

### **Third Place – Middle School – Non-Fiction/Essay**

## **My Summer Adventure**

By Jacob Dilley

This year, on my summer vacation, I had the adventure of a lifetime! It was filled with mice, gators, spaceships and one giant castle. I traveled around our world and ventured into others, as well. This trip was full of fantastic journeys!

My vacation started when a bus took us from the airport to a Louisiana bayou, filled with many creatures. After settling in, my family and I decided that we should do some shopping, so we hopped on a boat and rode down the sparkling and gorgeous Sassagoola River. It wasn't long before we came to a fun-filled city crammed with shops and food. We shopped and ate a lot, then headed back to the bayou.

We left the Louisiana bayou and took a ride to our next destination. When the bus opened we rushed towards the grand gates and a large castle immediately came into view. The main road had shops and old-fashioned food which gave you the feeling you were not in 2011. That feeling was also confirmed when I saw a giant spaceport. There we became galactic marines, jumped aboard a spaceship, and took off. My family then split paths; the girls went to eat with the princess of the castle while we boys walked into another land. Anxious for a good time, we climbed on a boat again, but this time we sailed into deep water caves and came out in the middle of a pirate battle. After looking for a notorious pirate we headed back towards the castle where the girls were waiting. I soon found myself in the 1800s and then on an island defending a fort. Not far away was a giant mountain with a waterfall. We excitedly rode in a log up the mountain and splashed down the other side.

After that confusing day, we decided to stay in our world. We went time traveling again, only this time into the future where we saw the earth, but it wasn't green and blue. It was a silver spaceship! Many visions of the future flashed by, including jumping water, tomato trees, and walking trash cans! Soon we found ourselves back in 2011 riding hang gliders.

Now, America is fine and all, but one of the things I wanted was to visit other countries. So that's what we did. In Japan I sampled delicious shrimp fries. In France I watched a fantastic show of street performers while my parents sampled wine. I loved Italy because of the scrumptious pasta at Tutto Italiana. While in England, we shopped for swords and Beatles wigs.

After a final visit to Morocco's jewelry and carpet shops, we decided that America was where we belonged and we headed back to the bayou.

I guess those other countries were too civilized for an adventure. So we decided to head to Africa. Because of all the animals, we had to drink from paper straws. The bongos were fun to bang on and the river was fun to admire. But we were still hungry for adventure. Lucky for us, there was an off-road vehicle that took us to an animal reserve. While in the reserve, we saw a tired giraffe lying by our vehicle, hungry, but lazy, crocodiles, and baby gazelles. We also saw two baby elephants wrestling in the water and another playing with a stick. The last one had been poached, so we had to chase down the poachers. After completing our safari, we headed to Asia to become mountain climbers. Since the mountain was too high, we rode in mine carts to get to the top. However, inside the cave of the mountain a yeti appeared! After it attacked the tracks and scratched my brother's hat, it disappeared. We decided to disappear as well.

The next day we time traveled one more time. This time we visited old Hollywood. Many of our favorite movies came alive. We saw an exclusive stunt scene from *Indiana Jones*. *The Muppets* came alive in 3-D. Then we walked right into the middle of others such as *Tarzan* and *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*. Soon after that we saw stormtroopers from *Star Wars* followed by Darth Vader and Boba Fett. After watching Jedi apprentices fight Darth Vader, we found more lovable characters like Chewbacca, a hairy humanoid, Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia. They were able to give us autographs right before we hopped on board a starship and blasted off to have other fun adventures. After a full day we decided to get back to the bayou.

We eventually left this amazing place. By now you're probably wondering where in this world we went. Well we did not go anywhere in this world; we went to Disney World!