



# Fiction

Group 2

# The Magical Tongtianlong

*Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Lee, Arianna – 10*

In a small town in Jiangxin Provence, there was a girl named Xiao Xiao. She had smooth hair and fair skin. Wherever ever she went people would always compliment her appearance. She was also in the most popular friend group at her school, but she was hiding a secret, she had a Tongtianlong! It all started on December 1 of 2024.... It was the last day of school for Xiao Xiao, and they were watching a documentary about a Tongtianlong. The Tongtianlong was a Chinese dinosaur that lived in the Maastrichtian epoch of the late Cretaceous era. It was rather small, being only around half the height of a 1.8 meter tall person. The Tongtianlong has feathers all around its body, which makes it look like a bird. There were also strips on its body and small feet that looked like a chicken.

Xiao Xiao was particularly interested in the Tongtianlong because of its appearance. Even on the way back home while her friends Xi Xi and Liang Liang were talking, Xiao Xiao was thinking about the Tongtianlong. When she got home her parents surprised her with a marvelous gift: a pure jade necklace! Xiao Xiao was so happy because she wanted that necklace forever! But she noticed it was a little dirty, so she decided to clean it. She rubbed it several times but then POOF! Out came a Tongtianlong! Xiao Xiao rubbed her eyes 10 times but she realized that it was real, she was fascinated by the prehistoric creature. Suddenly, the Tongtianlong started talking!

It explained that he was trapped in the necklace forever and only if the owner of the necklace completed a certain task for him to be free. Xiao Xiao immediately agreed to do the task. The task was to find and take a special book from a different dimension. Xiao Xiao didn't know how to get to the dimension though and the Tongtianlong couldn't tell her how to get there. The only clue it gave was that she had to go to the place where she felt the happiest and walk through the back door. Xiao Xiao realized that the place that made her the happiest was home! So she walked through the back door of her home then suddenly they entered a strange place with a rainbow bridge . The Tongtianlong explained that this was the gateway to a different dimension, this was also the place where they would find the book.

As they walked through the rainbow bridge, they started talking. The Tongtianlong said his name was "Tian Tian". As they entered the strange world, Xiao Xiao couldn't help but realise that everything was perfect! Buildings were symmetrical, the streets were shiny and the people were exactly the same. As they walked Tian Tian said that they had to first climb a steep mountain and if you walked the wrong path you'd get lost in an endless forest.

Although Tian Tian said the climb would be very difficult, Xiao Xiao wasn't worried because she climbed mountains with her. Once they started climbing, she saw a strange creature with the body of a racoon and the antlers of a deer! Xiao Xiao thought it was really cute, but she noticed they were everywhere! Xiao Xiao and Tian Tian were talking all the way there. Before they knew it, they had arrived!

Xiao Xiao wondered why it was so easy even though Tian Tian said it was hard. On the top of the mountain , they saw it; a thick, red book. Tian Tian explained that this book had the incantation that would help him be free at last. When they found the page with the words, Tian Tian said that only the owner of the necklace could free him. So Xiao Xiao recited the words on the page. Then suddenly Tian Tian became a human! He was actually a human being who was transformed into a Tongtianlong when he turned 12.

From then on, Xiao Xiao and Tian Tian became best friends!

# The Dragon Sorcerer

*Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Mao, Lucas – 9*

A long time ago, scientists found a fossil of an eastern dragon that was missing its eyes. They searched over the whole China and finally found. After they combined the eyes to the head, a light began shining. Just then, the dragon became real and flew up into the sky and shot a giant fire ball into the sky. “BOOM” went the fire ball that crashed into the atmosphere and created a heatwave which rapidly expanded and wrapped the whole earth. The scientists got up and urged the army to check what happened. The dragon on the sky flew around in circles like it was waiting for something anxiously. A few minutes later, message came. The NASA said that the heatwave had spread around the whole world.

Suddenly, the dragon roared and used its power to change a mountain nearby into something with a thousand stairs. At the top of the mountain, the dragon flew and turned itself into a gate, the Dragon Gate. The dragon kept roaring before completely turning into the Dragon Gate, while everybody on Earth became unconscious.

Millions of years later, next to the mountain there was a small village, where a boy named Katakuri grew up. He was living with his grandpa because his parents and even his whole fish tribe had been kidnapped by his brother, Jack, who later obtained the mythic scroll hid by his tribe. Katakuri promised to himself that one day he would pass the Dragon Gate, acquire the dragon’s power, and become the dragon sorcerer.

Every day, Katakuri tried his best to finish the one thousand fleets of stairs in order to pass the Dragon Gate. However, whenever he reached a higher level, a strong invisible force pushed him down. Fortunately, with the tribe’s blessing he was able to reach higher steps just slowly. First 648, then 765, then 854.... Then biggest challenger appeared at the 999<sup>th</sup> where an enormous force was against him. Once, twice, ....

After 49 times, he finally reached the 1000th step of the stairs. Exhausted! It took him ten minutes to open the gate and after that, a small black ball flew into his forehead. Suddenly his brain began dizzier and dizzier. He felt asleep.

When he woke up, he found himself under a mountain. He felt strength running through his whole body. He raised his right hand, immediately a thunder ball shot out. Katakuri rubbed his eyes and tried to shoot a thunder beam back. As he thought so, a thunder beam came out of his hand while his left hand began to shoot a fire beam. He stopped the two beams from hurting anyone by punching the ground. When landed, huge cracks appeared.

Katakuri was desperately happy and shocked that he ran home in 45 seconds! A letter from Jack lied on the front yard. “My brother, don’t you want to know why I kidnapped our tribe? Come to the Forest of Despair and I will tell you why.” Katakuri packed some food and water and started his journey.

An old man talked to him on his way out of the village. "Boy, I sense that you are going on a dangerous journey for an answer. I will train you." For the next few days, Katakuri trained with the old man for skills including quickly passing obstacles,

mastering the dragon's powers, and sensing attack etc. Katakuri was finally ready after 10 days. The old man tested him by throwing dozens of rocks at Katakuri. Katakuri easily dodged all rocks as these were all just slow-motion in his eyes. He left, and he found Jack after a few days.

Fight started from their first look at each other. Jack threw a knife at Katakuri however Katakuri easily dodged it. Then, Katakuri shot a thunder ball at Jack which hit him and sent him flying. Katakuri then shot a fire beam while Jack used a shield to block.

Suddenly, Jack appeared next to Katakuri as soon as Katakuri punched him, it went right through. He realized it was one of the power one the mythic scroll, vision. He thought that Jack must have learnt it. Suddenly, a huge pain came on his back. It was the real Jack that punched him and sent him flying back. "Is that all you got brother, I'm not finished yet". As he said so Katakuri stood up and ran towards Jack and punched with all his strength. Jack used the

second ability on the mythic scroll and summoned an armor to protect him and punched with all his strength too. As two fists crashed, Katakuri went out flying again and crashed through 10 trees. "Goodbye, my dear brother!" Jack threw dozens of swords at Katakuri but Katakuri dodged all and began burning. He exploded! When the smoke gone, there was a dragon in the sky. The dragon fired a huge fire beam full of anger and hatred.

The dragon turned back to Katakuri. He ran to Jack and asked him why he kidnapped their tribe. Jack answered: "The cat tribe was going to attack us secretly. Therefore, I brought all of them to a safe place. We need you to stay there to build force, skills, and become dragon sorcerer. Now you succeed my brother!" Jack finished his words and slowly closed his eyes. A few days later, Katakuri became the dragon sorcerer. He swore an oath to protect the village with his life and lived in peace.

# Welcome to the Past

*Carmel School of Hong Kong, Isaacs, Arielle – 9*

It all started on a stormy evening in New York, there was a scientist named Fred, he had brown hair and a large baggy lab coat who was working on one of his experiments. “One drop of this, three drops of that”, he mumbled, but at that moment his wife Stella walked in and shouted at the top of her lungs “Dinner’s ready!”

Fred was about to walk out of his lab when he realised he had forgotten to close the window! All of a sudden ... WHOOSH!!! The wind was so strong that it knocked Fred off his own feet, and all of his potions crashed down to the floor, “NOOOO!” he shouted as the potions mixed together forming a portal to the galaxy.

“Huh, this actually could be one of my most successful inventions! But I have to figure out what this is first”, Fred thought, still in shock.

Fred put his whole hand in the portal and it pulled him in! He found himself in the middle of space. But then, he started to move really fast.

Finally, he came to a stop, and he found himself in a really strange place that smelled like dung! He then realised he was in a cave.

He went out of the cave and he saw a place full of life. But not the life you think it is, I mean plants, trees and grass so green and healthy and air so clean.

But then he heard a loud thump, a snout appeared. More snouts just kept on appearing and then he saw their full appearances, it was a pack of T-rexes!

He ducked behind a bush because he knew T-rexes were carnivores. He was really confused and scared, “I thought dinosaurs were already extinct!” he wondered.

It was then that he realised the portal he went through was actually a portal to the past.

Fred went back into the cave so he could find the portal to return to his home. Instead, he found a strange-looking little dinosaur, no bigger than his hand, lying on a rock. It had orange and white feathers, a long tail and short arms. Fred picked it up carefully and looked at it for a second.

It was hard to identify it at first, but Fred finally recognised it. “Hmmm... interesting, very interesting... it’s a baby Sinosauropteryx!”, he said “Hello there little guy” he said.

Fred looked at it and it looked back, they locked eyes, the baby Sinosauropteryx suddenly jumped out of his arms and ran away.

“Wait!” he shouted as he ran after it. The Sinosauropteryx seemed to have been picking up speed.

The baby Sinosauropteryx seemed to grow bigger almost as tall as his knee and ran faster, and in a few seconds, it disappeared into the forest.

Fred followed it and was out of breath, and when he went deeper into the forest, he found himself next to a beautiful lake full of life. There were all kinds of animals and plants.

Fred was surprised to see an old man with white hair, Hawaiian clothes, blue flip-flops and a red baseball cap by the lake. He had a friendly smile on his face, with animals nuzzling him as if he were their mother.

The old man looked at Fred happily and asked warmly, “And who might you be dear?”.

“Ummm...my name is Fred,” he said. The old man smiled “Ahhh...it’s been quite a while since I saw any other humans here”. As Fred looked at the animals, “You saw other humans here in the past?” he asked. “Yes, but it has been 103 years” the old man replied.

“Shouldn’t you be dead by now?” Fred asked. The old man replied, “No my dear, time travels differently in the past.”

“I’m Lee by the way,” the old man said, then he noticed Fred staring at the Sinosauropteryx in his arms.

“Oh, this little guy. I found him stranded in this forest.” Lee explained.

Lee said, “Here, take him. Will you help him find his parents for me?”.

Then Lee suddenly started to evaporate into thin air. Fred was so shocked he couldn’t even speak. He found the Sinosauropteryx in his arms.

Fred started his search for the Sinosauropteryx’s parents. “Ugh! Nico, it’s been hours since we’ve been searching for your parents!” Fred groaned. He didn’t know why he named the little dinosaur Nico but it seemed the dinosaur liked it.

Just then, Nico fell to the ground in exhaustion, panting wildly, “Come on Nico, I think we’re almost there” Fred said as he looked down at Nico, but noticed some mini footprints in the dirt.

“Look, I think these are your parents’ footprints,” said Fred. Nico looked underneath him and found faded footprints. He jumped excitedly and started to run faster than a race car.

When Fred finally caught up to Nico, he found him just standing there looking stunned at the beautiful sunset. Fred too was amazed by the savannah with a huge spread-out flat grassland, scattered trees and shrubs everywhere, and most importantly a pack of Sinosauropteryx!

When Fred reached the pack of Sinosauropteryx, he found Nico nuzzling one which seemed like his mother. Nico saw him and quickly ran up to him and tried to hug him, but it really wasn’t much of a hug because of his tiny little arms.

Then one of the Sinosauropteryx kicked the tree next to them and in the middle of the tree started to form a portal to the galaxy.

Fred walked to the portal then turned back to Nico’s family and waved at them to say goodbye.

Then the portal closed and Fred found himself back at his house. He thought that he had skipped dinner when suddenly his wife Stella came in and said “What are you doing honey? Dinner’s ready.”

“Oh, I’ll be there in a second” he replied. “Ah, life is great!” Fred exclaimed.

# The Magical Gem

*Carmel School of Hong Kong, Liu, Nova – 9*

Once there were two explorers named James and Carl. They were palaeontologists finding fossils in Ganzhou City. One day, they were finding dinosaur bones in an excavation site. While they were looking for fossils, they walked past a mysterious, dark cave. The two brave explorers crept inside quietly. It was all pitch black – they could not see a thing. Suddenly, in the corner of James' eye, there was something glowing.

“What was that?” he thought.

They sneaked in, deeper and deeper. Finally, when they got closer to the glowing light, they saw a shimmering green gem lying on a rock. Carl picked up the gem and looked closer at it. He saw a picture of bones – in the shape of a dinosaur!

Carl scratched his head. “Hmm, I wonder what this means.”

So they took the stone and left the cave. They searched and searched for dinosaur bones, but couldn't find anything. They finally gave up and sat down on the floor. Suddenly, the gem glowed, brighter than ever before.

“Wow, what is happening?” asked James.

Then, they saw the same light – but in a different direction. They followed the light and wondered if it could be another gem. When they reached the glowing light, it was facing the ground.

“Do you think there are, maybe... fossils down here?” asked Carl.

James nodded. “Maybe, because the gem shows a picture of a dinosaur. We should find out!”

Carl agreed, and they started digging and shovelling. After a very long time of digging, they finally found something. It looked like the dinosaur bones that they saw on the gem! James realized it was the gem that was magical and could track dinosaur bones because they were the same bones as the ones on the gem. They were amazed that the gem was so powerful!

James was so excited that he accidentally dropped the gem, and it landed in the hole. Suddenly, the ground shook. The gem zapped the dinosaur bones, and the bones began to form together! Skin appeared on the bones, and it grew bigger and bigger until it was an enormous dinosaur! James and Carl were terrified! They had never seen a real-life dinosaur before, and it was huge! Somehow the dinosaur could talk, too! It looked like the gem made the dinosaur speak.

The dinosaur opened his eyes and looked down to James and Carl. “Hi, I'm Jeffrey. Looks like you've woken me up.”

James and Carl were in shock. Once they realized what was happening, they decided to run away. They ran as fast as they could.

“Stop! Where are you going?” asked Jeffrey. “I just want to be friends,” he said sadly.

Carl stopped and thought that the dinosaur was friendly enough. He stopped James, and said calmly, “This dinosaur is friendly, he won't eat us!” James turned around and nodded. They went back to the dinosaur.

“Hi-hey, I'm Carl. It's nice to meet you, this is my friend James.” Carl looked nervously up.

The dinosaur smiled and said, “Get on my back! Do you want a ride?”

“Um... sure!” said Carl. “Is it... even, safe?”

Jefrey replied, “Sure it is! We are friends, I will never hurt you. Come on, I’ll take you around this area!”

Carl hopped onto Jeffrey’s back, but James climbed slowly because he was still scared. Jeffrey took them around the excavation site, passed many scary caves, and discovered new mountains around – it felt like an adventure. Every day, they ran around, picked berries for treats, and took rides on Jeffrey’s back. They got to know each other better by exploring the excavation site together.

But one night, it happened. At 12 o’clock midnight, the stone stopped glowing. It slowly started to crack into little pieces. Suddenly, Jeffrey turned into bones again. Skin washed off, and he was no longer alive anymore.

In the morning, James and Carl woke up and called Jeffrey. There was no reply. They walked around but couldn’t find him. James saw bones in front of him. Dinosaur bones in the shape of Jeffrey. James gasped and told Carl, “I think this is Jeffrey, but he must have turned into bones again!”

Then Carl saw green glass pieces on the ground. “I think the stone faded. Hey, this looks like pieces of the gem.”

“It must have dissolved, and made Jeffrey disappear too,” James cried out.

The two explorers just stood there sadly. They went back to the lab and told the other palaeontologists everything that happened, including Jeffrey and the stone. They were amazed and went to find Jeffrey’s bones and decided to name it a titanosaur.

