

Creative Writing Competition: Vivian Maier's Photography

Classe de 3e3

Collège Foch

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A dream or a nightmare?

By Paul and David



Vivian Maier, Canada

Hello my name is George and I am 13 years old. I live in New-York city with my seven siblings. I'm the oldest brother, and this is what happened to us in 1959.

"Kids, it's time to wake up!"

That were my mother's first words at 6 a.m. on that morning. I woke up and went to the bathroom.

"Hi George, good night?" Damien said while running to be first in the bathroom. He was excited because me and my family were going to see our grandmother.

Two hours all the family was ready and entered the car. I hated this car, I found it old, ugly and in bad condition. After 5 km my mom saw a gas station and decided to stop. She parked and went down to pay for what she was going to put on.

Shortly after Marcus shouted

"The last one spotting the lady with the strange camera is a big stinking poo!"

I immediately saw the woman with a strange device and fortunately I was not the last! Everyone was smiling at the women except Mason who couldn't see her from where he was sit in the car, he lost our stupid kid game!

Shortly after I went out of the car to go to the bathroom.

Suddenly, I heard a car leaving so I rushed to the car park and saw my mother entering the car. She shouted, "here we go" and left!

I started sobbing I was on my own with no money in a place that I didn't know.

My mum interrupted: "George wake up, wake up, it's time to go to your grandmother's house ». It was all a nightmare!

By Elliott B. and Zacchary



Vivian Maier, Canada

That was in 1950 on the 19th of July, on a lovely summer day.

Kids on a summer camp were so excited about their day trip in Venice beach in Los Angeles.

On the beach, four boys wanted to look for clams and dug in the sand.

They all wanted to impress the girls!

Except one boy, named Thomas who was looking at the four other boys.

The girls were talking but they were three and the boys were four.

One of us would not be able to find a girlfriend!

Competition was terrible! The four boys were trying to steal each other's clams.

Little Thomas witnessed this stupid competition.

When the competition was over the girls looked at all the things the four boys have destroyed and they looked at little Thomas.

The boys went on the bridge and showed proudly the clams to the girls.

The girls walked and didn't pay attention to the four boys, and they reached little Thomas.

Eventually, the girls got closer to little Thomas and kissed him on his forehead.

The terrible road 66 by Léa and Zoé



New York, 1954

This story starts in April 1942, in a street, in Chicago, two kids and their nanny are standing on the pavement. Marion and her little sister Julie are looking at their parents leaving for a trip to Los Angeles in car.

Their nanny's name is Michelle. She is clever, organized and authoritarian. She is also tall and massive, she looks like a man. They say goodbye to their parents. Their parents leave, but one hour later Michelle hears about an accident on the road 66. They rush to the hospital, and they see their parents in a hospital bed. The doctor calls and says: "They are dead". Marion and Julie start to cry out in pain: "No, it's impossible!" They are in a shock.

Now they are orphans, they will live with Michelle.

By Selim et Thoma



Vivian Maier, Canada

I'm going to tell you the story of Michael.

Michael was 8 years old. For his 8th Birthday, he wanted to set incredible memories.

So, he invited his friends. He robbed his dad's car and drove to Coney Island beach in New-York. After playing in the sand Michael could not find the keys of the car, he lost them. His parents were coming back home at 6 p.m., it was 5 p.m. and they could not find the keys. Michael and the other boys were rummaging the beach to find the keys while the girls didn't seem to care about the keys.

They were in big trouble and the great day out was about to become a nightmare!

The shooting by Mohammed A. et Orge



**Armenian woman fighting on
East 86th Street, September,
1956. New York, NY, Vivian
Maier**

Hello,

My name is Trevor, I am an officer, and this is Amanda. She is the mother of a mafia thug. Her son has just died.

From an early age her son was mobster, his sold drugs and blackmailed shop keepers.

Amanda is really sad and upset because her son's death.

On the 20th November 1982, her son was shot by a policeman, because he was about to steel a lot of money from the bank.

That's how Amanda's son died, and she now considers all the policemen as enemies.

By Ruben and Elliott P.



Chicago, IL, Vivian Maier

Two children, called Hugo and Anna, and their grandfather are in front of the cinema Walgreen, next to the Walgreen Drugs shop.

