

THE CAMPFIRE STORIES



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About the Author



Riyan is a young, enthusiastic, fun loving budding writer. A silent observer of nature, minute activities of different things, an inquisitive and very simple analytic of the situation and events.

He is a boy with bundle of positive energy and loves to wears his infectious smile on his sleeves. Though possessive for the friends and family still loves to spend much time with books. The 'Campfire Stories' is his debut attempt penning down his imagination.

Misty Night

In a land far far away lived a boy named Ronald, he was a very energetic kid who was very playful. He didn't bother whether it was day or night he always wanted to be outside. Rain, winter, Summer nothing stopped him from being outside. This wasn't the only thing happening in his life, he used to wake up to weird dreams of animals, and caves and weird places he never thought of. These chapters of everyday dreams made his family really worry about him.

Days went by still his passion of playing was growing every day. In spite of his parent's interference he still ignored them.

One day it was a chilly winter night, with the temperatures dropping the parents were really worried whether today also his playing urge will take him out.

One such night he was playing with a bat and ball, after sometime he hit the ball so hard that it went straight into the forest, hesitatingly he went into the forest to find the ball. He searched everywhere, every nook and corner. He was petrified, listening to the hooting of the owl, screeching of the birds, sound of the crickets, he was now really inside the deepest part of the jungle. He was looking for it when he suddenly felt a light touch on his back, baffled with all the thoughts going on in his mind about who or what it might be.

He slowly looked behind closing both his eyes, then with little peeping he saw two elephants and four lions, he was shocked to death. He thought this might be his last day of life, he was really scared and ran as fast as he could.

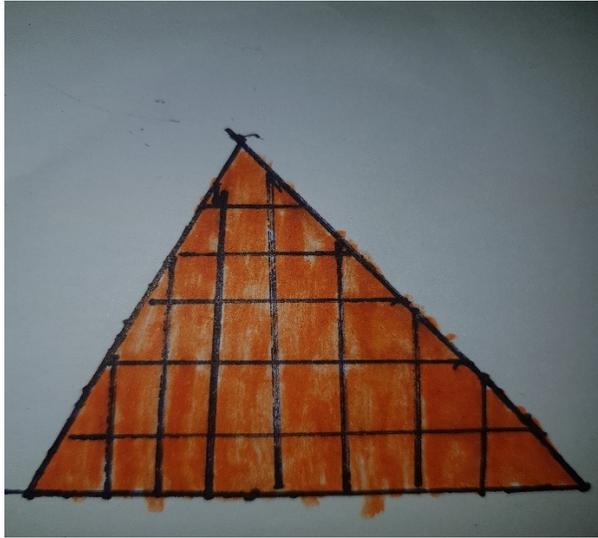
But to his utter disbelief he saw them still standing there, as if he never ran.

One of the elephants then spoke, which made his eyes pop out he said "child, there is nothing to be scared of, we are not unknown to each other, we are the same animals from your dream. We are here to meet you in person and tell you about the reason we are in your dreams". Puzzled he asked, "whyyy, whattt , whenn" he tried speaking but only fumbled words came out.

Racing up and down the house, his father and mother had started getting worried about him, they had started a search for him, along with the other villagers, who, with their torches and sticks started looking for him.

Gaining his senses, he slowly asked them who they were, and the purpose of their visit. They then pointed to a triangular shaped building that was made of sand. Looking at the structure he got memories of the stories his mother told which

talked about how his ancestors lived as lions and elephants in a triangular shaped



building.

He was really excited. He went with them inside and saw his great grandparents' carvings, he was full of emotions. It was really amazing to see all this come to reality, the things which he saw in his dreams are now coming to life.

The animals told him stories of the past and how they had been living. After sometime they told him about his passion which had turned as an addiction of playing which was really upsetting his parents. They told him playing outside is good but it has to be done in limit that was good for him and his family.

After sometime they heard footsteps of people; they were the villagers looking for him. He was really happy to hear them and was excited to tell them what had happened, he ran out of the sand tower, and then when he looked back, he was all alone. There was no sign of the tower or the animals.

His father hugged him and there were tears in his eyes, he kissed him and asked him where he was. The boy told him everything that had happened, his father gave him a surprising look, in his mind he thought he was just making up stories. But to make him happy he nodded.