That night, the ground shook. The gem magically formed back together and started to glow again.

I wonder what this gem will lead us to next?

# The Emperor Of Asia

*Carmel School of Hong Kong, Livingston, Reuben – 8*

Today is a normal day in Ganzhou City, except that there is a new construction site opening. By the way, today's date is July 29<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Everybody in the construction site is getting ready for the opening tonight. They are setting up cranes, diggers and explosives for this special occasion. Thousands of workers and architects are getting prepared for the first explosion on site. Coincidentally, a DNA Lab was built nearby five years ago near the construction site.

There is one hour to go before the site opens. There will be a parade, fireworks and a big feast.

*COUNTDOWN* time. We are all ready for this: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

–PSSSSSHH –!!!!!!

The first batch of explosives is blown up. There is a ginormous hole in the ground and a deafening noise. It took a while for the smoke to clear and the rubble to fall on the ground....and then the first builder was about to hammer the very first piece of metal into the ground. The next thing that happened, shocked everybody, because the builder had to bring '*the thing that he saw*', to the DNA Lab straightaway!

It was a type of T. Rex named ASIA–TYRANNUS.

It took weeks for the scientists to find out what it was. Once they did a terrible thing happened. One of the scientists had a cut on his arm and when he was about to leave the room, he knocked over a test tube and the DNA from the tube went into his cut. Straightaway his skin started to itch madly and then his fingernails turned into claws!! He grew a long snout on his face and his body grew ginormous. Suddenly he dropped on all fours and then all of his skin transformed into tough brown scales. His teeth got really sharp and grew into fangs.

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE DINOSAUR INVASION

'The Emperor of Asia HAS ARRIVED!'

I

All of his colleagues were so shocked they ran out of the nearest exit.

Then the ASIA TYRANNUS/the Emperor of Asia grabbed the nearest person. What it had done to the person was not pretty!

One fact: the first person to turn into a dinosaur was called Frank. What happened was that the ASIA TYRANNUS/Emperor of Asia bit the person...he transformed into a MINI ASIA TYRANNUS. And the same thing happened to thousands of people!

Six mechanics from Europe came to Asia to help with the problem. After they did the invasion spread all across Europe, Africa, North and South America and also where it started in China. The only safe places were Australia and Antarctica.

One of the mechanics is Tommy from Liverpool. Another mechanic is Virgil from Amsterdam. Next is Dougal from Glasgow and then there is Luca from Venice. The second last is John from Paris and the very last one is Isabella from Majorca. These are the only six people left in the world who are going to save the planet. Now keep reading to find out what is going to happen next!

Tommy had an idea. He said... "*If we are going to stop this invasion we will need to have a Plan and I know exactly what to do. First, Isabella and Dougal will start building guns. Then Virgil and I will collect DNA samples from the six of us. Then the two of us will give the samples to John and Luca. They will make glass tubes and then put them into the guns that Isabella and Dougal have made*". "

Everybody agrees that it's a good plan. Isabella and Dougal start making guns. Isabella said to Dougal: "How are we going to do this? Mmm.. pass me a wrench and a hammer". "You have already finished seven guns"! Dougal said to her.

In the meantime, Virgil and Tommy were picking their hairs off and having blood tests and putting them into different test tubes for now.

Jon and Luca were making glass tubes. By that time they were the only humans left on Planet Earth. They were now collecting sand and soda crystals and then heating it all up to make glass tubes.

They put the DNA samples that Tommy and Virgil collected into the glass tubes. The next step was to put the glass tubes into Isabella and Dougal's guns. Now they were ready for war and putting on military armour to get ready for the fight.

Everyone took a gun, stepped outside and split into groups with their work partners. They were surrounded by thousands of **Asian Tyrannus mutants**.

The six mechanics suddenly spotted **FRANK**/Emperor of Asia in the middle of the Asia–Tyrannus mutants. They knew what they had to do...!

They fired at all the Mutants surrounding Frank and as they were hit, after a few minutes, they transformed back into humans

After an hour there were probably just 30 Mutants left. Tommy, Virgil and Dougal aimed at FRANK while John, Isabella and Luca attacked the 30 Mutants.

Ten minutes later there were no more Mutants left but...FRANK only had 2 parts of him left that were dinosaur – his arms and hands. Then, after ten more minutes, he was fully transformed back into being a human.

The invasion was over and all the people of Ganzhou City built a statue to remember the story of the 6 brave mechanics.

# Tabby and The New Friend

*Carmel School of Hong Kong, Mehl–Diez Gutierrez, Naomi – 10*

## Chapter 1, The Adorable Tabby

Here is a story about a chubby, chunky, and fluffy kitten named Tabby. Tabby is a baby kitten with light orange stripes on his soft beige coat. Since he is just a baby, he doesn't know so much, and often gets confused. He also has an 11 year old owner Tiffany. Tiffany lives with her family, Tabby sees her as a mother because she takes care of him just like one would. They love each other so much. Her family would also look after him, but she is his favourite. She would feed, play, and even take him to the pet park! And Tabby is always happy to tag along wherever she goes.

## Chapter 2, The Mysterious Egg

One day, on his morning walk with Tiffany, on the green bushy grass, they stumbled across a mysterious egg. The egg is pale green with some green grass coloured spots blending in with some grass. Tabby looked puzzled. "This is an egg Tabs." Tiffany said as Tabby tilted his head looking more confused, "I wonder what could be inside? Let's see when we get home." Tabby nodded as they walked home. When they arrived home, Tiffany's family started guessing what animal is inside. "a dragon!" Said Timmy, her little brother. "a chick!" Said Tracy, her older sister. "a bird!" Said Tray, her mother. "a lizard!" said Tristan, her father. They've spent hours researching, but couldn't find any information about it. They put it on a pillow. Tabby loved the egg and couldn't wait to see it hatch.

## Chapter 3, The New Friend's Arrival

The next day, Tabby woke up the family early everyone could see that it's hatching! They all gathered and then popped out a tiny, pale green, adorable, squishy...dino! It's a dino egg! With a jelly-bean head, a squishy blobby body, and marshmallow limbs, he's adorable! But his name?, they let Tabby decide. After all, he's definitely most excited. But you may wonder, "How will a kitten speak?" And to that I say you are correct, and you'll also think "How will a baby kitten give a name? And to that, I say, that's a 100% proven fact. But Tabby's special! The family knew he would give a great name. Tabby will have to choose one of his favourite foods lined up in front of him and to choose one for his name. And they're *really* good foods! There's ramen, noodles, and more! Then, after some time, he chose, "Soup the Dino"

## Chapter 4, The Perfect Home

The family already has five people, a pet, and a lifetime supply of ramen, there's no room left for a dino! So they thought, for a good home for Soup, and then... "That's it!" Tracy said, "Samantha!". Samantha is best friends with Tracy, and the rest of the family likes them too. They also have kids Sally, Susie, and Simon, and they also happen to love animals and know about dinos. Then, they discussed and agreed, "We'd be more than happy to have Soup." Said Samantha.

## Chapter 5, The Pair of Two Chunky Pets

Tabby and Soup are like two peas in a pod! In fact, it also enhanced the bond of the families. Now, the two families often have little visits with each other. And the marshmallow and jelly bean love waddling around the pet park. Which is not very normal to see. And now the chunky chubby duo, now live happily ever after.

# The Invasion of Alien Dinosaur Skeletons

*Carmel School of Hong Kong, Yin, Tsz Wo – 8*

The crowd cheered as Max, Nate (short for Nathel), and Inky walked out of the portal, but a rumbling sound was coming from the East.....

## Introduction

Max is a 16-year-old teenager with dyed blue hair covering one of his green eyes. He always wears black and carries a dark sword with him. Nate is a funny boy of 15 years old, wearing a yellow T-shirt and blue jeans. He has short blonde hair and eyes of the same color as his jeans. His weapon is a pair of sticks with metal ends, tied to a chain. Inky, the smartest of the three at fourteen and a half, wears the glasses and has black hair and eyes. He's always in blue and holds two guns.

## Chapter I

In their prior journey, the three friends saved their village from an attack by enemies from another dimension. Now, they were off to fight again, heading to check out the rumbling sound from the East.

Well, it turned out that, at a small village in Tsingtao of Shandong Province, there were a bunch of alien dinosaur skeletons with glowing red eyes and purple patterns on their bones. Without a word, the guys charged at full force towards the vast army of these dino-aliens. The leaders of the carnivorous, omnivorous and herbivore dinosaur skeletons, respectively, were Oscar, an Sinosauropteryx; George, a Beipiaosaurus; and Jack, a Tsintaosaurus. Max quickly assigned the duel roles: Max vs. Oscar, Nate vs. Jack, and Inky vs. George.

Max slashed his sword fiercely, while Nate smashed the bones quickly and easily with his hammer-chain. Inky just shot at the glowing red eyes, causing the skeletons to collapse. But soon, Inky ran out of bullets. Without looking, Max threw him a bag of bullets like a pro baseball player. After defeating Oscar, Max rushed to help Nate, who was struggling.

After a while, all of the dinosaur skeletons backed away to report to their boss. The friends took the opportunity to upgrade their weapons and armors. Max added spikes to his katana and wore golden armor. Inky upgraded to poisoned bullets and silver fireproof armor. Nate enhanced his metal blocks with spikes and recharged his copper armor to deliver electric shocks.

The upgraded weapons were found to possess superpowers. Max's dark katana contained dark energy, Inky's guns set fire to wherever the bullets land, and Nate's hammer-chain controlled nature, allowing him to launch leaves and branches against the skeletons. During the battle, they met an elf girl, who was also fighting the dino-aliens with her bow and arrows. Max invited her to join, and she agreed.

The guys were killing quickly, but the number of skeletons was growing even faster. Just as they were about to lose, all four teammates' attacks struck the same spot, resulting in a massive explosion from their combined powers. "We can't keep fighting like psychos! We need to report to the king!" George roared. Then they ran back quickly.

## Chapter II

The four friends took a short rest. “What’s your name? I never got a chance to ask.” Max said to the elf girl. “I’m Alexandra,” she replied. “May I try upgrading your bow?” asked Max. “Sure! I’d love that!” said Alexandra. Max transformed her bow into a triple shooter and replaced her arrows with silver ones.

Soon after, they spotted an even larger army of skeletons, and in the midst of it, a kidnapped wizard. Inky used his fire powers to burn the ropes binding the wizard and set him free. The wizard introduced himself as Grey Beard, or GB for short, and he agreed to join them too, really helping.

Max realized that he could communicate with GB through his mind. “What powers do you have?” he asked. “I can make black bubbles for protection and energy portals for teleportation,” GB said. United, they released their powers upon the middle of the enemy army, creating a huge explosion that wiped out most of the dino–aliens. However, Max concluded that blindly fighting the mob wouldn’t win the war; instead, they needed to target the ruler of the skeletons. He called for a march to Beijing, the capital of China.

Upon arriving in Beijing, they were not surprised to find a lone Euhelopus seated on a throne made from fossils and adorned with crystals and diamonds. The Euhelopus, named Zambur, pulled his sword out, engaging Alexandra in battle. Max, seizing the opportunity, attacked from behind. Zambur yelped, turned around and slashed at Max; but Max, a skilled ninja, dodged every strike. In the meantime, GB fired energy blasts against Zambur. The struggle continued, neither side gaining ground.

In a desperate attempt, GB summoned a poison cloud that no wizard had ever successfully conjured before. Unfortunately, the cloud spread beyond his control, enveloping Alexandra and causing her to die. “Have a good afterlife,” Max whispered as he persisted in the fight, heartbroken but resolute.

## Chapter III

The war continued and spread all over China. After a long and intense battle, Max and his friends finally killed Zambur. The remaining dino–aliens looked shocked, trying to escape back to their own world as they scrambled toward a massive magic portal. But Max wasn’t about to let them off that easily. He slammed the door shut and asked Nate to smash it. With no other choice, the skeletons had to fight, or risk ending up in a zoo. Eventually, 58 dinosaur skeletons were captured in China and turned into fossils. Max shipped most of them to other countries for exhibition, keeping a Yutyranus for themselves as a symbol of their victory.

The President of China, impressed by their bravery, decided to throw a grand party and feast for celebration! He was planning for it when the sky suddenly turned dark, indicating new challenges ahead. But for now, the friends as a team had triumphed over the dino–aliens, ready to face whatever adventures awaited them next.

“Together, we’re unstoppable!” .....

# Secrets of the Hidden Valley

*Chinese International School, Li, Emmitt – 10*

*A long, long time ago...* hidden amongst the mountains of China, there lay a hidden valley. The locals there whispered of strange occurrences, such as hearing roaring in the night and seeing colossal shadows. There, a lean young man named Kun led the Li tribe. They had just suffered the worst drought in years, and all their crops had withered away. One day, while Kun was foraging for food, he came across a huge python. A snake that size would be able to feed the tribe for days, but it would be dangerous to try and capture it. “No risk, no reward,” Kun said to himself and lunged towards the snake. The python immediately slithered out of the way and into the bushes, just as Kun got up and dusted himself off. He chased the snake through the bushes for minutes, until finally they came to a dead end. He ravaged through the leaves, ready to attack at any second, only to find – nothing? The snake had mysteriously disappeared into thin air. He looked at the area around him and, surprisingly, found a mysterious hole. The hole was big enough for him to crawl through. “Should I crawl through or should I not?” Kun thought to himself. On one hand, the snake was huge, but on the other hand, He squeezed his body together and began to crawl through the tunnel. After what seemed like an eternity, Kun rolled out onto the grass. “Got you now, you – “ Kun stopped short before finishing the sentence. Standing before him was a colossal creature with a neck twice the size of its body. “A dinosaur,” Kun whispered.

*2024 A.D...* Dr. Lin, a palaeontologist, had spent years studying fossils and worked at a prestigious university in China. Ever since he was a kid, he had always been fascinated by fossils and often daydreamed about going off into the wilderness and searching for them himself. He had gotten a scholarship to a university and graduated with a PhD in science. Lin had taken the job because he thought it would provide opportunities for him to search for fossils, but sadly, the job had proved to be nothing like he thought it would be. So when an anonymous letter mysteriously appeared at the university addressed to him, he couldn’t resist. The letter detailed the coordinates of an uncharted valley, and a cryptic note: “The giants are not gone. They are waiting.”

Lin immediately started packing. He packed a bag full of essential survival supplies and a bag full of excavating tools. He had also brought with him three of his best students and hired a local guide. The journey to the valley was treacherous, as they had to traverse narrow canyons through endless rain. However, they didn’t have to wait long to find the truth. On the second day, they reached a crystalline stream. “We should rest here, and reach the valley soon.” Just as Lin finished, the ground suddenly shook beneath their feet, as a colossal creature emerged from the nearby bamboo grove. It was a beast with a neck two times longer than its body with a humongous tail. “A Qijianglong,” Lin whispered under his breath.

Over the next few days, the team explored the valley. Here, the dinosaurs had not only been surviving but also thriving in their own ecosystem. Wulong bohainesis, tiny dinosaurs flitting through their skies with their wings. Velociraptors, shredding through botany with their sharp claws. And Qijianglong, using their long necks to stretch to the top of the forest canopy. In the middle of the valley, there lay a giant stone structure. Carved into it were strange symbols, which depicted a story of how dinosaurs and humans coexisted in the valley.

However, tensions soon began to rise, as one student, Hao Yu, grew impatient. “We can’t keep this a secret!” he argued. “The world needs to see this!” Dr. Lin disagreed. “Governments, poachers – they will all exploit this place! These creatures have lived here for millions of years, and we can’t be the ones to end that.” But Hao was determined, and at night, he secretly activated a satellite beacon that broadcasted their location to the entire world. The consequences were immediate. Helicopters filled with reporters buzzed over the valley, while the dinosaurs soon grew restless. Velociraptors patrolled the valley’s perimeter, and Qijianglong began to flee deeper into the forest. Dr. Lin, anxious and fearing for the valley’s future, begged the intruders to leave, but it was too late. A group of poachers, armed and ruthless, entered the valley, ready to either capture or kill the dinosaurs for profit.