They celebrate the 9 years of the channel WGN television. They are waiting to watch a movie about the creation of the channel WGN television.

On that special day the channel collected money for poor kids. The cinema donated all the money they earned during the week of December 13th to twenty charities.

Some people are watching the interview on TV while others are watching it live.

The designers created lot of balloons to give to security men. They had to offer balloons to audience.

The money collected to help kids was a 2, 160\$ and more than two hundred balloons were offered to kids.

Every Friday there is a Charlie Chaplin movie on and Hugo and Anna never miss a Friday at the movie, Charlie Chaplin is their favorite actor and film director.

THE QUADRUPLET'S SECRET by Rose et Luna



It was in 1961 during summer vacation.

They were four amazing girls, and they were special. They were quadruplets. They had just passed their SAT and their graduation ceremony had just taken place. They were 17. They were rich; they lived in a large and luxurious penthouse in a hotel with a view on Central Park, New York. They had a driver, called George, and a maid called Betty. Janine was extravagant, Martine was funny, Jocelyne who was pessimistic and Mary who was cultivate and respectful. George's job was also to take care of the girls.

The girls were happy to be on vacation. Mary was reading a joke on the newspaper and Janine thought that it was pretty funny.

Suddenly, Martine saw someone who had a photo camera. She yelled at the photographer. The photographer looked like a nanny. She had kids and a huge straw hat. Who was this woman?

Martine told her siblings what just happened. Jocelyne first asks Janine if she had problems with journalists. Jocelyne and Janine didn't get on with each other. They were always mad at each other.

"Maybe she's a Russian spy" told Mary.

"No, I'm sure she wants money from dad" told Janine.

At this very moment, George went to the stairs.

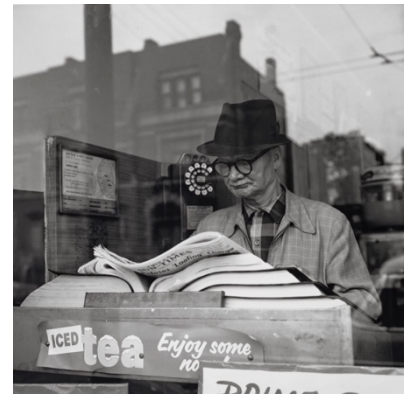
"George, a woman took a photo of us. She was in her twenties with short brown straight hair. She looked like a nanny. She also had a huge straw hat," said Janine.

"What did you say? A huge straw hat? How was it?" asked George anxiously..

"I don't know, it was just a hat with a feather" told Martine.

"Girls, I need to tell you something. That woman you just saw is part of your family. She is your oldest sister. When your dad learnt your mom was pregnant of you four, he rejected his daughter. He said he wasn't ready to have 5 kids... This was the story of your sister. We need to leave now, I'm worried that she might come back".

Reading a newspaper by Cassandre and Enora



Chicago, 1962, Vivian Maier

I live in the big town of London, my name is Yves Smith, I am an old English teacher of seventy-six years old, I came to England because I'm mourning my wife, she died two years ago, in a car crash.

We are the 14th March 2004 today. I am actually in a train station to Chicago, I read the paper news this morning, and journalists wrote about her accident. Like I said it happened two years ago, she was in a taxi to go back at our home, and the car accidentally hit a traffic light, she didn't have her seat belt fastened. Her neck broke because of the shock and the taxi driver, that was suspected of drugs addiction and maybe under the effects of those when he was the car, got temporary in a coma. I was called a week ago, the seventh day of March 2004 to attend to the trial of the man that caused the accident of my wife. And so, I am here, sitting in a cafe, ready to go to the city where she died.

In facts, I am scared, to go to Chicago for the trial and I'm terrified to see the place where my dear Rosalie was murdered. I might not be able to hold all the anger and the sadness that I tried to keep for so long now. Her death was devastating for me and ruined my all existence. But I must go forward now, it's been too long.

Friendship by Liana et Nini.



Vivian Maier, Canada

Our story starts in Paris in 1940, 1 September, "Rue de la liberté", it was back to school, and it very was cold.

Two girls, Anne and Stella were 9 years old. Last year they hated each other but now they are best friends: new schoolyear, new friendships!

