

# The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper

Issue Number 5

April 26, 2022

## Bromeliads

by Lauren Jameson

Bromeliads are tropical indoor plants that are very easy to grow for beginners. However, Bromeliads die after 1-2 years, since after flowering, they can no longer survive. In order to keep a Bromeliad plant for more than 1-2 years, it is crucial to remove the flowers (called pups) and replant them. Bromeliads can come in orange, yellow and pink, and although they are not parasitic, they do use different structures to cling to. Bromeliads can be stored outside if they are in a warm environment. Although, for a climate with four defined seasons, it is recommended that they stay inside. Bromeliads thrive where there is a humidity level of 60% and indirect light. It is recommended that Bromeliads be fertilized only when the plant is dying or is struggling to thrive.



### Works Cited

Derringer, Melanie. "General Indoor and Outdoor Bromeliad Care Bromeliad Plant Care." *Bromeliads.Info*, <https://www.bromeliads.info/general-indoor-outdoor-bromeliad-care/>. Accessed 28 March 2022.

Grant, Bonnie L. "Bromeliad Plant Care: Growing And Caring For Bromeliad Plants." *Gardening Know How*, 22 March 2022, <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/houseplants/bromeliad/growing-bromeliad-plants.htm>. Accessed 28 March 2022.

## Have your short story featured in The Mirror

*Hosted by Willow Swan*

For a limited time, you can have your short story featured in The Mirror (Issue 6)! I thought this would be a fun way to share everyone's writing talents and our thoughts and ideas! Submit through the google form linked below! I hope some people take an interest in sharing their unique short stories with others. Emphasis on short, however, please make sure your story is (approximately) no more than 500 words.

I hope you have fun with this event!

\*\*\*Stories must be school-appropriate or they will not be featured\*\*\*

[The Mirror Short Story Writing Event](#)

# Inuktitut language

by Lauren Jameson



The Inuktitut language, a language within the Inuit language group, is a language which is spoken mostly by indigenous Canadians. According to a 2016 census, there are 39,770 native speakers, 65% living in Nunavut and 30.8% living in Quebec, the other 4.2% living in Greenland and Alaska. Inuktitut uses the syllabics, a form of writing originally used for the Cree language. Inuktitut is the most geographically vast language in comparison to the other Inuit languages, Kalaallisut, Inuinnaqtun, Inutut, Inuvialuktun and Inupiaq. Inuktitut is an uncommon

language since it uses prefixes and suffixes to form words, rather than just using singular words since a certain sequence. For example, “Do you speak english” in Inuktitut is “Qallunaatituusuunguviil”. It is clear to see that this question is just one long word formulated from prefix and suffix particles, however not all questions or phrases are one word.

Work Cited

Compton, Richard. “Inuktitut.” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 13 December 2016, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/inuktitut>. Accessed 22 March 2022.

## How to rethink school waste

by Sawyer Ivchenko and ClimateClub

You probably have a lot of questions about waste and recycling. Where it goes, what to put in the trash vs. the recycling bin, and why it all matters. In this article I hope to answer all of those questions and more.

A special guest from the Recycling Outreach Team (Angelina Brandt) met with the Climate Club in March to discuss school waste. That meeting prompted me to write this article and also where I got most of my facts. If you want to learn about topics similar to this, consider joining the Climate Club. The first question I want to answer is where all of the garbage and trash goes. Well, when you put it in the trash, it is put in a garbage truck and shipped off to the waste center of Ulster County. From there, it will either be shipped to the landfill or recycled and be reused as another water bottle or plastic bag. But, if you place something in a recycling bin it is not a certainty that it will even be recycled. Many plastics that are put in the recycling bin aren’t recyclable and are just placed in the dump. Make sure to check and see if the plastics actually are recyclable. The last question is the most important because recycling is a vital part of tackling climate change, and understanding why you need to do it is a big part of helping.

Sources: Recycling Outreach Team of Ulster County, Climate Club

# Marvel Phase 4

*by James O'Sullivan*

**Moon Knight** - Moon Knight will be a Marvel series on Mark Spector. To give you a little info on the series, Mark Spector was a former Marine and former CIA agent who became a mercenary. On one of his missions to Sudan, Mark is appalled when fellow mercenary Raoul Bushman attacks and kills an archeologist. Now, I won't spoil the whole thing, but Mark gets injured and goes to a tomb where he goes in front of a statue of the moon god Konshu. He then dies and gets reborn as the superhero Moon Knight...but with a cost. The series came out on Disney Plus on March 30, 2022.