The poachers advanced in; however, the dinosaurs were unwilling to lose their homes. The velociraptors attacked the poachers, using their razor-sharp claws to slice through their nets. The Wulong bohainesis formed a cloud around the poachers, while the Qijianglong used their tails to topple trees. Desperate, Lin and his team joined the fight against the poachers, and used flares to turn their attention away from the dinosaurs. Their elderly guide, Shen, revealed that he was actually part of a long line of guardians sworn to protect this valley.

With the help of the dinosaurs, Lin and his team managed to drive the poachers away. The helicopters buzzing over the valley vanished, and it was peaceful once more. Lin and his team knew they couldn't stay. The valley's location had already been compromised, and it was only a matter of time before others came. Following Shen's guidance, they managed to seal the entrance using explosives to create a controlled landslide. However, before leaving, Lin took one last look at the valley. The Qijianglong stood in the distance, watching them with calm, intelligent eyes. It let out a low, mournful call, an unspoken farewell. And so, with pride in their hearts, the team entered the forest. Little did they know, their adventures were only just beginning!

# Yong & Yeye

*Chinese International School, Liu, Katie – 11*

Yong and Yeye shared a special bond between them, as Yong's parents, Mama and Baba, were always out fishing, working as fishermen. Yong was named by her Yeye. Yong meant 'brave', which was traditionally given to boys. Since Yeye only had her as a grandchild, he decided to name her Yong. Yong was cuddled up in Yeye's lap, listening to him tell her her favourite myth. "Once upon a time, deep underneath the grounds of China, slept a herd of dinosaurs named the Muguisaurus. They were a fierce herd of dinosaurs, the color red, which legend says comes out once every thousand years to fulfil the words of the evil gods. One year, a brave couple of children were screaming in rage to defeat the dinosaurs and like every story, they scared the Muguisauruses and were never to be bothered again." Yong lived in a cramped fishing village, and the myth of Muguisaurus was nearly forgotten, often replaced by the tale of Nian Shou.

On a misty morning, when Yong was with her Yeye learning how to use a fishing rod, they heard loud cackling coming from all sides of the small village. Then she saw red dinosaurs running into the village, standing in the deep ocean as if the villagers were little dwarfs who couldn't stand in the ocean. Villagers were panicking and running around in all directions, going to grab red ponchos and large drums to scare the Muguisaurus away. Little did the villagers know that the Muguisaurus herd loved red; their tunnels were red, and they only ate red berries in the tunnel. So Yong, as brave as her name was, blew the fog horn that was only allowed to be used on the sea and told the villagers to shout in rage. Yong saw everyone shouting and began to feel relieved. But Yong caught a glimpse of her Yeye and some other elderly villagers being harassed by the Muguisaurus herd. Yong, seeing the person who loved and cared for her most being threatened for life, lost control of her emotions and shouted out. She was so loud that she couldn't recognise herself. This was the last chance to shout because the Muguisaurus herd was approaching Yeye. Yong and the other villagers shouted in sync to make one loud bellowing sound.

"Yeye, Yeye," Yong said, pleadingly trying to get Yeye to wake up from his hospital bed. Yeye's bed was surrounded by beeping fluid machines. Yeye's dark, loving eyes slowly and weakly opened. Simply telling Yong the very last story they'd tell each other, but this time, Yeye told their story, the story of Yong and Yeye being in an attack by the mythical Muguisaurus dinosaurs until he ran out of breath.

# The Search for Fortune

*Chinese International School, Pao, Karleigh – 11*

Daphne Wang sat on the couch with her older brother Timothy and two younger sisters, Millie and Lily, watching the news. A new dinosaur finding was being reported by Search for Fossils in China, and to celebrate, they announced a fossil finding competition with prize money of \$ 10,000! That was a lot of money. However, Daphne's family was not as fortunate as others, they did not have enough money to feed themselves and barely enough to afford somewhere to live! Daphne leapt to her feet. She sped into the kitchen, followed by her brother and sisters, where she found her mother making dinner. Her father was there too, trying to wrestle Daphne's 2-year-old screaming little brother Robert out of the baby carrier strapped to her mother's back.

"Hey, Mom, Dad!! Guess what, we can enter this fossil-finding competition and win \$10,000!!!" At first, neither of her parents paid any attention to her, but when they heard \$10,000, they swivelled their heads to face her. "Really? Ten thousand dollars! We sure could use that money! It'll be a chance to go explore too!," said Daphne's mother as Daphne's father nodded eagerly at his wife. "There's no entry fee and a good chance to enjoy some family bonding time!"

Daphne squealed, and her face broke into a smile. "Thank you, mom and dad!" She shouted as she went to hug them.

The next two days were bustling in the Wang household, as everyone packed for their trip. On the day of their trip, they travelled into the city, where they got on a shuttle bus that would take them to the fossil ground in China, where they would start their search. The Wangs lived in Mongolia, so the bus ride to China was long.

After they finally exited the bus, they stopped to admire the scenery around them. Birds squawked above them in the sky, and mountains stretched farther than they could see. Every group was assigned to a different area. The Wang family was assigned to a land called The Rocky Island. The area fitted its name perfectly. Sand was everywhere, with thousands of rocks spread out all around. They would have to climb around them to get anywhere. "Well then, let's begin." Said Daphne's father.

For days, the family hunted through the desert sand, looking for any fossil-looking objects. But they found nothing. Everything was just sand. Just as they were about to give up, Daphne spoke up.

"Come on guys, this is our chance. Don't give up, try. Don't lose hope, keep pushing on. Believe in yourselves. We can do this!" She encouraged her family.

"Daph's right guys, let's keep going!" Agreed her father. Everyone began to spread out again and continued searching with a new spark of hope glowing inside of them. Not long after,

Daphne spotted something sticking out of the sand. Curiosity flooded her body. What is this? Could it be? She ran over and touched it. It was smooth, like marble. But as hard as rock. A thin layer of sand was dusted on it. Excitement began to build up inside her. Her heart thumping fast, Daphne dug around the little piece and slowly began to pull it out of the sand. She placed it on the ground and dusted the extra layer of sand.

“Look what I found!” She called. In seconds, they were by her side, looking at Daphne’s discovery.

“Could this be? Is this really it?” Daphne asked. Her mother placed her hand on her shoulder.

“I think it really is, good job Daph. I’m so proud of you.”

“Woohoo! That’s my girl!” Shouted her dad into the sky. Well then, it was official. Daphne had found an ancient dinosaur fossil!

“Woah,” said Timothy. “This is so cool!” Daphne’s little sisters squealed and couldn’t stop dancing. They wrapped the fossil in a soft cloth and made their way back to where they had begun the search to wait for the shuttle to bring them back. The shuttle arrived before sundown and took them to the Search for Fossils Headquarters. They arrived early in the morning, and as soon as they stepped through the glass doors, the organizer of the competition, Ms Linda Sue greeted them warmly and congratulated them on their find. Ms Sue arranged for the family to rest in a small, comfortable room before the awards ceremony that was to take place later in the day. Everyone caught up on their sleep, having been awake for so long hunting for the fossils. But the afternoon came quickly and they had to get ready for the ceremony. They all dressed in their best clothing and left the room. They were greeted by a staff and led to a grand ballroom where the ceremony was being held. Not long after the ceremony began, Ms Sue called the Wang family to join her up on the stage. Then, they were presented with a large golden trophy and medals to each of them, which they wore proudly around their necks, even Robert. Lastly, Ms Sue handed her parents a thick envelope, stuffed with bank notes. It was their ten thousand dollars! We’re rich! Daphne fought every urge in her body to stop herself from screaming that out loud. Instead, she gave a big broad smile and pulled her family into a big group hug. A heart-melting ‘aww’ echoed through the room. As Daphne gazed down below, she saw a sea of smiling faces. Some were clapping, and some were cheering. There were so many people here, showing support to her and her family. She felt a wave of happiness wash through her. To Daphne, this trip was an unforgettable experience. Not only did her family earn ten thousand dollars, but she also learned to never give up and to always believe in herself. I will remember this day forever, she thought to herself.

# Feathers Across Time in China

*Creative Primary School, Chen, Yan Ying Abigail – 9*

One sunny day, a microraptor named Mike was gliding from tree to tree trying to catch a dragonfly for breakfast. The dragonfly zigged and zagged through the trees, but Mike used his large eyes and four wings, covered in glossy black feathers, to chase the dragonfly through the lush green forest. Suddenly, Mike crashed into a branch and everything began spinning faster and faster until it abruptly stopped. Mike slowly got up and looked around. He saw many trees surrounding him, but they were different from the Cycad and Araucaria trees he was used to seeing.

“Where am I? What happened?” Mike asked aloud.

Then, he heard a small rustling in the trees and out popped a brown feathery head with huge eyes that said, “You are in the forest of Liaoning, China.”

“No I’m not! I’m from Liaoning and this is not my home,” said Mike as he stared at this unusual looking creature. “What are you?”

“I am a Himalayan owl. You can call me Owlber. Who are you?”, said the creature.

“I am a microraptor, my name is Mike. I think I am lost. Can you help me find my way back home?”

“You are a dinosaur?! You should be extinct! How did you even get here?”

“What do you mean I’m extinct?! There are lots of microraptors where I live. I don’t even know how I got here. The only thing I remember is I was looking for breakfast when I bumped into a tree branch and then everything started spinning around. Next thing I know, I ended up here.”

“Interesting! It sounds like you fell into a portal that sent you into the future. If we can find the portal that you came through, then you should be able to get back to your home.”

“Wow! How do you know all that? Wait, what is a portal? How can I find the portal back home?”

“Well, I am an owl and we are very intelligent. For example, I know that microraptors like you lived during the early Cretaceous period, about 125 to 120 million years ago. I also know that microraptors belong to the theropod family of dinosaurs, which eventually evolved into birds like myself. As for your question about the portal, it is a magical doorway between worlds. Unfortunately, I don’t know where your portal is, but the Animal Squad can help you.”

“What’s the Animal Squad?”, Mike asked.

Before Mike could say another word, Owlber hooted a tune and three animals came running towards them. They stared at Mike and Mike stared back at them. “Animal Squad, this is Mike the microraptor. Mike, this is Tig the Siberian tiger, Pat the moonbear and Rose the red fox. Mike fell into a portal that sent him here from the Cretaceous period 125 million years ago and we need to help him get back home.”

“Welcome Mike! Don’t worry, we’ll work together to get you back home,” Tig said in a deep reassuring voice.

Pat approached next, his eyes warm and gentle. “We’re used to tackling tough challenges, you’re in good paws with us.”

Rose, her tail swishing with excitement, exclaimed, “Wow! A real dinosaur! This is so exciting! We have a nose for finding things. We’ll sniff out that portal in no time!”

Mike felt a wave of relief wash over him. "Thank you everyone," he said. "I don't know what I would have done without you."

With the introductions out of the way, Owlber flapped his wings to get everyone's attention. "Alright, team," he said, "let's find that portal!"

As they travelled through the dense forest, each member of the squad used their unique abilities to help. Owlber flew above, looking for anything unusual from the sky. Tig was fast and covered a lot of ground below to scout ahead, his agility allowing him to navigate the forest with ease. Pat used his immense strength to move fallen trees and large boulders out of the way, while Rose used her keen sense of smell to follow any unusual scents. Mike was in awe of his new friends. Despite their differences, they worked together seamlessly, filling him with a sense of admiration and hope.

Finally, after nearly an entire day of searching, Rose suddenly paused, her nose twitching excitedly. "I smell something strange, scents that I've never encountered before and don't belong to this forest," she exclaimed.

"Fan out and keep your eyes open for anything unusual! Portals can sometimes be hidden in plain sight," Owlber hooted.

"There!" Tig pointed at a faint shimmering between two branches of a tree that looked slightly out of focus.

Owlber flew up to take a closer look. As he approached, he could see that the air between the branches seemed to ripple like water and he could feel a slight pull towards it. "This is it!" exclaimed Owlber. "Mike, this is your ticket home."

Mike looked at his new friends with gratitude and a touch of sadness in his eyes. "I wish I could stay longer and get to know each of you better."

Pat placed a reassuring paw on Mike's shoulder. "We'll miss you, Mike. But you belong in your own time. Take care and safe travels." Pat gently lifted Mike onto his back and started climbing up the tree.

When they reached the top, Mike took one last look at his new friends and said, "I'll never forget you and the friendship you've shown me." With a wave, Mike stepped through the portal and in an instant, he was transported back to the familiar sights, sounds and smells of Liaoning China 125 million years ago.

From that day on, Mike never forgot the lesson he learned from the Animal Squad. He knew that no matter what challenges he faced, with teamwork and friendship, he could overcome anything. And in his heart, he carried the memory of Tig, Pat, Rose, and Owlber, the friends who helped him find his way back home.

# Echoes of the Past: Embarking on the Journey with Fossilized Dinosaurs to Save the Future

*Creative Primary School, Cheung, King Ki Michael – 10*

In the year 2024, scientists predicted a major catastrophe threatening Earth's survival: an imminent apocalypse resulting from environmental damage. Paleontologist Michael Cheung and AI scientist Cecilia Cheung, both renowned for their expertise, were given a crucial mission by the Chinese government. Together, they were chosen to lead a team of fossilized and resurrected dinosaurs on a daring expedition back to the age of dinosaurs—a time long before the destructive influence of mankind. Their objective was clear: to uncover answers and solutions that could help prevent the impending crisis. Michael, with his deep understanding of ancient creatures, would serve as their guide through the prehistoric landscape, while Cecilia, armed with her technological expertise, would decipher the mysteries of the past with the help of Tea Egg, their AI companion. This bold plan, born from both desperation and hope, was driven by the belief that the key to Earth's salvation lay buried in the ancient past.

To form the best team for the expedition, Michael and Cecilia meticulously selected the fossilized dinosaurs based on their unique attributes and the specific challenges they would encounter. They analyzed the environments of each era they planned to visit, carefully considering the skills essential for their mission. Sinosauropteryx (Sino), hailing from Chaoyang City in Liaoning Province, was chosen for its remarkable speed and agility, making it the ideal scout to navigate dense vegetation. Huayangosaurus (HY) from Huayang City in Sichuan Province was selected for its formidable armor, ensuring the team's safety in a potentially hostile environment. Tsintaosaurus (Tsintao), from Qingdao City in Shandong Province, was picked for its distinctive crest, which would facilitate communication among species. Hamipterus (Hami), originating from Hami City in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, was included for its aerial perspective, providing crucial reconnaissance from above. Lastly, Shunosaurus (Shu), from Zigong City in Sichuan Province, was selected for its strength and size, capable of foraging for food and clearing paths. Together, these carefully chosen prehistoric companions formed a diverse and capable team, united by their shared mission to save the world.

On the eve of their departure, the team gathered in the dimly lit office of the dinosaur fossil laboratory. Accompanying Michael and Cecilia were Tea Egg, the reliable AI assistant, and the five fossilized prehistoric creatures: Sino, HY, Tsintao, Hami, and Shu. Standing together, the atmosphere was charged with anticipation as team leader Michael began the expedition briefing.

"Our adventure will start in the Early Cretaceous period, around 130 million years ago, when Sino and his companions roamed the Earth. Our goal is to uncover the reasons behind Sinosauropteryx's extinction, which may provide critical insights into how environmental changes can lead to a species decline. By understanding these ancient ecosystems, we can better protect our own."

He continued, "Next, we'll travel to the Late Jurassic period, approximately 160 to 155 million years ago, to meet HY's friends, the Huayangosaurus. We'll investigate its life and habitat to understand its ecological significance during that time, focusing on how it interacted with its environment and contributed to the ecosystem's balance. This knowledge could inform our efforts in habitat conservation today."

"Moving on," Michael added, "we'll jump to the Late Cretaceous period, around 75 million years ago, where Tsintaosaurus awaits us. Our mission there is to decode its communication methods and social structures, shedding light on how this species interacted within its community. Understanding these dynamics can help us foster better coexistence among species today, emphasizing the importance of communication in maintaining ecological harmony."

