

Class President

By: Johanna Hurwitz

Julio is sure that fifth grade is going to be his best year yet. On the first day of school, his homeroom teacher Mr. Flores announces that this year the fifth grade will be electing a class president. To get ready for the election, the students are to be thinking about who might make a good leader.	11 21 29 39 49 57
In the meantime, while playing in a soccer game at recess, Julio's classmate Arthur breaks his glasses. The fifth grade pitches in to pay for the glasses by holding a bake sale. But on the day of the bake sale, Arthur's mom finds out his glasses can be replaced for free.	66 74 85 97 107 108
Now the class has two things to decide: who to elect as class president and what to do with the bake sale money no longer needed to pay for Arthur's glasses....	118 129 138 139
On Monday, Arthur came to school with new glasses. Cricket came to class with a big poster that said, VOTE FOR CRICKET, THAT'S THE TICKET.	147 157 164
The election was going to be held on Friday. That meant there were only four days more to get ready. In the meantime, they learned about how to make a nomination and how to second it. It was going to be a really serious election.	173 183 182 193 199
At lunch, Cricket took out a bag of miniature chocolate bars and gave them out to her classmates. Julio took his and ate it. But it didn't mean he was going to vote for Cricket. He wondered if there was anything Lucas could give out that was better than chocolate! Nothing was better than chocolate!	208 217 229 239 248 254

The Marble Champ

By: Gary Soto

Lupe Medrano, a shy girl who spoke in whispers,	9
was the school's spelling bee champion, winner of the	18
reading contest at the public library three summers in	27
a row, blue ribbon awardee in the science fair, the top	38
student at her piano recital, and the playground grand	47
champion in chess. She was a straight-A student and	57
not counting Kindergarten, -when she had been stung	65
by a wasp- never missed one day of elementary school.	75
She had received a small trophy for this honor and had	86
been congratulated by the mayor.	91
But though Lupe had a razor-sharp mind, she	100
could not make her body, no matter how much she	110
tried, run as fast as the other girls'. She begged her	121
body to move faster, but could never beat anyone in	131
the fifth-yard dash.	135
The truth was that Lupe was no good in sports.	145
She could not catch a pop-up or figure out in which	157
direction to kick the soccer ball. One time she kicked	167
the ball at her own goal and scored a point for the	179
other team. She was no good at baseball or basketball	189
either, and even had a hard time making a hula hoop	200
stay at her hips.	204
It wasn't until last year, when she was eleven	213
years old, that she learned how to ride a bike. And	224
even then she had to use training wheels. She could	234
walk in the swimming pool but couldn't swim, and	243
chanced roller skating only when her father held her	252
hand.	253

Juggling

By: Donna Gamache

In gym class on Monday, we started volleyball, and I	10
hit seven straight serves just over the net, hard and	20
fast. Mr. Braden called me over at the end of the	31
class.	32
"You've got a good serve, Kyle," he said. "How	41
about coming out for the junior team?"	48
"Sorry, Mr. Braden," I said, without looking at	56
him. "I'm busy every afternoon." I knew practices	64
were three times a week, right after school, and that's	74
when I delivered papers. I'd started a paper route	83
two years ago when I was ten, but this year I'd taken	95
over a second route- a long one too! I never finished	106
delivering before 5:30.	109
"Well, think about it," Mr. Braden called as I left	119
for my next class. "We could use a serve like yours.	130
Couldn't you juggle your time a little?"	137
My friend Dave was waiting for me outside the	146
gym door. He wanted to know if Mr. Braden asked me	157
to join the team.	161
I nodded. "I told him I was busy."	169
"You're a lot better than I am," said Dave as we	180
got books from our lockers. "I wish you'd join. We	190
need good servers."	193
Our next class was math, but it was hard to keep	204
my mind on fractions and percentages. I kept thinking	213
about how good it felt to hit that ball and see it sail	226
over the net. Somehow I managed a spin on the ball	237
that made it hard to hit back. It was amazing!	247

The Abacus Contest

By: Priscilla Wu

Gao Mai's fingers flew back and forth over the smooth black beads of the abacus. Suddenly a wire snapped. The beads bounced onto the desk and rolled across the floor.	9 18 27 30
Gao Mai fell to her knees and crawled around after them. Just as she reached for the last bead, her best friend Li Zhi kicked it away from her hand. The other children giggled. Gao Mai's face burned.	39 49 60 68
Gai Mai opened her eyes wide and sat up in alarm. What an awful dream!	79 83
The comforting aroma of steamy, overcooked rice drifted in the next room. She pushed aside the heavy the heavy quilt, got up from the floor and put on her school uniform.	89 99 111 114
"Are you ready for the big day?" Gao Mai's mother asked her as she came into the main room of the apartment. Gao Mai sat down at the table and helped herself to dried meat, eel and pickled cucumber.	123 134 144 145
The dream was fresh in her mind. "I'm not sure," she said.	155 157
"Remember what I told you," said Gao Mai's father. "Imagine the abacus is part of you." He smiled at her. "You did so well when we practiced."	165 174 184
It was true. During a few of her many timed drills she was even faster than her father. And he used the abacus every day at the bank.	194 204 212

S.O.R. Losers

By: Avi

Ed Sitrow and his friends have a big problem. All	10
students at South Orange River Middle School are	18
required to play one sport per year- and Ed is no jock	30
and neither are his friends. Playing a sport is sure to	41
mean only one thing for them- total humiliation.	49
Somehow, they manage to slip through their first year	58
at S.O.R. without playing a sport. But when the school	70
catches on, they make up a special soccer team just	80
for Ed's crowd. This soccer team is anything but	89
typical at a school positively famous for its winning	98
teams and all-star athletes. Mr. Lester, the history	107
teacher, has volunteered to be their coach. Little	115
does he know that they'll be making history of their	125
own.	126
I should have guessed what was going to happen	135
next when this kid from the school newspaper	143
interviewed me.	147
He asked me how it felt to be on a team that lost	160
every game. I told him that I had nothing to compare	171
it to. His final question was for me to make a	182
prediction about whether we will win or lose our last	192
game. I told him that as a captain, I could only	203
promise one thing, and that was that I didn't want to	214
be there to see what happens.	220

Founder's of the Children's Rain Forest

By: Phillip Hoose

It all began in the first week of school when Eha	11
Kern, from the Fagervik School, in the Swedish	19
countryside, showed her forty first and second grade	27
students pictures of hot, steamy jungles near the	35
Equator. It was there, she said, that half the types of	46
plants and animals in the whole wide world could be	56
found. She read to them about monkeys and leopards	65
and sloths, and snakes that can paralyze your nerves	74
with one bite, about strange plants that might hold a	84
cure for cancer, about the great trees that give us	94
oxygen to breathe and help keep the earth from	103
becoming too hot.	106
And then she told them that the world's rain	115
forests were being destroyed at the rate of one	124
hundred acres a minute. In the past thirty years, she	134
said, nearly half the world's rain forests have been cut	144
down, often by poor people who burn the wood for fire.	155
Sometimes the trees are sold and shipped away to	164
make furniture and paper. At this rate, there might	173
not be any rain forest left in thirty years!	182
The children were horrified. The creatures of	189
the rain forest could be gone before the students	198
were even old enough to have a chance to see them! It	210
didn't matter that they lived thousands of miles away	219
in cold, snowy Sweden. It seemed to them that their	229
future was being chopped and cleared away.	236

Name: _____

Unit 1: Cooperation and Competition
Anthology Stories

	Class President	The Marble Champ	Juggling	The Abacus Contest	S.O.R. Losers	Founders of the Children Rain Forest
My GOAL						
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