Anne was outgoing and she wasn't shy at all, she was thin, and she had brown hair.

Stella was the opposite: she didn't like speaking with people, she was really shy. She had brown hair with a fringe.

Back to school wasn't their favorite time of the year but being together was so great that they started dancing and playing in " Rue de la liberté «.

The lady in a white dress by Angelina et Dariane



January 9 1957 Florida, Vivian Maier

She was walking towards the black and white chevrolet. The night was deep and she was blinded by the chrome wheels and the neon lights, but she was confident about her decision. She couldn't stand her violent boyfriend anymore.

They were at a gala, everything looked perfect, she was enjoying the music and she was dancing with her friends. The room was huge and sumptuous. Everybody was dressed elegantly. Maria was wearing a big white muslin dress, she had a scarf in white fur and she had high heels. Her boyfriend was there.

After a few hours, her boyfriend who drank too much became violent. He started to insult her but Maria was fed up with him. She couldn't stand her violent boyfriend anymore.

She broke up with him, threw her ring away and called someone. She ran outside and there was the black and white Chevrolet, inside was a very pretty man who was her secret lover.

She ran away with him and never talked again to her violent boyfriend.

By Louis, Mahid and Mohamed D. :



My name's Charles. I'm 12 years old. I have a lot of friends. I'm a pupil in a boarding in NYC because I'm a difficult kid. I'm funny but I'm silly.

Last Monday, I was outside with my friends because the weather was hot, and we wanted to have fun!

"Let's open the fire hydrant to make cars slip" said my best friend John who lives next door. We caused a big traffic jam in Queen's Street.

"Let's get out of here !!" yelled John. We ran very fast to hide in a parking lot because people had called the police.

Two days later, NYPD called my boarding school and my parents. We had to pay a fine and were forced to spend the rest of the summer holidays in the boarding school!

Ice-cream by Ulysse



On a hot sunny day, a big American family, the Hefley, are going out to eat an ice cream. They take the parent's purple car to the ice cream shop. All the cousins are invited therefore they have difficulty fitting into the little car. Children are very excited because the parents promised a huge ice cream for each of them. Whilst waiting for the parents they are imagining all possible flavors. Georges imagines a chocolate snout flavor, Burton a rainbow flavor, Mike a snow flavor and Lili just wants a strawberry ice cream. Then, they make fun of poor Washington who is too little to eat ice cream. Washington bites Tim angrily!

Georges is getting mad at Lili because she takes all the space. After that they are talking about their future trips: Tim and Washington want to go to Paris. Lili, Burton and Mikel on a trip to Spain and George to Rome. Suddenly a photographer comes by and looks at the car, she finds these kids very funny thereby she chooses to take a picture of them. At last, the parents come back with enormous flavory ice cream cones, but at the last moment they trip on the side of the road and drop all of the delicious deserts on the ground. The kids laugh, not even disappointed, and they all go back home.

The baby by Yasmina and Lilas.



Josephine worked in a restaurant in Washington. She was the manager. She didn't treat her employees well and she didn't pay them a lot. One day, Josephine was reading the newspaper and she saw an article about the kidnapping of a baby. Later, she came home and she heard a baby crying in the basement. She opened the door and she saw her husband. He was with THE baby of the news. She asked him why there was THE baby in their basement. He gave her a little smile and he said that they'll get a lot of money soon. Josephine started to cry and yelled at him but Jeff calmed her down and said that if they got the money, they wouldn't have to work anymore. Josephine smiled back at him. When she moved closer to the baby, she noticed that the baby wasn't breathing anymore. She was shocked and in a panic. She looked at her husband and said: « What do we do now...?! »

By Yanis, Amin and Joel



It was in 1963 in San Francisco, California,

That year a heat wave has invaded the city.

My cousins and I were bored, everybody was hot.

That's the moment when my cousins Noah and Justin had an idea. There was a fire hydrant just next to us we opened it to create a water slide to have fun.

At the beginning we were having fun, but it was getting hotter and hotter and all the kids that were around, started to play with us. AT this moment a strange lady came to us, not to tell us off but to take a picture!

One might think that doing such a thing is immature, but at the time we did not think about it and the strange lady loved our game!