"After that," he explained, "we'll return to the Late Jurassic, around 160 to 155 million years ago, to encounter Hamipterus. We'll study its aerial abilities and feeding habits to learn how it thrived in its environment. By examining how these ancient creatures adapted, we can formulate strategies for enhancing biodiversity and resilience in our current ecosystems."

Concluding, Michael stated, "We'll wrap up our journey in the Middle Jurassic period, approximately 170 to 165 million years ago, where we'll engage with Shunosaurus. Our focus will be on deciphering its feeding behaviors and movement patterns, gaining insights into the life of this herbivore during that era. This knowledge will be vital as we consider how to restore and protect the habitats of herbivores today. Team, let's gear up for an extraordinary adventure into the past, one that could illuminate paths toward a sustainable future!"

"Yeah, let's do it!" cheered the team.

In the final hours before their departure, the team huddled together, discussing their strategy and the roles each member would play in this unprecedented adventure.

**Michael:** "Sino, you'll be our scout. Your speed and agility are crucial. Dart through the dense foliage and alert us to any dangers."

**Sino:** "Understood, Michael. I'll keep a sharp eye out and be ready to move quickly."

**Cecilia:** "HY, your armor is our shield. We need your protection."

**HY:** "I'm ready. My armor will guard the team against harm."

**Michael:** "Tsintao, your ornamental crest will be key. Communicate with us, bridging the gap between species."

**Tsintao:** "I will use my signals and calls to keep us connected."

**Cecilia:** "Hami, your aerial view is invaluable. Keep watch from above and provide support."

**Hami:** "I'll soar high to ensure our surroundings are clear."

**Michael:** "Shu, your strength is vital. Forage for food and clear our path with your powerful tail."

**Shu:** "I'll use my abilities to secure sustenance and pave the way ahead."

With final nods and words of encouragement, Michael, Cecilia, Tea Egg and the dinosaurs stood ready, eyes fixed on the shimmering portal of the time shuttle. Together, they would embark on a journey of discovery and courage to save Earth from impending doom. As the countdown began and the portal hummed with energy, the team took a deep breath, steeling themselves for the adventure ahead. With determination, they stepped into the unknown, their destinies intertwined as they hurtled back through time toward a world of ancient wonders and dangers, united in their quest to change history and secure a future for all life on Earth.

# The Secret of Dinosaurs

*Creative Primary School, Li, Sing Hei Cyrus – 10*

Yesterday, the 8th of February, 2032, a new species of dinosaurs was just discovered in the Jiangxi Dinosaur Fossils Discovery Centre. Scientists in China are investigating this new species to confirm whether this is a real fossil. Alexander Einstein, a sixteen-year-old boy who is the descendant of Albert Einstein, was determined and eager to find out the truth about dinosaurs and how they died. He is currently in Jiangxi investigating about dinosaurs. He has investigated dinosaurs in every country in the world except yet for China so he is driving to the Jiangxi Dinosaur Fossils Discovery Centre with his parents, Thomas Einstein and Emily Einstein who are both famous dinosaur researchers. Alexander is making quite a name for himself as well.

When Alexander arrived at the Jiangxi Dinosaur Fossils Discovery Centre, the place was packed with people who all wanted to see the new dinosaur species fossils. The queue was extremely long. Luckily, since Alexander's parents were famous dinosaur researchers, they had the privilege of getting into the fossil area directly without the need of queuing.

After they entered the site, Alexander took notes on the new species of dinosaurs at different area while his parents were taking photos and analysing the fossils. Alexander finished his work very soon and decided to walk around after he knew that his parents were still working. At the far end of the site, he found some unusual things. There were human-like bones near the dinosaur fossils. There were thick ropes on the neck of some dinosaur fossils. There were even gigantic feeding bowls and loading trucks. The only explanation that Alexander could think of was that dinosaurs were once raised by humans and were used for transportation and delivery!

Alexander was excited, but he tried to calm himself down. At that time, Alexander saw a cave near him. He decided to enter into the cave and continue his adventure. At the end of the cave, he saw that there were paintings on the rocks which showed that dinosaurs were once used by humans as weapons during wars, and if someone was found guilty, his head would be bitten off by a dinosaur in an execution.

The above observations shocked Alexander thoroughly. Alexander thought that either the world is hiding dinosaur information, history isn't accurate or maybe this is a movie shooting area for a movie about dinosaurs. Alexander thought he should talk to his parents about these observations. If the above is true, this led to a big problem because human beings might have appeared and lived on Earth much earlier than we realised! Alexander rushed to his parents and told them about the recent discovery he just discovered. Alexander asked for help from his parents to analyse some data to confirm whether humans appeared on the Earth way before Adam and Eve, whom we believed were the first two people on Earth.

His parents were confused when Alexander told them his discovery. However, Alexander's parents said that they would analyse the data at the laboratory when they got back home and, in parallel, discuss and study this discovery with experienced anthropologists.

When Alexander and his parents got back home, they rushed to the laboratory to analyse the data to confirm whether Alexander's discovery is true. It had been an hour since Alexander and his parents started analysing his discovery about the dinosaurs. Alexander was getting impatient as he wanted to confirm his discovery and observations as soon as possible. However, Alexander and his parents realised that they did not have sufficient information to analyse the data. Accordingly, they decided to seek assistance from a close friend of Alexander's mom, Amy Newton, who lived in Jiangxi and who was an experienced anthropologist and knew a lot about dinosaurs ever since she studied about dinosaurs in Harvard.

Alexander's mum contacted Amy and told her what Alexander had discovered at the Jiangxi Dinosaur Fossils Discovery Centre. Amy was shocked and excited, and replied that she was happy to help and invited Alexander and his parents to go to her house and assist with the research. After Alexander greeted Amy when he and his parents arrived at her house, he immediately shared his discovery with her.

Surprisingly, Amy admitted that what Alexander told her was actually true! She said that the Government had known this fact for a long time but had decided not to disclose it to the public because this would overturn the history of humans completely. Amy explained that she previously worked for the Government and that's how she knew the truth. Alexander told Amy that he decided to publish a book to uncover the truth of the dinosaurs to the public. Amy did not stop Alexander because she knew that, with the recent discovery at the Jiangxi Dinosaur Fossils Discovery Centre, the Government could no longer hide these facts.

Alexander understood that he did not have adequate knowledge and experience to write a book on his own, so he approached his parents and sought their assistance. His parents supported him and agreed to help. In his book, Alexander criticized the history of humans and dinosaurs presented by anthropologists and archaeologists. He disclosed that humans actually appeared and lived on Earth longer than we thought and how they lived with dinosaurs. Human beings actually tamed dinosaurs as pets, and used them for transportation and delivery, and even as weapons during war and for execution of criminals. With his parent's assistance, Alexander finished the book in 2 months. He named his book "The Secret of Dinosaurs".

Alexander's book was sold in every bookstore in China. The book was so popular that it was sold out in less than an hour! Alexander was very excited and decided to translate his book into different languages so that everyone in the world could also know about the secret of the dinosaurs!

# The Escape of a Titanosaurus

*Creative Primary School, Wong, Yik Ting Charlie – 10*

One sunny morning in Jiangxi, China, Carter the Titanosaurus was engaged with a game of stick chess (It was a normal game of chess but played with sticks, because chess pieces weren't invented yet back in the era of the dinosaurs) with his Gobisaurus buddy, Ralph. It was Carter's turn. He was about to move his Queen to checkmate Ralph's King. "That's a draw!" Ralph snickered.

When suddenly, the earth beneath them shook. All the chess pieces fell off the board. "Oh gosh, EARTHQUAKE! Okay, let's calm down. We are Chinese dinosaurs, we are fearless... Oh no, change of mind. RUN!!!" But it was not any kind of earthquake, it was an Alectrosaurus, Horace himself, the greatest fear of all dinosaurs (well... except Tyrannosauruses), and it was hungry. It would do anything to capture its prey. It would not stop until it had eaten you up, and it was guaranteed that it would swallow you whole in one big gulp in less than two seconds.

So, they did exactly what Ralph suggested. They ran away as fast as their legs could carry them. However, Horace was way speedier and was catching up. He would reach them in a matter of seconds. To make matters worse, Ralph tripped over his own King (Not one of the Tyrant Kings), and fell onto the ground, his face planted in the dirt.

Carter hid behind a Cypress tree, and Horace barrowed past him. Suddenly, an idea struck Carter. He dragged Ralph to the feet of the cypress tree and whistled for his pet Alligator, Doren to come help him. Carter whispered to Doren, and then they went to work. Together, Carter and Doren chopped down the cypress tree and laid it on Horace's path. Horace sniffed the air and turned back, charging straight at them at full speed. Carter and Doren quickly covered the tree with twigs and branches to hide it, and then stood behind the tree, waiting for Horace to trip over the hidden tree.

When Horace came to the tree, he simply jumped over the great cypress tree and lunged at Doren to try to eat him up, but Doren held his ground and bared his long sharp fangs and snapped his enormous mouth at Horace. What a shame that Doren's mouth wasn't big enough, or Doren could have bit off a piece of Horace's neck. Doren's front teeth sank into Horace's eye, drawing blood. Horace howled in pain, and then he swiped his front paw at Doren's face. But Doren saw the attack and dodged it just in time.

At the same moment, Horace kicked Doren in the stomach. Doren doubled over in agony. By then, Ralph woke up, and Carter had climbed up an apple tree. Horace was too busy trying to strangle Doren that he didn't notice. Then, Doren went limp. "You're next," Horace said in triumph, "But I have the high ground." Carter smiled and began to throw apples at Horace's head, Horace collapsed under the weight of so many apples.

Then, Carter got down from the tree to check Doren's pulse. Doren's pulse was getting fainter. His eyes flickered, and then he shut them. "Avenge me," Doren whispered with his last breath. Carter howled in grief, tears stinging his eyes. Carter found the sharpest branch in the forest and stabbed Horace again and again until he was satisfied.

Days later, he had a memorial for Doren, his pet Alligator, Savior of Carter and Ralph, so that his memory will never be forgotten. But what about the Horace? Well... his body was given to the birds to prey on. But finally, a group of archaeologists in China found his colossal skeleton and put it in the museum. So, if you see a gigantic Alectrosaurus with holes on his bones in a China Museum, it might be Horace the Alectrosaurus, the one who got stabbed with a stick by a mighty titanosaurus named Carter

# Mandy the Stegosaurus

*Creative Primary School, Zhang, Anzuo – 11*

Long before humans appeared, there was a giant egg. The egg had waited thousands of years for the perfect time to crack, and finally, with a “crack” and a “pop”, the egg burst open and out came a dinosaur. After that, lots of dinosaurs started to hatch continuously all over the world. The dinosaurs lived for millions of years until meteors from outer space crashed down to Earth, which made them extinct.

Now, their fossils have become a study for palaeontologists to inquire, among them, was a young palaeontologist called Peter Xu. He was the descendant of the famous Chinese palaeontologist in the past, Xu Xing. He was deeply interested in dinosaurs and had always hoped to see a real, live one.

His best friend, Jack, decided to make Peter’s dream come true. He had just invented the time machine, which has not been tested yet, so it was kept as a secret. He proposed to Peter, “Hey, how about trying out my time machine? We can visit those dinosaurs.” Peter soon agreed to the idea, ignoring the possibility of danger of the untested time machine.

The two climbed into the machine, which was ten metres tall. Peter never understood why the machine was so tall but he never asked. Jack shouted, “243 million years ago! To Chongqing in China!” He pushed a level and pressed some buttons. There was a countdown. ‘Five, four, three, two, one.’ The machine took off. The experiment room was whirling around and twisted into tiny tornadoes. The whole world seemed to spin and disappear. Flashes of the old days swirled around them. Finally, everything stopped and the machine dropped onto the ground with a giant crash. Jack and Peter were dizzy after the exciting but terrifying ride.

When they stepped onto the dusty grounds, they found a wide variety of dinosaurs ruling the land. Peter ran around in delight, but quickly dived back into the time machine when he saw an enormous and fierce T-Rex. After taking notes and pictures, they hurriedly started the time machine and returned to modern world. Little did they know, a baby stegosaurus had followed them back into the machine.

Jack found a baby dinosaur came back with them, and they decided to send her back. However, their time machine broke down and didn’t look good. Jack said fixing the problem might take some time, so they will have to keep the baby stegosaurus for a while.

Peter stared at the tiny baby. When he finally knew everything wasn’t a dream, he excitedly said, “Let’s call her Mandy. It is a nice name for a cute dinosaur.”

They kept Mandy in their little house for a fortnight, however, a problem occurred.

Mandy was growing bigger and bigger each day, and soon, the house would not fit her enormous body. People in the neighbourhood found out that there was a dinosaur in their house. Adults and the elderly screamed and hurried away, but the children’s laughter, Peter and Jack were very worried. Although Mandy has been a great help to Peter, to the other palaeontologists and explorers, he didn’t know how to train her. Mandy always stomped around the house, which made lots of noise and broken furniture. She also stomped on the neighbour’s petunias. People wanted Peter to get Mandy away, as she was giving them so much trouble. Peter always pestered childishly around Jack, trying to get him to fix the time machine as fast as possible. With such a crazy partner beside home, it was hard for Jack to concentrate and find out the problems, along with broken bits of the machine.

One day, the two were shopping for Mandy's meals when they saw a big poster, 'Dinosaur World! New movie! Welcome to the grand audition! Actors, actresses, and a dinosaur if there is one!' People would think the last sentence was a joke, but the friends did not think so. They thought it was the best chance to keep Mandy away for a while, making more time to fix the time machine.

They raced back home and brought Mandy out with a long string. They walked Mandy to the little theatre where the audition was held. People who tried out for the show screamed at the sight of her. The director exclaimed, "Oh my! A real dinosaur!" Peter and Jack walked Mandy straight towards the director. They told her that they wanted Mandy to try out for the dinosaur character, and that she is a stegosaurus which doesn't eat humans. They cleverly left out the fact that she was not trained, so Mandy easily became a part of the movie, but it was clear that many actors and actresses did not agree.

Afterwards, things went smoothly. Jack found out that the engine and battery were causing the issue and he instantly fixed the problems. However, things were not so good at the theatre. Since Mandy was a dinosaur, the director had trouble training her. She brought Mandy back and told the friends she would no longer use her. She was sorry that Mandy could not be part of the movie and that AI was a better and safer option.

The friends celebrated with a single clap. After they brought her and the time machine into the yard, Peter found out that Mandy fits right into the machine, not too tall, not too short. Peter looked surprisingly at Jack. Jack looked back at him with a smile. "See? The time machine is perfect! I have told you it is built for emergencies!"

They walked into the machine, closed the door and started its engines. Off they went! They brought Mandy back to her normal habitat. In the end, Mandy was a normal stegosaurus again. Peter and Jack got an award given by the Queen, which was for their daring invention.

# The Mistake

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Chan, Craig Dipan – 11*

“RRRRRRRRRRRR!” the machines roared to life, devouring the soil for the Kings of The Earth.

The digging machine worked tirelessly, searching for “treasure” bones that once belonged to these ferocious creatures – dinosaurs.

“What is that!” a scientist exclaimed as he saw a dinosaur bone in the ground.

The team of palaeontologists had been working for weeks trying to find dinosaur bones, and now they had finally succeeded. A huge complete dinosaur skeleton was deeply embedded in the granite rock. The fifty-foot-long skeleton was a masterpiece but the main question was, how would they remove it? The excavation cost was very high and there was no room for mistakes. The dinosaur fossil was so delicate that the palaeontologists had to carefully remove the bones piece by piece.

A few days later, the scientists had successfully excavated the fossils to their laboratory. The news shocked the world. Thousands of people came to see the dinosaur fossils and learn about its DNA. However, soon the palaeontologists grew bored.

“What is the purpose of having dinosaur DNA if you cannot bring them back to life?” the palaeontologists declared.

Therefore, they relentlessly extracted the DNA, putting it into machines that would create dinosaur eggs. Until one day, five dinosaur eggs were created. The palaeontologists admired their invention but they could not do so for long.

The Chinese government had asked the Head of Palaeontologists to give the eggs to them. They planned to create a sanctuary for the dinosaurs at the national zoo so that visitors could admire the gigantic creatures.