**Morbius** - In a Sony Pictures production in association with Marvel, Michael Morbius was raised in Greece with his single mother. Michael had an isolated childhood due to his rare blood condition. Also known as a Spiderman villain, this movie came out on April 1, 2022.

**Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness** - After Wanda Vision and Spiderman No Way Home, Doctor Strange is left to solve the problems of the Multiverse, but with a secret villain and a bunch of Easter eggs who will show up. This movie will come out on May 6, 2022.

**Ms. Marvel** - Kamala Khan is a Pakistani American with shapeshifting abilities who discovers her inhuman genes. An idol of the famous superhero Captain Marvel, we don't know much about the story except that the series will be released on June 8, 2022.

**Thor Love and Thunder** - This movie is intended to be the direct sequel to Thor Ragnarok. We don't know much about this movie except that a new Thor might appear and we will long miss the one we have now. This movie will come out on July 8, 2022.

**Black Panther Wakanda Forever** - A sequel to the 2018 film Black Panther, this film follows Wakanda. After the sad death of Chadwick Boseman, Marvel will not recast the character. This movie will come out on November 11, 2022.

**She Hulk** - This series will follow the adventures of one of Marvel's greatest characters, Jeniffer Walters, a lawyer with Hulk's abilities. You will have to see yourself how she gets Hulk's powers, but this series will come out sometime in 2022.

**Other things** - The other Marvel projects for Phase 4 are things that are not really important, but you should still watch. This includes the Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special and What If - Season 2.

# Interview with Local YA Author Jennifer Castle

by Willow Swan, literary correspondent

Jennifer Castle is a popular children's and YA writer who lives in the Hudson Valley. Her writing accomplishments include several YA titles, *The Beginning of After*, *You look different in Real Life*, *What Happens Now*, and *Together at Midnight* and a children's series, *Butterfly Wishes*. She also wrote two books about Blaire, the 2019 American Girl of the year. Blaire's story takes place in the Hudson Valley, which I thought was very cool because I recognized some of the settings, like Split Rock at Mohonk Preserve. I had the unique privilege of interviewing Ms. Castle about a variety of writing-related topics. I hope you enjoy this exclusive interview!

## When and why did you decide to become an author?

I've been writing for as long as I can remember; it was always my "thing" – even when I was in middle school! I'd write poems and short stories in tiny notebooks. I'd also write in my head a lot, especially on the school bus. I had a long ride and no friends on the bus, so this kept me busy. I'd have these ongoing mental stories set in the various places I saw outside my window on the bus route, like a really pretty house or a horse farm. When I got off the bus, the story ended for the day; when I got back on the next morning, I'd pick up the story again. I was ridiculously shy and quiet, so writing gave me a voice; a way to express my feelings and opinions about the world. It also gave me a sense of control when I didn't feel I had one anywhere else. When you write fiction, you're creating a world and the characters in it. That's powerful.

By the time I was in high school and applying to college, writing fiction was the only thing I wanted to do with my life. I attended a school with an excellent writing program, with plans to go to graduate school for writing and then, you know, write a bestselling novel and become instantly successful. Ha ha!

After college, I got more interested in writing for film and television, so I moved to Los Angeles. I gave that up after many years, then I wrote for websites, and eventually came back to writing fiction. It took me six years to write my first novel, *The Beginning of After*, while I was working another job. So you can say, I decided to become an author when I was in middle school, but it took a lot of growing up and life lessons to figure out how to make that dream a reality.

## What inspires you while writing?

It depends on the story. When I'm actually doing the writing itself, I'm usually in my office in my house, looking out at the woods. Something about the trees, the branches, the leaves, the sky help me get deep inside my imagination. Usually it's when I'm NOT writing that I get inspiration. Places I see in everyday life. Conversations I



overhear. Items in the news. Other people's stories or experiences that I hear about. And music! I always have a playlist for the book I'm working on, and add to it constantly.

### **Who inspires your characters?**

Most authors will say that there's a piece of themselves in every main character they write, and that's definitely true for me. I don't think you can write a fully dimensional, complex character without connecting to them in some personal way.