He reached home and told his worried mother about the stuff that had happened and his mother had happiness and tears in her eyes and assured him that everything was real and he was really lucky. He also told her what advice they gave him about his playing outside which had upset them and that he has understood everything and will always listen to them.

His mother gave him a tight hug and they stayed happy after that.

So, we learn that too much of anything is bad...

The Yummy Drink

In a small town of Pennsylvania, lived a young lively girl Swirlkif. She was a very fun-loving girl, and had many friends. She was a foodie and loved eating all kind of foods. But most of all she loved Smoothies. She liked banana, orange, grape, chocolate and even turnip smoothies and many other. In the town there was a particular smoothie shop where she would regularly go with her friends and family. The shop owner had a great liking for her as she was a really nice girl.

One fine morning she went to a new smoothie store in the town. There she took a seat and looked at the menu. When she flipped the page, she saw the coolest drink named 'The Fantom Imaginary Zamazenta'. Sounding weird she definitely wanted to try it. She ordered as fast as she could. When the drink came, she was amazed just looking at it. The drink was far beautiful then it sounded, it was just like the universe, it was just like our Galaxy.



When swirlkif drank it made her dizzy and she fell down. After some time, when she got her consciousness, she had a strange feeling of people talking in her mind. Then it looked like as if this drink would make the real-world opposite. She saw (in the opposite world) that the tables and chair were flying up with the people still sitting on the chair because the fans were giving so much wind power that they were flying. When you want to get off, you will have to fly down and direct the chair with the handle where you want to go.

Swirlkif got down the floating chair and saw outside that there was chaos. People were superheroes but their name were different. Batman was Namtab, Superman was Namrepus, Wonder woman was Nomow Rednow, Green lantern

was Nretnal Neerg, Aquaman was Namauqa, Flash was Hself, Ironman was Namnori, Plasticman was Namcitsalp, Robin was Nibor, Cyborg was Grobyc and they were called the CD superheroes instead of DC superheroes. And instead of saving the world they were telling their pets to destroy the world. They had pets like, lion, tigers, elephants and blue whales. Swirlkif didn't like what was going on, she ran here and there for help, she was exhausted and had no idea what to do. Finally, there was an old woman who was blind but could sense what was going on. She told her that if she wanted to help the people here, she must find the same shop and drink a smoothie again. She started finding the smoothie shop, and again ordered the Galaxy smoothie which was named Yxalag. She drank it and slowly everything started being normal and was back in the real world. After some time, she heard someone calling her name and finally she woke up and found her mother standing Infront of her and realized that she was dreaming, and all that she saw was just a weird nightmare.

The Strange Planet

Tired I'm sitting on my couch thinking of the incidents that happened in the last few days. So, let me take you through my journey...

Hello my name is Riyan and in my journey as a Voyager, I have discovered a strange planet that I call "Bleefblort".

Strange as in looks, shape and color. I was mesmerized with all these things and it made me enter the surface of it. Hovering after some time I finally decide to make a landing. Good the planet had gravity. Not sure whether I would be able to breathe, I took all my gears and took a chance of getting out of my spacecraft.

Tense about encountering any alien entity, I was really



careful.

But guess what! looks like I was not alone, just about a kilometer I saw a group of aliens performing a kind of unusual dance, wearing colorful dresses. Seeing them I was really taken into awe. Not knowing how they will react, I tried very hard to be out of their sight. But don't know how they caught me.

They were speaking an unusual language, and they also didn't understand my speech too. They then made a huddle and had some conversation with each other and one of them finally came forward and tried touching my hand scared I hesitated and to my surprise, he now had the ability to both understand and speak my language, and finally they understood why I was there. They accepted me as their guest and allowed me to take a tour around. I thanked them and started to take tour in my vehicle.

After sometime I felt hungry and was a bit tired, looking here and there I found a strange looking dome. I went inside and asked them if I could stay and have something to eat, they asked me to give money in the form of #100, but I didn't have that kind of money, disappointed I left the place.

Luckily, I searched my backpack and found a packet of cookies, with all smiles I finished it, gulped some water and was elated.

Then I realized something strange, that it would never get dark on this planet. Using this as an advantage I again started discovering the planet. Waking some distance, I saw some aliens mining a crystal which they called 'Atmockfrost'. It was a large sparkly crystal. Some of the crystals flung out so I caught it. My eyes shined too looking at it, so I wanted to research about the stone to find what all I can do with it.