They reassured the Palaeontologists that they would use bulletproof glass to ensure that the dinosaurs would not be able to escape from the sanctuary. Little did they know, their plan would fail.

During the opening of the dinosaur sanctuary, a huge crowd of people were eagerly waiting to enter the national zoo. There was loud chatter about how the dinosaurs might look from the people in the line.

The minute the gate to the zoo opened, the people rushed in. Pushing and shoving, they wanted to be the first ones in the dinosaur sanctuary.

“Wow!” A boy exclaimed in awe.

Towering above the crowd were six large T-Rexes. Onlookers were gaping at the dinosaurs as the dinosaurs bit and pushed each other in a battle for space with manic fury in their eyes. Despite the expanse of the enclosure, it was not enough to meet the T-Rexes' bossy demands.

A deafening roar pierced through the air. Suddenly, one of the T-Rexes headbutted the bulletproof glass which upon contact shattered into a million tiny pieces. Terrified, a shrill scream pierced through the air as people dashed towards the exit. A short while later, the headline “Breaking news – Dinosaurs escaped from zoo” filled every television screen in the world.

“Five dinosaurs are rampaging through China.” The news anchor reported, “Palaeontologists have informed us that this new species of dinosaur has immense strength. They were able to break through the bulletproof glass of their sanctuary in the national zoo! Now, they are terrorising the country. The government encourages citizens to seek safety in underground locations such as subways, parking lots, and their home basements if they have one.”

But hope was not lost...

Next to the city, there was a desert where a small family lived. They were known as the ‘The Dinosaur Whisperers’. According to a legend, the ancestors of this family were believed to have been able to talk to dinosaurs and identify their feelings.

Deep in the desert, a small girl with two buckets full of fresh water in her hands, was trekking towards a vague outline of a tiny rusty hut. Panting, her face was beaded with droplets; the salty taste of sweat lingered on her tongue.

“Mei, where are you?” a sharp voice pierced through the silence.

“Mum, I’m here!” the small girl replied.

Speedily, Mei charged through the door of the tiny, rusty hut and found her mother waiting for her at the kitchen table. As she was putting the buckets onto the floor, her ears suddenly perked up.

“Mum! I heard something.” Mei exclaimed.

“What do you hear?” Her mother asked. Quickly, Mei told her that she could hear an angry cry. Without bidding farewell, Mei dashed out of her house and ran as fast as she could towards the city. Utterly dumbfounded, her mother’s jaw gaped open as she watched her daughter sped away into the plains of the desert.

Meanwhile, the dinosaurs were causing chaos in the city, destroying everything in their paths. A few kilometres away, from the barren desert, Mei was charging towards them. However, as she was closing in on the city, a horrible sight caught her eye. A vast number of soldiers heavily armed with weapons were advancing quickly on the dinosaurs. Thunderous roars could be heard as bullets rocketed off the thick skin of the dinosaurs.

Yeow! Suddenly, a loud sound made her duck down. A fighter plane flew past her before rising in the air and dropping what looked like a small, pointed barrel. Watching the barrel, she realised it was a missile! It whizzed towards the dinosaur before exploding in the T-Rex’s face. The T-Rex swayed unsteadily as a huge cloud of smoke engulfed it.

Realisation hit her like a twenty-pound sledgehammer – the humans were trying to kill the dinosaurs! Luckily, she knew exactly what to do.

“EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!” She let out a high-pitched scream that was the dinosaur’s signal for peace.

Everybody froze and turned to look at her. Not wanting to give up, she took a deep breath and let out an even higher-pitched sound that only the dinosaurs could hear. They cocked their heads towards the sky and made a shrill sound that Mei understood.

It was the promise to retreat.

As the dinosaurs slowly began to trek across the city and into the desert, Mei and the citizens of China hoped for peace between the dinosaurs and the people.

# The Sinosauropteryx Problem in Sinosauropteryx City

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Chan, Pak Yu Aden – 11*

Once upon a time, there were twins named Olympus and Olivia. They originally lived in Hong Kong, but they moved to Sinosauropteryx City a day prior. The following day, they were planning to go to Sinosauropteryx Museum to learn about the city, which is in Liaoning Province.

The next day, they arrived at the museum. They got their tickets for admission, then they went in. But even God wouldn't know what their fate would be....

Inside, they saw a scientist. He was dashing around madly, pulling potions out of his pockets, and he had crazy hair that made him look like he had got an electric shock. He suddenly whisked a flask out of his pocket, and poured it onto the dinosaur closest to him. It was a Sinosauropteryx that he poured the "Life Potion" on. Next, he poured the "Growth Potion x 1 hundred" on it too. The mad scientist then attached a controlling collar. There were words on the collar. It read, "***Sinosauropteryx Hyperkiller***". A second later, ***Hyperkiller*** sprang to life, grew to 1 billion times its normal size and took off.

The ***Hyperkiller*** was now controlled by the mad scientist. ***Hyperkiller*** was trying to break the roof, and after a few seconds, the massive dinosaur succeeded. ***Hyperkiller***'s next order was to kill everyone in the museum. While the enormous dinosaur was distracted, skilled Olympus and Olivia started to find a way to disable it, or at least, return it back to normal.

Olivia first distracted the slow but gigantic ***Hyperkiller***. It notices Olivia and charges at her. Olivia ducks out of the way just in the nick of time as its legs smash into the fifth floor. The sequence repeats until it loses its power and the collar's light dims into nothing. At that time, the controller of the mad scientist flashes red. He quickly runs towards ***Hyperkiller***, but it's too late. Olympus grabs the black collar, breaks the connecting clip holding it in place, swings it around like a lasso, and throws it on the ground, smashing it into pieces. Olympus then steals a "Reverse all effects" potion from the mad scientist, and pours it on ***Hyperkiller***. It immediately reversed all effects, and it became back to normal.

The twins took the matters into their own hands. They capture the mad scientist and hand him over to the police. Then, they restore the museum's dinosaurs. Finally, they donate money to the Sinosauropteryx Museum Organization to make the roof again.

At last, they go home thinking about what they had just done. They really need some rest. Let us leave our heroes to their sleep.

# Discovery of the Dinosaur

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Chew, Chin Chun – 11*

“New species of *Dinosaur* said to be found in Beijing!” The headlines of the newspaper read. This caught the attention of Dr. Oscar, a junior palaeontologist. He kept reading it with the speed of a race car. Rumor said that part of a new fossil had been found by some farmers when they were harvesting crops in Beijing, China, but it might be a hoax. Even the reporters didn’t know for sure.

“I must go there and discover the fossil right now before others do the same!” Oscar exclaimed to himself, curiosity taking over him.

Therefore, he immediately packed his things into a small bag, booked a last-minute ticket to Beijing, and headed off. After a few hours, he finally arrived at his destination. He took a taxi to the specific place of the fossil that was written on the newspaper and grabbed his tool box.

A few nearby scientists saw what he was doing and volunteered to give him a hand. Oscar agreed sincerely and they started working. For hours they dug and dug, not even concentrating on doing it properly, simply lifting the pickaxes up, and then bringing it down.

Oscar panted, “Does... does anyone see it yet...?” for what was like the millionth time.

The scientists all shook their heads, then flinched, like they were so exhausted that simply shaking their heads was painful.

“Oh...” Oscar sighed, shaking his head and pulling a long face, and kept mining.

When they were starting to lose hope and his confidence faltered, wanting to give up, he saw something out of the corner of eye. It was glimmering in the soil. Oscar felt a hint of hope and ran to the soil and used his fingers to retrieve it carefully. What he saw made him gasp. It was indeed a fossil bone, but what’s more, there were some glimmering dots on the bone.

“What’s that?” Oscar thought, inspecting it with curiosity.

The other scientists came here and gasped too. As if on cue, they started mining around the bone with renewed energy, adrenaline rushing into their bodies. After they successfully discovered the whole fossil, they brought it back to a nearby laboratory piece by piece. For days, they used machines to try to find the reason for the glimmering dots, but with no success.

Finally, one day a scientist exclaimed “Aha! I know it! I finally know it!” The other scientists rushed towards him. “It’s because there is a chameleon’s DNA on the bone. So that makes the bone sparkle! I think the dinosaur can change colors according to its surroundings, just like a chameleon! For some reason, its glimmering scales still remain on the bone as they are made of a material called *unfadingstone*. It never fades, even for hundreds of millions of years.” He explained.

“Good job, Tom!” Oscar praised him, high-fiving him. “We can announce this new discovery to the news, so more people can know about it! Let’s name it NEONDON as it can glow.” Little did they know, this would not end up well...

“Arrggghh! I want to be the one to find this discovery!” Dr. Henry shrieked, hiding behind a garbage can in Oscar’s laboratory and overhearing them. He was Oscar’s former mentor. After seeing the headlines in the newspaper previously, he made up his mind to go there, too. However, Oscar had beaten him to it. Now, he was seeking revenge.

That night, Dr. Henry followed Oscar to his hotel sneakily while Oscar was humming happily to himself, without a care in the world, but that would change. When they were in his room, he suddenly grabbed Oscar roughly and pinned him to the floor. Oscar screamed, his heart was in his mouth.

“Why are you here?” Oscar shrieked.

“Cuz’ I wanna be the one who found the discovery, and *you* will let me,” He said casually, and pulled a small hand knife from his utility belt.

“Why?” Oscar stammered.

“I am the greatest paleontologist in history ! Now I am defeated by a pathetic noob like you! How embarrassing is that?”

His words stung like the icy wind hitting you in winter. It was like being stabbed by the knife already, even though it wasn’t. However, suddenly, a brilliant idea popped into his mind. “Light bulb,” he murmured. “ I have an idea! I can share some of my credits with you! I can tell the reporters that without your good teaching, I will not be able to discover the fossil! You can even visit my private dinosaur museum containing the fossil free!” Dr. Henry hesitated, and thought for a while, but nodded finally. Oscar sighed in relief, his persuading words having saved his life. It was like a huge burden being lifted off his shoulders.

The following week, the news was released, and everyone was shocked, their jaw dropping. Oscar, the scientists and Dr. Henry received an equal amount of praise, which made Dr. Henry satisfied. Dr. Henry walked towards him and stammered, “ Sorry...sorry for threatening you like that before. I won’t do it again... please forgive me! I won’t do it again! I beg you!” He kneeled down in front of Oscar’s feet.

Oscar was at a loss for words, which was very rare. “ Um... it’s okay... now, don’t make a show in front of me,” He said.

“Thank you!” he replied, full of emotion, touched by Oscar’s mercy and forgiveness.

After this adventure, both of them learnt something precious. Oscar learnt that in order to succeed, we needed to take risks; Dr. Henry learnt that one could not be the best forever, and sometimes people could be better than you, so don't always be over competitive and let others do what they want to do, or else our world will not improve.

# A Friendship Across Time

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Hung, Nab Yeung – 10*

"I'm starving, Mom! Can I buy some sandwiches?"

"Sure, just come back quickly!"

In the middle of the town stood a lonely store. Xiao Min went in and spotted the sandwiches he needed. Just when he was paying for the sandwiches, a round, rainbow-sparkling, mysterious button caught his eyes. "What is this? What will happen when I press it?" he asked the shopkeeper.

"Why don't you figure it out yourself?" replied the kind shopkeeper.

Xiao Min already forgot about the sandwiches, put them down, and bought the mysterious button. Curious, he tried rubbing it, and suddenly, in a streak of bright light, he vanished into thin air.

"Where am I?" The hot, dry air felt like the desert, but he found humongous trees, flowers he had never seen before, and leaves covering the whole place. The green, fresh grass-scented air filled the whole forest. He found some blue flowers with a weird scent, which often opened and closed their petals. A flying spider flew near one, and the flower stretched its tentacles and ate it horrifyingly. Xiao Min saw it and ran further into the woods, terrified. Suddenly, he heard a tweeting chirp.

He heard a gentle thud. The air suddenly became cold, and he shivered. He felt unsafe and in danger. "I shouldn't be here; something is going on..." he thought. Suddenly, a dinosaur appeared right in front of him. The dinosaur had been stalking him all the time and finally revealed its true identity. He observed the dinosaur's characteristics: its glossy, dark scales glistened in the dappled forest light. The dinosaur's eyes were black as voids in space. It was a Microraptor!

The Microraptor, sensing Xiao Min's fear, took a step back, its tail twitching. Xiao Min, still in shock, tried to process what was happening. One moment he was buying sandwiches, and the next, he was in a prehistoric forest, face to face with a dinosaur!

Suddenly, a crimson, scarlet light appeared brightly above the calm, peaceful forest. The ground shook violently, and glass shattering earthquakes started. The royal, navy-blue sky became gloomy and filled with large, dark clouds. Xiao Min tried to look at what was happening, but the red-orange object was blinding. He saw tails following the object, but it was unclear to him what it was.

At that moment, thunder sounded, and lightning followed. It was deafening, and dinosaurs scattered all across the place. Xiao Min was confused; he didn't understand a bit. "What happened?" he thought wildly. At present, the Microraptor spoke, "Sit on my back, Xiao Min! This is dangerous!" Xiao Min had his mouth open wide, "Wait, you... Can you talk? Is this a dream or what?" The Microraptor pinched Xiao Min. "Ow! What was that for?" Xiao Min screamed in pain. "Now you know you aren't," the Microraptor said with a grin. "Hold on tight!" Xiao Min did as he was told. He tried to get a good look at what the mysterious object was, and his heartbeat stopped. It was the asteroid that wiped out every dinosaur.

"What is your plan?" Xiao Min asked in hesitation. "The best way is to go to the ocean as it is getting hotter and hotter right now." It was true. He had learned in his history lesson that the asteroid was more than ten thousand degrees Celsius.

Just as Xiao Min was thinking about how to get back home, SPLASH! They landed just above the clear, refreshing, cold water. "I think we'd better stay here and wait and see," the Microraptor commented. Xiao Min was afraid of the asteroid and thought about how to get back home. As he watched the asteroid come closer and closer,

he felt the air fill with nervousness. It was intense, even frightening the Microraptor. His little legs were shaking, and he muttered, "Think! Think!" as he repeated it at least one hundred times.

Suddenly, he thought of what the shopkeeper told him, "Why don't you figure it out yourself?" He noticed that if he pressed the button again, it would teleport him right to his house. "Here, hold my hand!" Xiao Min shouted, using most of the energy he had.

"You've got to trust me!"

"I trust you!" the Microraptor said.

Xiao Min teleported to his house. He opened his eyes to find a whole, uncracked fossil lying in his hands. "No! Please come alive, Microraptor!" Xiao Min sobbed between thoughts. The dinosaur was so old that it had become a fossil. Through many challenges with the little, cute dinosaur, Xiao Min was in tears when he saw it. Nobody even knew that he had one, but it was his most prized treasure.

# The Room

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Ip, Hin Wang Mason – 10*

“Hooray! We are finally going to Liaoning!” yelled Xian Qin. It was a long-awaited summer holiday and Xian Qin managed to convince his parents to bring him to China to visit his uncle who was a palaeontologist working in the Liaoning province of China.

“Don’t get over excited, Xian Qin,” his dad said. “I know you are very fond of dinosaurs so that is why we are visiting Liaoning, where many extraordinary fossil sites have been discovered. Let’s see if Uncle Hu can bring us to explore some of them”

Excitedly, they boarded the plane. After a few hours, they landed at this remarkable province, a dream place for palaeologists. The next day, Xian Qin met up with Uncle Hu and went to the Palaeontological Museum of Liaoning. The museum was gigantic and remarkably designed like a big dinosaur. There were a lot of exhibits inside. Xian Qin was astounded by the variety of fossils and species uniquely found in China such as *Sinosauropteryx*, the small bird-like dinosaurs which lived in the early Cretaceous period.

While Xian Qin was wandering in the museum, he somehow reached the end of a corridor where there was a room. “DO NOT ENTER. STAFF ONLY”, Xian Qin read out the warning label on the door. Out of curiosity, Xian Qin walked towards it and tried to open the door. Surprisingly, it was not locked. Xian Qin pushed it slowly and carefully with his trembling hand. As he walked inside the room, a gigantic pterosaur model caught his eyes. It was a huge skeleton about five meters wide and hung in the middle of the room by a rope from the ceiling. He couldn’t take his eyes off the model.