### **What places or settings inspired the settings of your books?**

My first book, *The Beginning of After*, was inspired by the town I grew up in: a typical suburb named Briarcliff Manor, which is in Westchester County. Most of my other books are inspired by New Paltz, New York City, or the area around it.

### **What was the story behind getting picked to write the 2019 Girl of the Year story for American Girl?**

Most authors have an agent – someone who helps your books get published and sort of guides your career as a writer. My agent, Jamie, sent *Butterfly Wishes* and *Together at Midnight* to an editor she met at Scholastic, who publishes the American Girl books, because they were looking for new authors. I heard back that the editor really loved *Together at Midnight*. Then maybe a month later, my agent texted me that I'd been chosen for "the American Girl project" and that it had been really competitive with lots of other writers in the running. Here's the funny thing: I had no idea at first what the project was! I thought maybe it was a non-fiction book because I used to run an advice website for kids. I had to sign a contract saying I would keep everything about the project secret, and THEN I found out that it was the 2019 Girl of the Year. I was literally shocked. And excited, of course. The whole project was a ton of work but I enjoyed it and learned a lot. I loved how Blaire's story turned out. (Here's another funny thing: I wrote the entire first book with Blaire's name as "Lavender" – because they hadn't decided on the doll's name yet and they always use a code name in case the book gets leaked somehow.)

### **What was your immediate reaction when you found out your first book, *The Beginning of After*, was being published?**

It was a very unreal feeling. It took me six years to write that book, and during that time I got married, moved into my first house, and had two kids. I'd been waiting for months to hear back from editors and it was taking forever. So when my agent called to say an editor at HarperTeen wanted to publish not just this book, but whatever book I wrote next, I couldn't believe it. Two years later, I finally held the finished book in my hands, and that's when I finally freaked out. Until that moment, your book is just a VERY big Microsoft Word file on my computer!

## **How many years does it take to finish writing the first draft of one of your YA novels?**

I've gotten faster at drafting over the years. I usually spend a few weeks brainstorming, then writing descriptions of the characters and outlining the story. Then it's time to just get words on the page, and there's honestly nothing harder than going from nothing to something when you're staring at that blank screen. I've found the best way to do it is what I call a "vomit draft," where you're just letting the writing come out and not editing yourself as you go along. Even if I think what's coming out is terrible, I just keep going. Then when I read it the next day, it's usually not as bad as I thought. I aim for a minimum of 1,000 words a day (that's about four pages in Google Docs or Microsoft Word), but if I'm on a tight deadline, I try for more. A typical YA novel is about 80,000 words long. Typically, a first draft will take me 4-6 months. Most of the work of making a book awesome comes in the second and third drafts, with the help of your editor.

## **What tips would you give to young writers?**

I would say, don't try to write like anyone else but yourself. It's natural to read a book you really love and then want to emulate that author in some way. But your natural writing voice is what will truly speak to readers – trust your voice. The same goes for the types of stories you want to write. Write whatever sparks your imagination, even if you think it's weird and nobody but you will be interested. It's okay to write something just for yourself, but chances are, someone out there will enjoy it if you choose to share it with the world.

## **Do you have any spoilers in terms of new books coming out soon?**

I just finished a YA novel for Disney called *When We Had Summer*, which will be published in spring 2023. I'm so excited for this book! It's about four girls who spend their summers together at the Jersey shore, and every year they do a summer Bucket List. Then the girl who's sort of the group leader suddenly passes away, and the other three friends find the Bucket List she was working on for the next summer. They decide to try and do the Bucket List in their friend's memory, even though they're all changing and drifting apart. I love writing about friendship and growing up, because no matter how old you are, those things are always a huge part of your life!

## ***A few end words...***

I hope you enjoyed this interview with local children's and YA writer Jennifer Castle! Everyone at NPMS and The Mirror staff would like to thank Ms. Castle for taking the time to do this interview! I hope you enjoyed this article, as it is different from what I normally do, and look out for more exclusive author interviews coming to The Mirror real soon!

**-Willow**

Sources and further reading:

[Girl of the Year 2019 Blaire Wilson - American Girl](#)

[Jennifer Castle - Author of Books for Kids and Teens](#)

# Shea's Science Section issue number three

*by Shea Baker*

Penguins. No, not that word. I said Pangolins. Yeah, those. They're the most hunted animals on the planet and there's a good chance that the illegal Pangolin trade might have started Covid. Isn't that crazy? So, one of the big points of this article is to spread awareness.

