1	6		
	7	1				2	5	
9	1			2			7	
3			1	4	5			6
	6			9			2	4
	5	3				4	6	
		8	9		3	5		
2			5	1				7

A	K	O	L	I	M	E	C
B	I	R	E	G	E	P	A
F	W	A	M	R	L	E	P
R	I	N	P	A	O	A	R
U	F	G	L	P	N	R	I
I	N	E	U	E	L	G	C
T	L	E	M	O	N	E	O
S	C	H	E	R	R	Y	T

What has hands and a face,  
but can't hold anything or  
smile?

F	B	L	P
R	I	E	A
G	M	N	D
H	T	S	U

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THESE WORDS!

FRUITS APPLE ORANGE MANGO  
APRICOT PEAR MELON CHERRY  
KIWI LIME PLUM LEMON FIG

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The FIFA women's world cup was founded in 1991, thirty two years ago. There were thirty two teams that competed in the world cup, all coming from different parts of the world. The teams were split up into eight groups to find out what two teams will qualify to the knock-out rounds. After that the teams compete and move into the Semi Finals and then the finals where they determine who wins. The winner this year was Spain, second was England, and Sweden came third place.

# BEYOND GREATNESS

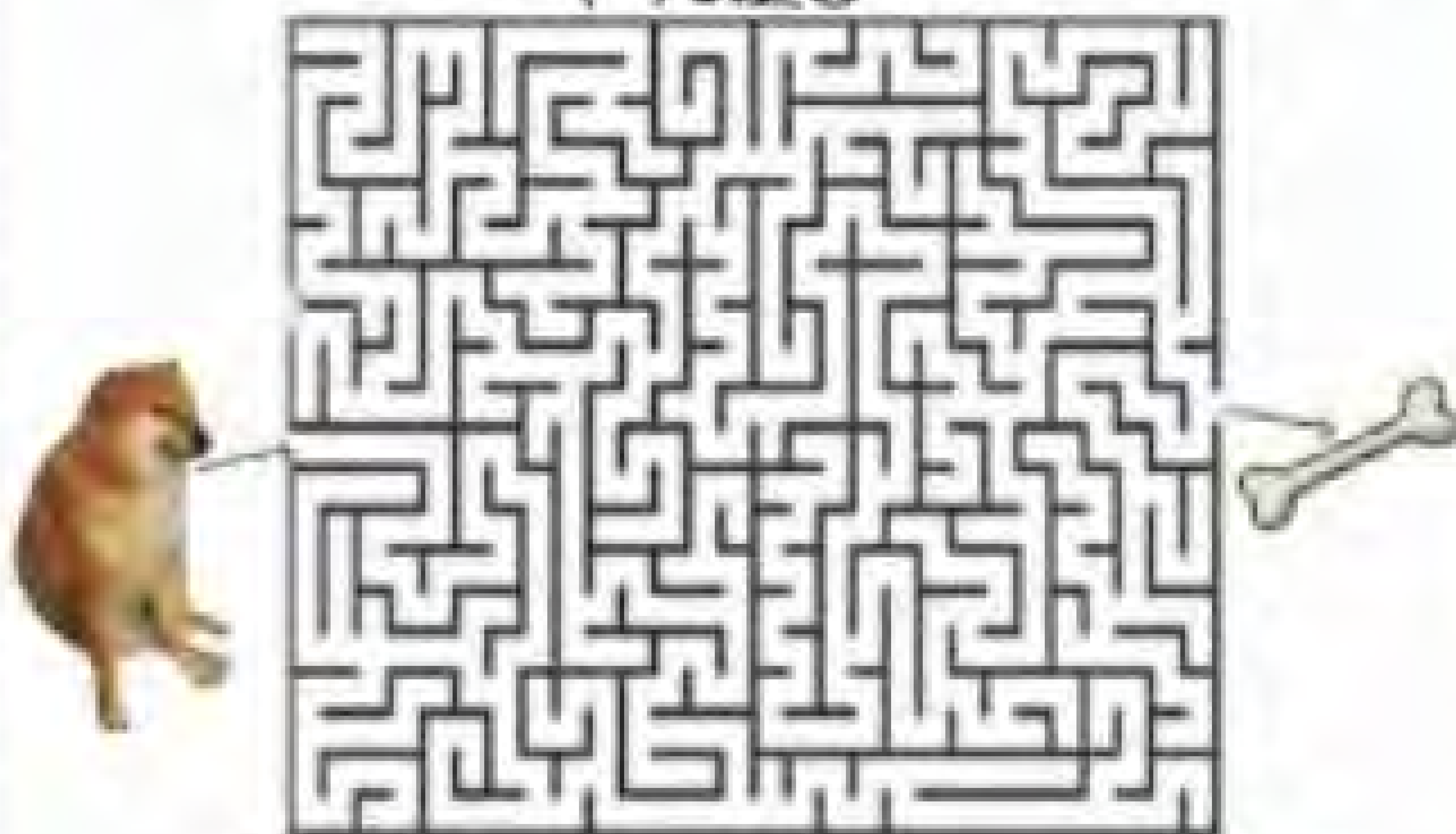


# Senior Puzzle Page

## Riddle

An Uber driver is going the opposite way down a one-way street. He passes 5 policemen on the way, none of which stops him. Why?

## Maze



## Sudoku

	3	5				7	6
6	4		5		7		1
7						4	
8		3			6		4
	9		3	4		2	
4			9		1		3
		4	2				5
5						3	
2			6				4



By Faeryn



# **Waitakere Gazette**

**2023**

## **Waitakere way**

***I keep trying my best when things get hard and try new ways to solve a problem.***

***This means that you will Persevere, be Resilient, and Never give up!***

***Teachers please ask your students if they have any examples of when they have done this.***



# MRS EASTO



**Kids:** Tyler, Max

**Pets:** Russel (dog), Midnight, + Cosmo (both cats)

**Fav food:** Tofu fried rice

**Fave place:** Petra

**Classes taught:** 9th year teaching at WPS

**Hobbies:** Walking dog, watching movies, house decor, dinners, antiques, going to the market

**Extra stuff at school:** Runs croatia club, runs dance parties, te reo.

**Cars:** (owns a hot rod)



Holden Commodore