As I was heading back to my vehicle, someone just bumped into me shouting "buy a floating car called 'Qwerty'". I looked at the car and was amazed by its looks and just the idea that it would float took me to a zone where I dreamt of driving the vehicle, a person then shook me and I came back from my dream. Excited I asked him how can I buy, he asked me the same kind of money but then I was sad because I had none of the money he was talking about.

Facing lot of disappointment, I finally decided to go back and finish my research. During the research I found that It could be mined on two planets. One of them was 'Bleefblort' and the other one was 'Bleedbort', the twin planet of this of Bleefblort so I was interested about researching about that planet.

So, after sometime I took leave from the planet and continued with my quest...

Weak To Strong

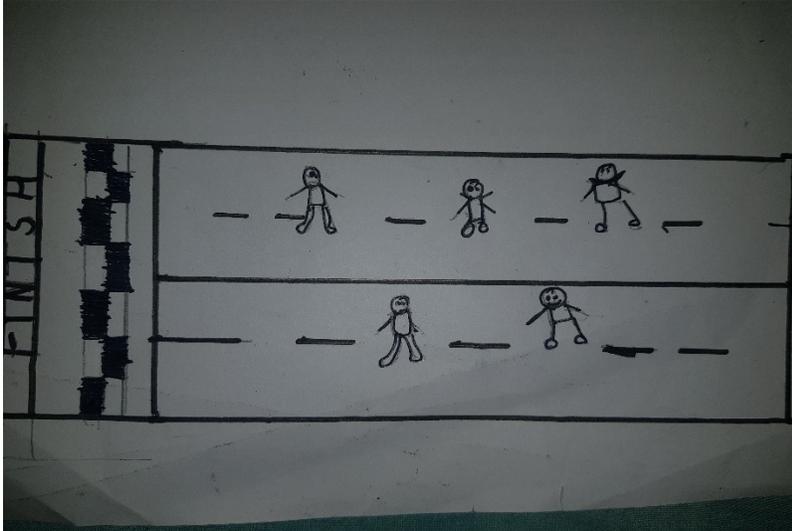
Sitting on the school bench near the ground, I watch my friends play, and jump and practice for the upcoming school's annual event. This fills me with a feeling of sadness as I feel that I am not good enough to win any races. Let me tell you my story, my name is Ramesh and I come from a small town of Varanasi. From childhood I was a very meek looking thin boy. My mother was always protective of me and didn't allow me to do any kind of hardships. This made my confidence bit low and I always hesitated to attend any kind of physical activities. But somewhere in my mind I wanted to attend the races but thinking that my I would lose due to my structure I avoided it.

Skipping every year's annual event was a normal thing for me, as I didn't pull the courage of telling my mom and my teachers that I wanted to participate in the sprints, as I thought they would make fun of my physical appearance.

But one year everything changed. It was the selections for the championship race which was part of the annual festival held every year on November 16th.

Many of my friends joined the race including my best friend Raju. I was not willing to attend the race fearing I would lose. But my best friend Raju supported me saying that 'you are not weak but you have as much power that you have to use to win. And that running is not an event that needs someone to be physically very strong, it's the strength on the legs that makes you run. These words were like some tonic I was pumped up. I started to practice for the upcoming event. I woke up very early and ran along with Raju on the ghats of Varanasi. I had told my mother everything and she was also very convinced and helped me in getting ready to join the race.

Finally, the day came! I had butterflies in my stomach, I took blessings from my mother and I set off for school. As I took my position everyone gasped and were very surprised to see me in the racing track. The race had begun and the racers had started off, I was nervous but I only looked at the end of the track and told myself that I can do it, and to my surprise I came first.



His best friend and other friends were in awe but happy and they picked me and threw in air and cheered me. I told them that 'victory is sweet'. My mother who also came to watch me had tears in her eyes, and since that day she always encouraged me to do such events.

So, friends the moral of the story is "always believe in yourself".

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The Campfire Stories is a collection of short stories written by a young, budding writer Riyan Naik, of Grade 4. The stories are outcome of his imagination, written in a best possible way to touch many hearts. Each story teaches us something. He at his age has tried his best to come up with these stories.

Hope it keeps you at the edge of your seats.