Okay, pangolins. Here's a few fun facts such as, did you know Pangolin scales are actually made of hair? Ain't that crying crazy? It's just really, really hard hair. Pangolins are also an incredibly interesting species with their biology. They look so alien if you look into them a little. They can curl up into a ball and completely shield themselves. Also, there's a really interesting bit that on February 17th, world pangolin day is celebrated worldwide to help raise awareness. Sadly this article could not be made before that date. See you in the next issue of Shea's science.



## Winners of The Mirror Trivia Challenge

*by Willow Swan, Noah Solano and Sonia Levy*

Winners of The Mirror Trivia Challenge (See Issue 4)

1st place- Baileigh Peterman and Ellie O'Rourke (Tie)	2nd place- Anna Maiale
3rd place- Stella Ziguoras	4th place- Hopper/Erceg
5th place- Della Sheridan, Margo Kosofsky, Bennett Sheeley, Lauren Williams, Izabella Schor, Yannick Titus, Sawyer Ivchenko	

Thank you and congratulations to all who participated!

# What Is It Like To Work For The Mirror?

*by Noah Solano*

New Paltz Middle School's newspaper club has grown in popularity since it started in October. However, we can always use more members! I recently interviewed a few of the Mirror's sixth grade employees to learn what they find so great about this club.

One of the students I interviewed was reporter Sonia Levy, who has been working for the paper almost since this year's start. I asked her what the best part of working for the Mirror is, and she told me "I really like that I get to work hard at something and then see the fruits of my labor." She also told me that people who "are willing to put in extra time and get things done" should join the Mirror, and she would recommend reading the newspaper to people who "want to get your real details about school events and not just gossip", and people who "like to cook, read, and be informed."

I also interviewed Mirror writer Willow Swan, who told me she enjoys working for the Mirror because "it's fun and interesting to write about different things going on in the school, and other things that are not about school, and it is a good opportunity to get to know people sort of outside of school. More things that I like about working for the Mirror are that you get a very strong sense of self achievement when you finish writing your articles, and it is fun to be a part of something not everyone is a part of."

My final interview was with Zoe Curtis, who creates comics for the newspaper. She told me that she would recommend working at the Mirror for "people who like typing, drawing, writing, etc."

I personally like the Mirror club because it is a good group experience to improve your writing skills and send your work into the world. I would say that there are three main traits you need to join the Mirror: commitment, a love of writing, and the ability to finish your article on time.



*Some of our Mirror staff members: Willow, Sawyer, Emmett, Sonia, Noah, Bennett, and Mckenzie*

# Dinosaur Facts

by Emmett DeGrassi

I wanted to say I am very sorry to the readers of my articles, I have had a busy month, so I had to make a shorter article, with easier reading, filled with recaps on past articles, fun facts, and new news on dinosaurs.

-Chickens are the closest relatives to most dinosaurs.

-Not all dinosaurs died, only non-avian (unable to fly) dinosaurs died off.

-Pterodactyl is a nickname for the pterosaur, pterodactylus.

-Pterosaurs, including pterodactylus, are not dinosaurs, nor avian dinosaurs, although they were closely related to dinosaurs.



-The first ever dinosaur, Megalosaurus was discovered in 1819.

-Tyrannosaurus Rex was a scavenger.

-In September, a dinosaur larger than Tyrannosaurus Rex was discovered, the dinosaur was then named Ulubeghasaurus. (photo left credit cnn.com)

-Around March, two new species of Tyrannosaurus were discovered, Tyrannosaurus Imperator, and Tyrannosaurus Regina.

-Before Ulubeghasaurus was discovered, Tyrannosaurus Rex was the third largest carnivorous dinosaur with Spinosaurus being the largest and Giganotosaurus being the second largest dinosaur.