1963 Ford Galaxie



**By Micah + Tohi**



# A M P T DAY



## House Competition







At the end of my rainbow there is a pond with flowers around it and in the middle of the pond there is a magic lily pad that can never sink. There are clouds around it so no one knows about the pot of gold on the lily pad. I will get there by a catapult flinging me to the top of the rainbow and then sliding back down. It sounds peaceful but there will be birds chirping. You will feel like there is a nice breeze on you but it will also be hot. Dayne



At the end of my rainbow there is a pack of fairies and a big river with some lovely rainbow fish. There is a big turtle too and some coins and chocolate ones too. There are 5 crabs and lobsters and a fairy house in the water with lots and lots of jellyfish. There is even a waterfall and a lot of suns. If I went there I would feel amazed. I would fly there on a big fairy. Zoie



At the end of my rainbow there is ice skating. It sounds like ice cracking. There are people making hearts. When I get there it is cold. I slide down there on my rainbow. Addie



At the end of my rainbow there are dolphins in the deep blue ocean, seaweed and a big turtle and crab. There is a big fairy house on the sand and a waterfall with jellyfish. If I went to this place I would feel amazed because of the turtles and the dolphins. I would fly by a fairy to this place. Emilee



At the end of my rainbow there is a portal that leads to an enchanted version of the sea. When you dive in it sounds like a mix between a song from a whale and a tui. It looks like a humungous blanket lying on the ground. The coolest animals there are the enchanted maui dolphins that leap and spin in the waves. Seb



At the end of my rainbow there is a pot of gold. In the pot there is gold and some chocolate coins. It would make me happy and so excited to find it. I would get there by sliding on the rainbow. Emily

# ROOM 11 WRITING