Gazing down, he noticed a book placed on the shelf under the enormous model. The book’s cover was full of dust. Xian Qin thought it was quite ancient and decided to check it out. One by one, Xian Qin flipped through the pages meticulously. He was totally fascinated by the content which was all about prehistoric animals. When flipping through one of the pages, there was a blank page with only two rows of Chinese sentences. They looked like a spell. Just for fun, he read the spell out loud.

As he just finished the last word of the spell, the pterosaur glowed in white, flapped its wings, breaking the rope and wanted to fly up! Flabbergasted, Xian Qin knelt on the ground. Looking up, a portal opened on the ceiling and sucked Xian Qin in. “Uh.... Where am I?” Xian Qin thought as he was lying on the ground in a mysterious place. He looked up and saw the portal that brought him there disappear.

What Xian Qin saw was as pretty as a picture. Magnificent mountains, colossal trees and splendid flowers all came into view. They all together formed a gorgeous picture. What’s more was that they were harmoniously reflected on a shimmering lake. The mirroring effect was just stunning. In such a masterpiece habitat which only God could create, *Beipiaosaurus* were sprinting around playing hide and seek, massive *Mamenchisaurus* were sXian Qinpings to find tall trees to eat from and flocks of pterosaurs were soaring through the sky. Xian Qin was totally amazed. This place was like a dream to Xian Qin. He thought a place like this was only real in books and movies. He loved this place so much and decided to explore this wonderland.

While he was wandering around, a small duck sized creature jumped out in front of him. It looked like a big lizard with short limbs, long legs and a long tail. “Isn’t that a *Sinosauropteryx*?” he exclaimed. The *Sinosauropteryx* approached Xian Qin curiously. Since this little bird-like creature looked so friendly and cute, Xian Qin patted its head affectionately. It was a joyful and exciting moment for Xian Qin. He would never forget this surprising and special encounter.

Suddenly, THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! A *Yutyrannus*, with its big mouth widely open, running towards them. “OH, NO!” Xian Qin cried. “A *Yutyrannus* is a giant carnivorous dinosaur that eats everything smaller than it!” Xian Qin was scared to death. He quickly grabbed the *Sinosauropteryx*, held it in his hands and ran away as fast as he could. However, no matter how fast he ran, the *Yutyrannus* would always catch up. Xian Qin ran too fast, lost control of his legs and fell. Just when he thought he would be eaten, a pterosaur swooped at him and caught him with its strong talons. In less than a second, Xian Qin was in mid-air. Xian Qin quickly kicked the pterosaur's belly to make it drop him. Indeed, the pterosaur was shocked by the attack. It opened its mouth and dropped Xian Qin right in the open. Xian Qin was free falling. His mind went blank. He closed his eyes tightly hoping for a miracle to happen.....

“Xian Qin, wake up, wake up! What are you doing here? Are you ok?” Uncle Hu patted Xian Qin's face trying to wake him up. Xian Qin opened his eyes, feeling weird. He looked up and found himself lying on the floor of that forbidden room he entered earlier. He was confused but he could vividly remember the glowing pterosaur model, the portal, the *Sinosauropteryx* and the *Yutyrannus*. They were too real yet untrue. Sweating, trembling and gasping, Xian Qin still couldn't believe what had happened just now. “Was it a dream?” he wondered. But a long soft feather in his hand left him speechless.

That night, Xian Qin couldn't fall asleep. He was completely intrigued by all the strange happenings. If possible, he would choose to experience them all over again despite knowing how dangerous it could be. Next morning, Xian Qin asked Uncle Hu about the room and the model. Uncle Hu explained, “That room is for keeping some old exhibits and books. The room's door lock has been broken for a while and unfortunately the technician can only come to fix it next week.” Xian Qin's eyes lit up.

# An Echo from the Past

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Kwong, Ying Nok – 11*

This story happened 28 years ago, when scientists discovered a new dinosaur species, the *Sinosauropteryx*. At that time, a 15-year-old boy named Gellert was living in Switzerland. He loved to explore and was very rich. He owned a private jet so that he could travel to different parts of the world. He had everything he wanted in the world except for one thing: adventure. He loved dinosaurs and wanted to be an archaeologist when he grew up, so he was extremely excited when he heard about the discovery of a new dinosaur species in China, the *Sinosauropteryx*. He decided that this was his chance to hunt for his dream to go on an adventure, so he flew to Liaoning, China in his private jet and started to dig for fossils.

After digging for half a day nonstop, he was thrilled when his spade hit something hard. He thought it was dinosaur bones at first, but his heart fell after he discovered that it was just a rusty machine that resembled a compass. In his rage and frustration, he threw the machine to the ground, where it shattered into a million pieces.

Suddenly, a thick, blue fog rose out of what was left of the machine, enveloping Gellert in a bluish haze. After the smoke cleared a few moments later, Gellert found himself in a completely different world. The leaves glowed a mysterious red around him. Green water in the rivers whispered around him, and a gentle breeze touched his cheeks.

Suddenly, a colossal *Sinosauropteryx* burst out of the bushes behind him in a flurry of feathers and gave a deafening roar. Gellert's heart hammered wildly in his chest, and he sprinted away from the dinosaur as fast as his legs could carry him.

However, after a few minutes of running, Gellert realised that the dinosaur had stopped chasing him and was examining Gellert curiously. Gellert saw that the dinosaur looked ferocious but was actually very friendly. He wandered around this strange new world until he arrived at a towering and imposing building with the friendly dinosaur following closely. A sign on the building read: COLOSSAL BIOSCIENCES LABORATORIES. DO NOT DISTURB! Gellert, however, ignored the warning sign and strode in confidently, leaving the poor dinosaur outside the building.

Inside, Gellert was “welcomed” by a group of curious scientists. Gellert nervously greeted them and said, “Greetings! May I know what year this is? Am I in another time period?”

This was met with a great deal of murmuring. Everyone was intrigued about how this regular boy came from another year.

The head scientist, an amber-haired girl called Luna, answered: “This is the year 2200, when we managed to clone dinosaurs. What year are you from?” “Are you a time traveller or something?!” After Gellert explained about his adventure, the scientists told him about how they had cloned dinosaurs. It turns out that the scientists had uncovered some dinosaur DNA from a fossil which palaeontologists had unearthed 20 years earlier.

Gellert, who was intrigued by the process of bringing the dinosaurs back from extinction, asked the scientists if he could bring some of the dinosaur DNA back to 1996. After a long moment's silence, the scientists went into a room to discuss whether to give Gellert some of the DNA.

Half an hour later, the scientists came out holding a jar of what looked like an orange-coloured potion. Luna said, “We have decided to give you some of this dinosaur DNA. We trust that you will use it wisely. And the most important thing of all: remember to tell the scientists at your time to modify the DNA to make the dinosaurs friendly and safe!” she added sternly. Gellert's heart soared. He would be celebrated as a scientific hero when he travelled back to 1996! He would be the first scientist to ever discover dinosaur DNA! He might even get a Nobel Prize! He was so excited that he promptly ignored Luna's dire warning.

The scientists led Gellert to a time machine they had created. The Time Machine was enormous. Wires and tubing were connected to it and it was flashing with multicoloured lights. Gellert ran over and sat in the relaxing chair of the machine. With a burst of red smoke, Gellert travelled back to his home, completely forgetting about the dinosaur that he left outside the laboratory.

Gellert arrived at his home dazed and exhausted. He rushed to the Colossal Biosciences Laboratories in Boston in the present to show his amazing discoveries to the scientists. The scientists were amazed and immediately started to recreate the dinosaurs. Gellert flew back to his home in Norway. He went to sleep happy and satisfied. He couldn't believe it. He had just gotten the last thing he wanted in his life: adventure!

The next day, Gellert woke up to a beautiful morning. He brushed his teeth and carried on with his usual morning routine. He didn't notice anything strange until he arrived at a newsstand. An interesting newspaper caught Gellert's eye. He read the title, and his heart plummeted. It said, 'DINOSAURS TERRORISES AMERICAN POPULATION ! PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET RID OF DINOSAURS BUT TO NO AVAIL.' Gellert continued to read the text: 'Yesterday, a 15- year old boy gave professional scientists some dinosaur DNA. However, the boy didn't tell the scientists to make the dinosaurs friendly as planned. The bloodthirsty dinosaurs are now attacking America. The US government is proposing to build underground shelters to evade the dinosaur apocalypse.'

Gellert buried his head in his arms. He learned that even a small act, like a desire for adventure, can lead to a gigantic difference that can affect the world drastically. He learned to never be overconfident again and to be satisfied with what he had. All he felt now was regret and sorrow about his past actions. Hopefully, scientists will find a way to destroy the dinosaurs one day...

# The Paleontologist

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Lai, Yee Him Elkan – 12*

One summer day, the blazing sun shone down mercilessly on everything. New paleontologist Paul, a heavyset man with his hair tied in a bun, sat down on the ground of Xianhu Fossil Forest, Shenzhen, wiping the beads of crystal clear sweat that were running down his face. He was frowning because he had been unable to find a single fossil anywhere.

Just as he was about to pack up and leave, a group of experienced paleontologists passed by while discussing something between them.

‘There is this tomb of a famous paleontologist. It is full of dinosaur fossils from China that haven’t been revealed to the public yet. Lots of paleontologists have ventured in, but as soon as they go underground, they lose contact with the outside world, and when they come out, they don’t remember anything about it when questioned, nor do they get any of the fossils.’ Paul overheard their words, and a new hope of finding fossils sparked in his heart.

He took a brave step forward and asked them, ‘I am interested in this tomb you are talking about. Can you tell me some details about where this tomb is or anything else I need to know?’ When the paleontologists heard Paul, they looked at him and laughed.

The tall man in the middle with the bushy beard, whom Paul assumed to be the leader of the group, replied, ‘Don’t even dream of getting any fossils, kid. The place radiates greediness, it increases the greed man already has in himself. Even the best paleontologists have tried and failed.’

Then, he added, ‘There is no detailed place recorded in any text that shows the exact location of the tomb, but I once came across a prophet in China and asked him this exact same question, this is how he replied:

“In the hands of Gaia lies a great city,

In a country the shape of a rooster,

Venture to the snake slithering across the country

And find the man with the golden beard,

He will bring you there,

And then you are on your own

Can you pass the test?”

You have to travel to the unknown place to find the tomb.’

One day later, Paul, with a confident look on his face, arrived in Beijing, the city the prophet had mentioned. As soon as Paul arrived at the airport, he rushed through all the necessary procedures and dashed to the bus station. A few minutes later, Paul breathlessly rushed up the Great Wall of China with all his equipment, his eyes darting all around for the man the prophecy had mentioned. He had almost finished walking the accessible parts of the Great Wall when he saw the man waving at him, but only in the out-of-bounds part of the wall. Paul sighed in exasperation: of all the places, the out-of-bounds area!

Paul made sure nobody was looking, and swiftly swung himself over the gate. The man beckoned him further and when they were out of sight, the man suddenly violently shoved Paul down into the nearest crack on the ground. Pushed by surprise, Paul fell down, and pure darkness enveloped him, all he knew was that he was constantly falling...

It seemed like forever when Paul finally woke up. He blinked a few times, surprised to find himself in a lighted room, and tried to get up. As he was getting up, a searing pain shot up his left shoulder, and he fell back on the ground with a resounding 'thud'. He lay on the ground, panting, and his view started to become clearer: he was lying on his back in a furnished room.

Seeing where he was, Paul used his good hand to support his weight and shakily stood up — and stood face to face with a straight coffin on the wall! Paul recoiled in shock, and noticed he was surrounded by all the dinosaur fossils! 'Lucky me, now I will be famous and rich!' he muttered under his breath.

Quickly, he found a cart in the room and attempted to put all the fossils in it.

All of a sudden, he sensed movement in the fossils! One by one, a reddish glow came out of the fossils' eyes. One of the fossils started to say, 'You will achieve nothing, young man, you have shown greed beyond anybody we have ever seen, for being greedy, others will lose all their memory about this. However, you are still young and foolish, you still have a lot to learn, so we will just let you go, but remember, you can't tell others about everything you have seen here, now go! Let this be a lesson for you!' Then, the fossils disassembled themselves and clattered to the floor again.

After a while, Paul found a way out through a crack in the ceiling. Paul stood at the edge of the crumbling Great Wall of China. 'What have I done?' he exclaimed. 'I have let my greediness overcome me, now I am a paleontologist without any achievements again! However, I cannot give up so easily, I must learn to control my greed and become a more virtuous man, and aim for a brighter future.'

Ten years later, Paul has become a highly successful paleontologist and has won fame around the world. Years after his life's turning point he has decided to go back to the Great Wall of China. He goes near the Great Wall of China's out-of-bound area and sees the golden-bearded man, a faint smile touches his lip, 'Well, here we go again.'

# Intersecting Existences

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Lui, Teak – 11*

It was on the news. They were saying they had discovered a new species of dinosaur, in Xiushui, Jiangxi.

Thomas had just finished reading the paper, and he felt his hand twitch. For months, he had had an idea, an opinion. Dinosaurs didn't ever exist. Or, under pressure from his friends, dinosaurs didn't exist the way palaeontologists said.

He figured this was his chance. He would fly to Jiangxi and he would see for himself the site, and possibly the area around it. He would not find the truth; rather, he would find a truth, a truth that made sense to him and comforted him.

Everyone who knew Tom was shocked. It was madness, they said. Day after day, they persuaded Thomas to give up on the trip. They only received his incomprehension. One even threw a rock at him in anger.

It was just like throwing rocks against the light of a candle, a candle that did not want to light up the world like God but only to light up a room. It was useless and wrong, and when Thomas left quietly for the airport, for the plane to Jiangxi, nobody cared. They just laughed and went back to their things. It would be quite incorrect to call them his friends.

On the plane, Thomas was waiting. He knew that soon his feet would be on the ground of Xiushui. He had already forgotten how it was back at home; he did not mind, it was just a memory, like all memories, and it would fade away. His feet were on the soil now, he was walking to the place where he would be joyful, he was walking to the place where he would not regret.

Thomas hiked for days to this place, full of hope, without stopping, without sleep.

He was walking, walking to walk, walking just to continue walking, just to ever still be walking, walking to stop walking, walking to the point of walking where he would not be walking and he would be satisfied, ...

Thomas knew he was getting close to the site. It had to be just over the horizon, it had to be! Yet another hour passed, and now, Thomas could not hope that he would see it. He was only thinking about it, and soon enough, he felt his hand twitch, just as it had when he first read the newspaper report on the incident.

He fell onto the ground, exhausted.

He was too exhausted to even move a finger. Suddenly, the rural surroundings seemed to become dim. Quiet. Lifeless. Dark.

It was the first time in a week Thomas felt he was alone.

He was lying on the rocks, looking around idly. There were trees everywhere, brown and orange leaves that didn't appeal to his eyes. A birdcall in the distance, but no bird followed. Thomas simply hoped that he would feel life, liveliness. The rocks were cool. However, he was still sweating under the autumn sun he had been hiking under for a week. He thought he heard a rustle. It turned out to only be his own bored and annoyed foot, kicking at a pile of leaves. There was no breeze, which had accompanied Thomas for his entire journey.

Thomas slowly sat up. A butterfly in all its elegance flew into his eyesight. Then a bird flew by, and landed on the ground before him. Thomas looked down.

He screamed. The bird, startled, flew off.

There on the rocks, there were drawings, completely red-tinted. Thomas recognised these to be those in prehistoric art in anthropology books. It vaguely showed some men and near them, a dinosaur, showing all of its mightiness and power.

People, together with dinosaurs. Prehistoric art. Thomas flicked through conclusion after conclusion. Prehistoric people, drawing prehistoric art. That meant prehistoric art, recording dinosaurs. So the dinosaurs were seen by people. That meant people coexisting with dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs existed. That did scare Thomas as he thought of how there might be fossils under his shoes.