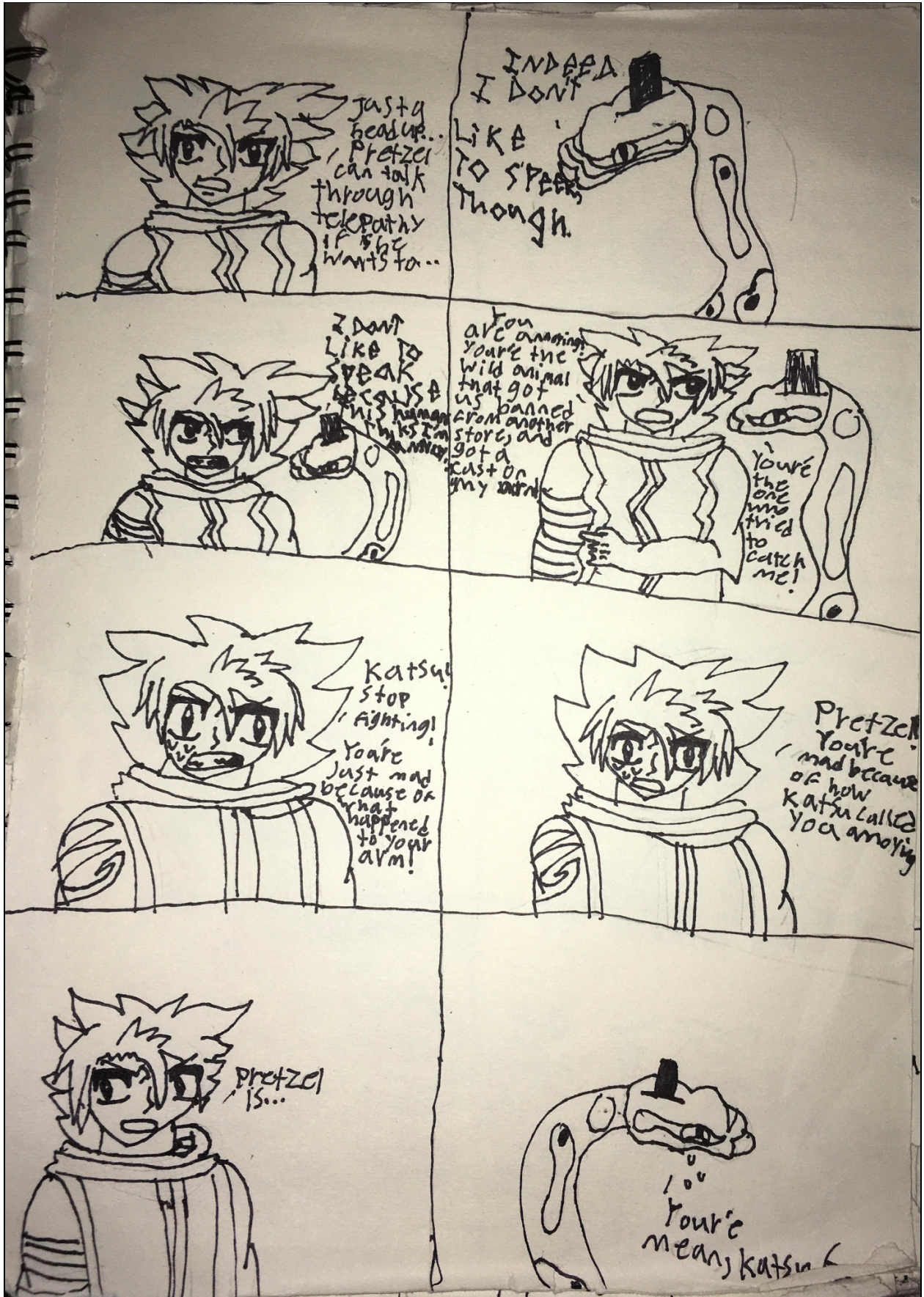
-Dinosaurs have last names.

-For 20 years in the late 1800s, two paleontologists by the names of Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh had a competition to see who could discover more dinosaurs, the two eventually discovered many well known dinosaurs.

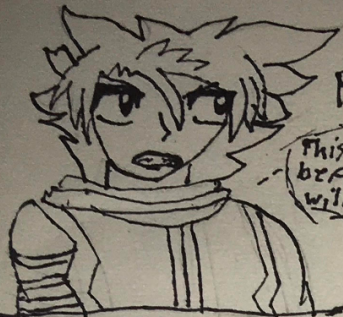


# Manga Comic Strip Series

by Zoe Curtis

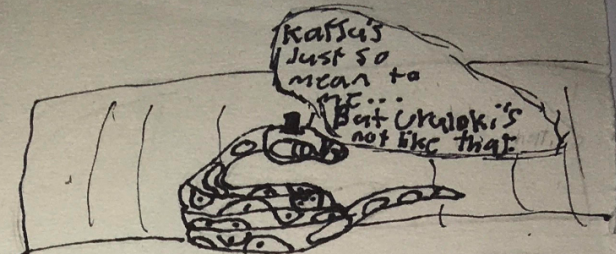






Pretzel...

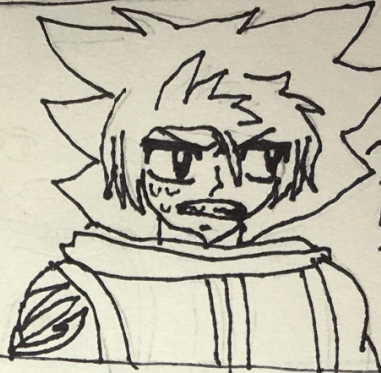
This has happened before. Pretzel will be alright.



Katsya just so mean to me... But Uruloki's not like that.

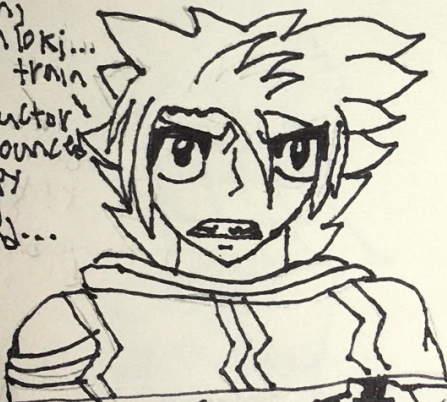


Katsya... I-I don't feel to good...

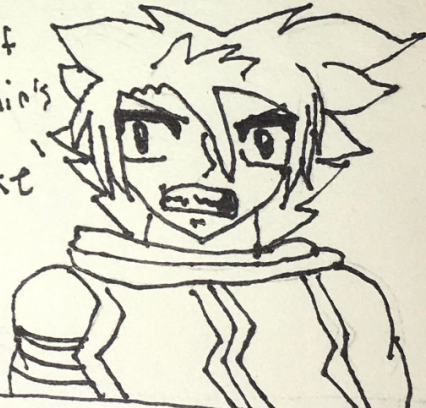


We're still far from the Fairytail guild...

Why Uruloki... the train conductor announced bumpy rails ahead...



That means the train's going to shake a lot...



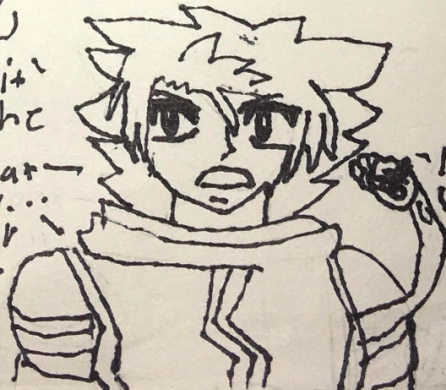
I hope Uruloki will be okay...

15 minutes later...



Katsya... I don't think I'm gonna make it to the Fairytail guild without throwing up...

Hey, you made it off the train without Okay... Never mind.



Blah

Poor Uruloki.



3 minutes later...



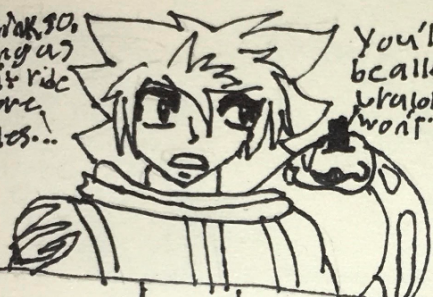
You feeling better?  
- you are you!



Not really.

and a half minutes later...

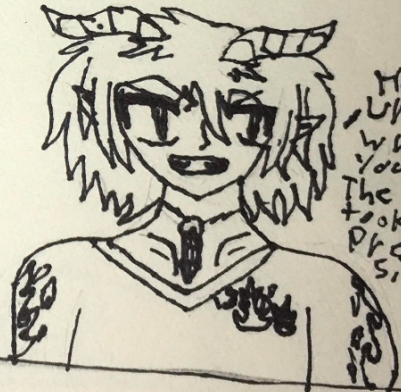
I think so. As long as I don't ride any more vehicles...



You'll be all right Uraloki, won't you?



HEY Katsul were here!



HEY Uraloki! What you so took long? The job you took looked pretty simple!



None of your business, Horas.



My name is Ryuu



# The Waggish Ones

by Jena Chamas