Yet, Thomas felt that this small drawing was proving them wrong, all the beliefs palaeontologists, scientists and everybody had been holding for decades. If Thomas had understood correctly, dinosaurs did not disappear 66 million years ago. This was saying that dinosaurs probably existed just a few million years ago, when the first ever protohumans started to roam the Earth. Intersecting existences. He could not understand how palaeontologists were wrong, or whether they even were wrong. Two things that happened to be there at the same time, and it was destroying all notions. He felt slightly guilty for contradicting them all, just slightly. But this was just the place, Thomas knew. The place he had been thinking about, where he would never regret, when the plane first arrived on Jiangxi soil.

The candle was lit, and the room was full of light. Never had Thomas felt so refreshed, lively. He booked his trip back home, having already forgotten how it was there, the memory fading off since the joy at that moment. On this return flight, he didn't think about much anymore. He was satisfied with all of it: there was not even a twinge of regret to be felt.

Thomas arrived home. They were either ignoring him or laughing at him. Thomas didn't care anymore. He had never cared, and wouldn't ever. He knew he did not need to tell them, or anyone in the entire world, about anything on his journey in Xiushui. They were living in their world, with their principles. Thomas had created his own.

# The Only Way to Save the World in the Past

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Ng, Andric Anthony – 11*

I entered my lab casually with my work clothes. I was on an expedition to find new dinosaur fossils sponsored by the CCTV.

As I entered my room, I found out in surprise that the time machine – Uklot – was gone! I knew that it must have been stolen by someone but I had no idea who on earth that someone was. I told Chen Hui Ling – she was the director of this project. She was shocked and for a moment she froze like an ice statue.

I was busy tracking down the men when I found out that the Time Machine was in Heilongjiang during the period of the dinosaurs.

I arrived there with another Time Machine and immediately stumbled upon a group of men. They were well-armed with helmets, RPGs, and automatic rifles.

Suspecting them to be the thieves, I slowly followed them.

They noticed me after catching a glimpse of me and one of them told the others, “Men at watch!”

I crept closer towards the men, but then they raised their guns, pointing at me. I felt terrified and without a thought, headed straight for the woods.

They tried to find me in the bushes but they couldn't so they went away. After a few seconds, I came face to face with a *Euoplocephalus*. It had multiple wounds, possibly bullet holes! I was shocked when I saw it.

I asked, “Why? Hurt?”

It didn't have time to reply before a net landed on top of him, and the men returned, fetching him away. I ran with all my strength and managed to escape from the men just in time. I was not found, but my heart was beating as fast as a drum.

Next, a *Helioceratops* appeared and said in tears, “My world! My world! I am falling!”

I couldn't really understand, “But .... But ....”

I was helpless and stranded in a world seemingly like Mars, where I couldn't even understand what everyone was saying.

Before I could even guess what the *Helioceratops* was saying, 70 dinosaurs charged towards the “base” of the men. They caught the men off guard!

It was nothing more than blood and gunfire. I felt guilt as a few dinosaurs charged at men with guns... No... No... How weak I felt. The dinosaurs scared the men, but the organised men stopped everyone who stepped through their gate. Gunfire pinned down any dinosaur simply trying to get one inch into the camp.

I shouted, “Charge! Charge! Take the last stand!”

It was nothing more than a massacre. Dinosaurs charged aimlessly at well-positioned men who fired all they had, and I watched the towering beasts toppling down. I knew that I couldn't join the fight with only a pocket knife. The bloodshed continued.

Suddenly, an Euoplocephalus let me ride on its back. I knew that I couldn't face defeat without taking part in the battle itself. I grabbed a sword from a fallen man and pointed it forward, "Charge! Defend!"

A group of Euoplocephalus charged at the machine gun nests, swinging tails, machine guns fell one by one. The nests were broken by tail clubs and the men inside fell in rapid succession. "Charge! Don't Surrender!" I cried. As me and my Euoplocephalus charged into the men's camp, dinosaurs that were inside ran out. The commander of the men was shocked and ordered retreat. Men cried. Dinosaurs yelped. We all don't want war, do we?

I got off my Euoplocephalus and sent a request for peace. Chan Keng Lai, the leader of the men, declined, shooting the unprepared dinosaurs who were waiting for peace. I raised my sword, stabbing and jabbing men as we fled. We all knew that an unorganised charge wouldn't work, or would it?

Maybe dinosaurs had no mind of that as the Euoplocephalus charged down the mountainside next to the woods. They were furious, wanting revenge, revenge for their own families. I joined in, pulling my sword and leading in front. The 300 or so Euoplocephalus were within gun range and they fall, yet again.

With no time to waste, my Euoplocephalus, I named Folly, charged. Folly swung hard at the camp, tents and beds fell. I felt satisfied for the dinosaurs that they were now finally doing lots of damage to those wicked men who were trying to turn them into weapons without even caring about their lives.

Chan, the leader of the men tried to flee by helicopter, which was brought to the dinosaur age separately but they got wrecked on the ground by the Euoplocephalus. Those who got to the skies were attacked by flying dinosaurs, which sent the helicopters crashing down. The last one, carrying Chan herself, was destroyed when a dinosaur smacked its stabilizing wings off, letting it tumble. The helicopter swung uncontrollably down, exploding right in front of us. At last, the men sued for peace as we had already killed their commander and dealt a fatal blow to them.

They were arrested for robbery, murder and many other crimes, but most importantly, the Time Machine was back along with the dinosaurs' freedoms.

# The Interesting Fossil

*Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Ngai, Pak Yin Isaac – 12*

It was just a normal day. I packed my equipment, and headed to the cave where I usually went, hoping to find some unusual dinosaur fossils. When I headed there, the cave was dark and gloomy, so I had to turn on my flashlight. The cave smelled of animal corpses, the corners of the cave had a lot of spiderwebs, and there were some small puddles on the ground. I continued digging forward where I had left off last time, and after a while, my shovel felt something hard in the mud. I got down excitedly, hoping it was a fossil. However, to my disappointment, it was just a big rock. I continued digging in another direction, when I suddenly felt something hard and large again. I knelt down, shovelled away all the mud, and uncovered an 8-meter long, gigantic dinosaur fossil. I shouted in surprise, took a few pictures of it, and headed to my dinosaur laboratory immediately.

When my teammates heard the good news, they congratulated me, and we started investigating the fossil together. After a bit of work, we figured out that the fossil was a Megaraptor, a carnivorous dinosaur discovered in China. Its claws were approximately 30 centimetres long, and it weighed a tonne. It had a high level of intelligence, wide, powerful jaws, and razor-sharp teeth.

“Aha!” One of my teammates, Tony said. “After 2 years, I have finally figured out the formula to make a potion which makes the dinosaur come to life when pouring it on the dinosaur fossil.”

“How about we do it on the dinosaur we just discovered!” Lucy, another one of my teammates, said. We all agreed, except for Mary. Mary was quite timid as a palaeontologist, as she was a new member of the team.

“What if the dinosaur chases us and we all die?” she asked. The other teammates, including myself, didn’t really worry about her, as she was always like this, so we proceeded to the cave.

We changed into olive green clothes for investigation, brought a lot of equipment, a walkie-talkie, a flashlight, and a couple of documents about the Megaraptor. After we found the dinosaur fossil, Tony took out the test tube with a bright green, bubbling liquid in it, and stretched his arms. He took a deep breath, and poured the liquid on the fossil very slowly. Suddenly, there was a crack on the fossil, followed by another one. After a couple more, the fossil finally shattered into small pieces, and revealed a huge Megaraptor.

It roared with its deep, deafening voice, and stomped the ground with its huge claws a couple of times. The dinosaur had dark green scales, and coal black eyes. It stared at all of us as it got closer to us with every stomp. Mary’s face turned pale. She shut her eyes tightly and screamed loudly, “Help me!” We were also scared, but were just not that dramatic.

I whispered to my teammates, “We have to find a way to capture this dinosaur, or else, we’ll be in danger.” The others agreed, and started thinking of different options. Lucy suddenly said, “What if we split up in different directions and run? The dinosaur can’t possibly chase all of us at once. Once the dinosaur focuses on chasing that person, the others can sneakily go in front of the dinosaur using another route, place the cage in front, and let the dinosaur rush in.”

“Great idea!” everyone said.

We engaged our plan by taunting the dinosaur. The dinosaur got incredibly angry and roared at us. Then, we ran in separate directions, and let the dinosaur choose who to chase. The dinosaur targeted Sam, and started running towards him. Luckily, Sam was a brave teammate and he could take on this responsibility for leading the dinosaur back into the cage. Sam located the circular route with the starting point next to the ending point, and started running as quick as a cheetah. The dinosaur roared again, and chased after him with all its power.

Meanwhile, I got the gigantic cage, and placed it in front of the entrance, with just a small gap for Sam to squeeze through. “As the dinosaur had just been summoned by the potion, it doesn’t really have consciousness, and therefore, can’t run really quickly. So, Sam can easily not get caught by it,” the chemist of our team, Tony, explained. After a while, we could see Sam running, followed by the dinosaur, looking tired and without energy. Sam quickly slipped through the small gap next to the cage, and the dinosaur, somewhat dazed, tumbled into the cage, and fell down on the floor. We quickly locked the door and used equipment to pull the cage out of the cave.

We put the cage inside the truck, and drove back to our laboratory to investigate. “We did it!” We celebrated in our truck. “Good work, Sam!” all of us said. “The first time interacting with dinosaurs, I actually found it quite interesting, and surprisingly not scary at all when you get used to seeing the dinosaur!” Mary said happily, as she had just overcome her fear of real dinosaurs. All of us cheered for her, and we chatted happily as we rode back to our laboratory.

# China's Dinosaur

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chan, Cho Kiu – 11*

In a bustling village in China, nestled between rolling hills and serene rivers, there was a young girl named Louise. She was bright and filled with curiosity. While other children revelled in the company of dogs and cats, Louise's imagination danced wildly, dreaming of a far more extraordinary companion—a dinosaur as a pet.

Out of all dinosaurs, Louise's favourite one was Sinosauropteryx. Sinosauropteryx was the world's very first clearly feathered dinosaur and it's also known as “China's dragon bird” or “Chinese reptilian wing”.

One bright afternoon, Louise was wandering through an ancient forest when she tripped over an egg — a dinosaur egg ! She was filled with excitement just by watching the egg shimmer under the sunlight like a treasure trove of stars, half-buried in the earth. With trembling fingers, she unearthed the precious gem of her dreams, deciding to take it back home.

After weeks and weeks of care and affection, the egg finally cracked open. Louise felt like a kid in a candy store as it revealed a tiny, adorable creature—a baby Sinosauropteryx! With its distinctive feathers dancing in the breeze and eyes that sparkled with curiosity, it was a sight that could make even the grumpiest villager crack a smile.

Louise, aflamed with joy, named her newfound companion Max, which meant “greatest” in Latin. “Having a Sinosauropteryx as a pet” was a world filled with delightful chaos for Louise ! Max had a spirit as wild as the wind itself, his feathers flitting about like colourful confetti.

The two laughed and played together every day, they shared endless adventures, forging a friendship that felt like it had been woven by the very threads of destiny.

One afternoon, as the sun painted the ground with golden light, the two best friends played their favourite game — hide-and-seek in the forest . Max darted around the trees , while Louise chased after him with her joyous shouts echoing through the woods.

In their exuberance, Louise and Max ventured deeper into the forest than they ever had before. As they dashed around a cluster of ancient trees, they spotted an unfamiliar shimmer in the air—a portal! With wide eyes filled with excitement, they approached it, their hearts racing with the thrill of a new adventure.

As the two stepped through the swirling, shimmering portal, a gentle breeze enveloped them, sending them onto an adventure. They tumbled onto a soft, grassy meadow that burst with vibrant colours, alive with life and energy. The air was fragrant with a sweet scent of flowers.

In the distance, towering mountains draped with lush green forests stood proudly. Layered clouds floated over Max's head. But that wasn't all, there were dinosaurs of different types, such as Bactrosaurus , Liaoceratops, Avimimus and much more.

Suddenly, the ground trembled beneath Louise's feet. She turned just in time to see a massive Sinosauroptery behind her. The frightened girl's heart raced, and before she could process what was happening, the giant dinosaur lunged forward, snatching Max from her side with powerful jaws.

"No ! Give him back !" Louise shouted, instinctively lunging to save her friend. She scrambled forward, her heart pounding, determination coursing through her veins.

As the little dinosaur squirmed, it became clear that the enormous Sinosauroptery was not a threat. It hugged Max tightly but gently. As the little dinosaur squirmed, it was evident that the Sinosauroptery wasn't going to hurt Max—it was a protective mother, having sensed her chick in danger. Louise watched, her emotions a whirlpool of fear and confusion and no words could come out of her mouth as the mother dinosaur nuzzled Max tenderly.

Louise peered into Max's eyes, its expression filled with reassurance, and despite the terrifying circumstances, it managed a small, brave smile. It was a moment of unwavering trust and love shared between them. She felt her heart ache, realising this was the end of their adventure together.

"It's okay,Max," she whispered, tears brimming in her eyes and dripping down her cheek . She reached out in an attempt to touch him one last time, but the ground felt heavy under her feet, and the mother took a step back.

Louise took a step away, knowing she had to return to her own world. A mixture of sadness and gratitude washed over her as she looked back at the sweet little dinosaur. Though their time together was short, it had been filled with pure joy and adventure. She could feel the bond between them—their hearts entwined even across the divide of their worlds.

With a heavy heart, Louise turned away, retracing her steps toward the glimmering portal that had brought her here. Every step felt like a tangle of bittersweet memories, but as she glanced back one last time, she locked eyes with her best friend...

Back in her human world, the sights and sounds of everyday life came rushing back, but Louise's mind was still filled with the vibrant colours of the dinosaur realm. She often found herself staring at the clouds, playing back all the beautiful memories she and Max made together.

As time went on, Louise would always carry the memories of her adventure with the little dinosaur in her heart. The friendship they forged across the boundaries of their worlds kept a spark of hope alive within her—a belief that one day, perhaps, they would meet again in the magical land where China's dinosaurs roamed freely and dreams came to life.

# The Dinosaur Of Wishes

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chan, Tin Yam – 10*

“There is a kind of dinosaur that could grant wishes,” said the village elder to his grandchildren. “They live in the dense forests of Mildfall, a place of magic and fantasy.” One of the children, Esther, decided to look for the dinosaurs. She was a terribly ambitious child, and she knew she would be known by the whole world by proving that the wish-granting dinosaurs were not just a ridiculous, childish myth.

Despite the warnings of Esther’s parents and neighbors about Mildfall’s hidden dangers, she planned her journey with another two courageous village children Avery and Irene. Knowing their daughter’s ambition, Irene and Esther’s parents were shocked. They were not going to let their children take such a risk, but Avery’s father was a skeptic. He thought the girls were ready for an adventure. He appreciated their courage and independence, while the other parents simply underestimated their children’s ability to go it alone.

At the stroke of midnight, when silence blanketed everything like a cloak, Avery’s father rounded up the girls and told them about a secret tunnel that could get them out of the village unnoticed. The girls thanked him and proceeded on to their journey. Everything was just getting started.

The journey was far less exhilarating than the girls thought. It wasn’t long before they realized Mildfall was a thousand miles away. Esther had thought about turning back and cutting ties with this mission impossible, but an inspirational quote from her grandfather kept her on track: To succeed, you must be persistent.

No matter how impossible things seem, it can always be conquered if you are persistent. Esther regained her belief of completing the mission, and never again had the thought of abandoning the awfully long journey to Mildfall.

When things seemed to have gone past the point of no return, the girls always had each other for emotional and physical support. The excitement of having their greatest wishes granted and the surprise of meeting a mythical creature in a magical place had expelled all the boredom of walking along the endless, winding trails among nothing but trees. It was the only thing that had compelled them to resist the thought of giving up before reaching Mildfall.

Esther had experienced her greatest disappointment when they found no trace of the wonderful dinosaurs her grandfather had described. Maybe it was just a deceptive myth used to trick children after all. How couldn’t she, when all her efforts were wasted in such an atrocious way? Filled with sadness and frustration, Esther turned to her friends. “Let’s leave,” Avery was reluctant to give up, she firmly believed in what Esther’s grandfather had said: The most powerful ones are always in canyons.

“We might find some if we find a canyon,” she insisted.

The girls’ luck continued; they found a canyon. It seemed deep and there was no way to see all the way down. A loud roar startled the girls. Irene almost fell in, but luckily Avery Caught her.

Avery was right to keep going, a great Sinosauropteryx was right before their eyes. It spoke in a mighty, deep voice:

You have come from faraway,

And your journey isn’t just a day.

Your wishes will be granted, one, two, three,

Real and true, for all to see!

Esther couldn't believe her eyes. It was a real Sinosauropteryx, and it was going to grant her wish.

Part of her gut was telling her that it was absolutely out of reality. Esther couldn't help telling the dinosaur she wanted the world to be a better place, where there was always an abundance of peace and no wars. One by one, the girls made their wishes, each vanishing in a puff of golden mist that sparkled and shimmered in the night sky. Esther had realized that the Sinosauropteryx had granted her wish as she grew up into a wise young woman; there were no more outbursts of wars on the newspapers.

As she lived, she knew that magic only shows itself to people who believe and look for it.

The great Sinosauropteryx fossil paleontologists have found inspired humankind to write tales about the humongous dwellers of Earth in the times far more than ancient. These myths might be partly fact-based, but one thing we all know is every creature of the prehistoric period. Although these wonderful lives were long gone, we can continue to know more about them and trust that even if we never saw them with our eyes, they once existed.

# The Mystery of the Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chu, Amanda – 9*

At midnight, the bell rang. The skeletons started to creak. These skeletons weren't ordinary skeletons, mind you. They were DINOSAUR skeletons.

At midnight, when Big Ben rang, these skeletons would grow flesh and come back to life, roaming around their surroundings and exploring them with an unnerving interest. For ages they had lived like this, no one to watch them. But this isn't the story about dinosaurs living in a museum. Rather, it is the tale of a certain somebody who found out about their secret. A story about a certain girl who came upon them one fateful day...

Jamie Chan was an ordinary high school girl with the exception of being an orphan. What made her so special? At the dark of night, she lived a different life, her alias was the masked burglar. She would jump from shadow to shadow, hidden from sight, stealing everything worth a buck or two. However, she longed for one thing, one object that she yet had to collect, a dinosaur bone. Not just any dinosaur bone, a bone of the Chinese feathered dragon.

\*\*\*present

Jamie glanced at the file labeled mission shadokeshem. She had planned this for two whole years! She had just a few details to perfect and she would be done! Suddenly, the bell rang. It was time for the operation. Jamie slung her backpack over her shoulder and set off.

She jumped off the building into the sewers. When she arrived at the museum, Jamie peered up into the open. "Good," she muttered, "No one in sight." When she looked down again, Jamie gasped. A monster was lurking in front of her. It said, "Resurrect our leader," and handed her a skull. Jamie fainted.

Jamie woke up to the sound of wind roaring and the scent of... uh... Jamie couldn't quite place the scent. It was somewhat between dinosaur faeces and rotten bananas. 'Wait a second... how did I know how dinosaur waste smell like? Weren't they extinct, like, a million years ago?' Jamie thought. "That's because you carry the body, the heart, the soul and most importantly the memories of the Chinese feathered dragon. Our faithful leader and king." A dinosaur growled. "Now you must complete the sacrifice, and resurrect our leader." Jamie's nostrils flared, "You think you can just demand me to do things like that?" The eldest dinosaur lost his patience, "So are you going to do it or not!" Under his dark glare, Jamie shivered in fear. "Yes! I'll do it!" She shrunk into a ball. Jamie just didn't know one thing. One thing that the dinosaurs had left out in their conversation. That dinosaur, their leader, was humanity's worst nightmare.

As Jamie stepped forward, she carried the skull and placed it on the skeleton frame, and screamed as her life force drained out of her, her life ebbing away. "You... You didn't tell me." She rasped. Jamie desperately tried to grab onto something, someone to save her. Just then, her saviour came. It wasn't exactly a knight in shining armor, rather, it was kinda unintended, but it was the exact distraction Jamie needed to escape. Jamie bolted for the escape route, "Hey! Hey, you!" The pudgy security guard panted as he tried to keep up with Jamie, shining his flashlight in front, trying to catch a glimpse of the masked burglar. "Wait a second," he thought. "This is **THE** masked burglar. The one that stole, steals and keeps stealing! I must call the police."

When Jamie was caught for the very first time, she woke up in a jail cell. She was confused and desperate for asylum. The last thing she remembered was getting caught by dinosaurs! Of course, Jamie explained this to the police, but as you might suspect, the police didn't believe her. But just then, a big head tore, or rather bit off the ceiling. "Our leader is resurrected!" They exclaimed.

With trembling hands, one of the officers shot a bullet at the dinosaur, but he deflected it away like a petal. Jamie sank into her seat. Now what would she do? If bullets wouldn't work on the dinosaur's hard scales, what would? But just as she was going to give up, she remembered what her parents had whispered to her before they died. "Don't give up, my dear." Jamie's eyes welled up with tears. That's right. She wouldn't give up.

Just then, Jamie noticed a strange mark on the dragons' tail. She remembered the same mark from a book she had read in the past! Quoting from the book, it said, 'This mark was created by a powerful wizard of good. But as light will shine, darkness follows close by. A dark wizard stole this mark and used it as a resurrection curse for evil. This mark will require...' This was it! She thought. I can disable it! Sure, she would risk her life, but it was worth it.

As she chanted the spell, her body felt like it was going to rip apart, but she persevered. As she finished, the dragons crumpled into dust, but Jamie crumpled with them.

When Jamie woke up, this time she was in a hospital bed. The prime minister, rather poshly announced that she would be pardoned for all of her crimes as reward for defeating the dragons, but Jamie didn't react the way the Prime Minister expected. "Thanks, but no thanks." Jamie said. "Life as a citizen is way too bleak."

The minister spluttered.

# China's Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chung, Hoi Ching – 11*

They stood as still as stone statues, staring into a swirling abyss, its twisting shadows urging them to leap. Carla and Cathy exchanged a glance — a silent promise born of their shared dream: to uncover the untold stories of dinosaurs. Now, standing on the edge of the unimaginable, every dream of lost stories and hidden fossils seemed to call them forward. The void pulsed, shrinking fast, daring them to decide. This was their moment — the choice between embracing the unknown or walking away with the haunting question of ‘what if?’ The decision was clear. With a deep breath, they intertwined their arms and jumped.

The fall was a dizzying spiral of vibrant colours exploding in dazzling bursts around them as lights flashed before their eyes. Heat seared their skin one moment, then freezing cold gripped them the next, suffocating them as they tumbled through the unknown. Arms locked tightly, feeling each other's racing pulse, they braced themselves until they landed with a soft thud onto a soft, moss-covered ground.

Groaning, Carla and Cathy sat up, brushing off dirt and grass. As they looked around, they realized that towering trees were surrounding them, their leaves filtering the desperate sunlight that shone narrow, golden beams. The air was thick and heavy, filled with a strange hum of life. “Where are we? This feels... ancient.” Cathy said, her voice uncertain. As they ventured forward, they came across a narrow lake, calm and serene, with sunlight reflecting off its surface in an ethereal glow.

A rustle from the bushes caught their attention. A small creature emerged, no larger than a deer, covered in brown scales that shimmered in olive green and tan. Its beaked mouth resembled a parrot's, clicking softly as it drank. The creature wandered off, unaware that it had suddenly become the centrepiece of two humans' dream.

Cathy's breath caught in her throat as the creature disappeared back into the trees. “Was that... was that really?” she gasped. Carla's heart raced. “It was a dinosaur! A Yinlong! We saw a China dinosaur!” Carla gripped Cathy's hand in excitement. Their hearts raced with pure joy as years of dreaming came true.

Wandering deeper, they marvelled at the wonders around them until a faint, familiar voice caught Carla's attention. “Mom?” Creeping closer, they found a clearing where four people stood among high-tech equipment — both Carla and Cathy's parents. At the center was a cage imprisoning a young, struggling Tanius, a China dinosaur, its cries piercing the air. Their hearts sank as the dream world surrounding them crumbled immediately. Each step closer to the clearing felt heavier, the reality of what they might find sinking in.

They listened on, each word spoken feeling like a bullet aimed towards them. The people who nurtured them into the love for dinosaurs were harming the creatures. Turns out, they learned the truth: their parents' ancestors had captured some of the last dinosaurs, aiming to exploit their genetics for power and profit, all under the guise of medical advancement.

Carla and Cathy exchanged a determined glance before stepping forward, Carla spoke up, “How could you do this? After teaching us to cherish these dinosaurs, how could you betray everything they stand for?” Their parents turned, startled. “You don't understand, this could change the world!” Carla's dad shouted. “At what cost?” Cathy asked, her voice breaking. While Cathy argued, Carla spotted a key on the ground. Without hesitation, she rushed to the cage and began working to free the Tanius.

The young creature watched Carla with wary eyes. Their parents stood frozen. Carla looked up, her voice firm. “A world without compassion? These dinosaurs deserve to live free!” She fumbled with the key, and with a final twist, the cage creaked open. The Tanius hesitated, then limped out, scanning its surroundings. Suddenly, a loud mechanical voice blared, “System malfunction. Containment breach detected.”

Chaos erupted. Carla and Cathy's parents panicked. The system was programmed to shut down completely if any creature escaped from the cage, and all the data would be gone. “Our plan isn't over yet! It can't be!” Cathy's dad yelled, rushing to deactivate the system. Suddenly, the ground beneath their feet trembled, the low rumble growing louder. Everyone froze as the sound grew closer and closer. Leaves rustled, trees quivered, and birds scattered as a herd of Taniuses charged towards them. Carla and Cathy ducked behind a fallen log, pulling the young Tanius to safety as its family stormed in.

Their parents stood shocked as the herd surrounded the clearing. The young Tanius limped towards the leader, chirping weakly as the herd gathered protectively around it. Carla's dad stood frozen, watching the young Tanius nuzzle against its family. “We tore them apart for this,” he murmured. “What kind of legacy is that?”

The forest fell silent as the Tanius herd retreated into the forest. “You all taught us to love dinosaurs,” Cathy said, her voice softer now. “How could you forget that?” The weight of their parents’ actions was heavy in the air. Cathy’s mom sighed, a long regretful sigh. “We thought we were helping humanity... but maybe we lost sight of what really matters.” The encounter just now was like a wake-up call to their parents, making them realize what they’ve been doing all along was wrong. Carla stepped closer, “It’s never too late to let them free.” Regretful and reluctant, their parents agreed. Cathy’s mom knelt in before Carla and Cathy, tears in her eyes. “You two girls are braver than we ever were. Thank you for showing us what we were blind to.” Together, they dismantled the equipment and vowed to protect this place as a sanctuary.

As their parents created an abyss, a tunnel back to their world, Cathy and Carla stood arm in arm before the abyss. They had saved the dinosaurs, and they had fulfilled their dream. The forest, alive with ancient echoes, stood as a symbol of hope, courage, and redemption.

# An Adventure in Another Universe

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Fung, Hong Tai Lynette – 12*

One sunny afternoon, Lily, Janice, Annie, Kristy and Ivy went to a beach in Shenzhen to celebrate Lily's twelfth birthday. They were digging long, deep trenches into the wet sand near the calm, serene sea when a humongous rock washed up from the sea. It rolled along the trench and stopped at the feet of the five bewildered girls.

The five girls stared at the cube for a long time.

Suddenly, Janice screamed. The others, confused, looked in her direction and almost fainted from shock. Cracks were spreading all over the rock, and purple light slipped through the cracks, illuminating the sand underneath them with a creepy glow. A moment later, the five girls were sucked into the rock. The world faded to black.

They landed face-first into a bright pink room. "Ouch!" groaned Janice. When they got up, they saw a girl standing in front of them. She narrowed her eyes, and tapped on a bracelet. To everyone else's surprise, a dinosaur materialized. It had black feathers and tiny wings. Its head and neck was a brilliant azure blue. It swished its tail and roared, scaring the five girls.

"Who are you and why are you in my room?" asked the girl. "We don't know," replied Ivy. "We just got sucked into a rock, and here we are."

After some more questions, the five girls found out that the girl was called Bronwyn and they were still in Shenzhen. There was only one thing they couldn't get straight.

It was on the exact same day, at the exact same time. How did a beach suddenly become a giant mansion? And why were there dinosaurs?

Suddenly, Annie and Janice thought of something. "We're in a parallel universe!" They shouted unanimously.

The girls all gasped.

And for the rest of the day, Bronwyn and the five girls chatted about their different lives. Suddenly, Bronwyn laughed and slapped her forehead. "Dumb me. I almost forgot to introduce my dinosaur! Her full name's Baby Yingliang and she's an oviraptor. I discovered her in 2021 when I was on vacation in Ganzhou. She likes people calling her Yi because she thinks her name is too long."

"I've heard of this name on the news before! In 2021, a fossil of an oviraptor embryo named Baby Yingliang was discovered in Ganzhou, China," said Lily.

"Fossil? I'm not a fossil. I'm totally alive," said a voice behind them. The five girls gasped in awe as the dinosaur they saw earlier began to talk.

Kristy and the others were confused. "Didn't dinosaurs become extinct around 65 million years ago?"

"Extinct?" asked Yi, confused. "My friends are still living happily in different parts of the world. 59 of us live in China. Oh, and you see these wings on either side of me? They're useless. I've tried, but then I realised that my wings and tail are just used to show off to the opposite gender."

"What a weird parallel universe!" cried Annie.

The next day, Bronwyn brought Lily and the others to her school. They had a few classes together. At break, Bronwyn suddenly let out a cry of alarm.

“Oh no! I can’t find my bracelet that can summon Yi!”

Ivy and the others looked around for a while, but they still couldn’t find the bracelet. Suddenly, they saw a burst of blue light coming from inside of an abandoned classroom. The six of them walked in cautiously and were almost instantly paralysed with terror. A boy with dark, messy hair was laughing wickedly. Janice gasped. “Bronwyn, your bracelet is on his wrist!”

“Dexter,” Bronwyn growled. She walked angrily toward him and yelled, “GIVE ME BACK MY BRACELET!”

“Oh, but you know I won’t,” laughed Dexter. “I plan to train your dinosaur—and my datousaurus, Dan too, of course— to become the strongest in the world. Then I will become the strongest person on Earth and I will rule over all human be—AHHH!”

Before Dexter could finish his sentence, Bronwyn had already punched him in the back, making him fall to the ground, his body limp. Bronwyn looked at the five shocked girls. “Don’t just stand there,” she said. “Help me pin him down while I get my bracelet back.”

So the five girls pinned down Dexter, who looked at Bronwyn fiercely. “I’ll get you back next time.”

Bronwyn tore her bracelet off Dexter’s wrist. “Have fun trying.”

“Thanks for freeing me from that evil guy!” exclaimed Yi. The five girls patted her happily. Bronwyn sat onto Yi’s back and smoothened her feathers.

After a moment of silence, Bronwyn said, “Thanks so much for helping to save Yi.” Then she leaned over and hugged the five of them. All of a sudden, a burst of purple light engulfed the five girls, and everything went black.

“Doctor! Doctor! They’ve woken up!”

Lily opened her eyes and asked groggily, “What? What happened? Bronwyn? Yi?”

Lily’s mother looked at her, concerned. “Sweetie, you and your other friends have been unconscious for the whole day,” She nodded at the girls who were lying peacefully in the beds next to Lily.

“You mean we all fainted at the beach?” asked Lily.

“Yes,” her mother replied.

*But it can’t be, thought Lily furiously. I don’t believe that it was all just a dream.*

Tears began to well from deep inside when she felt a tingling sensation on her palm. She looked down at her palm, and to her surprise, she saw an image of Bronwyn riding on the back of Yi, waving at her. Then words etched into her palm.

“Hey Lily! It’s Bronwyn and Yi, sending greetings from our parallel universe. Don’t worry—from now on the seven of us can keep in touch like this. When you want to send us a message, just whisper your message into your palm!”

Lily smiled. Her mother looked over at her and was surprised to see tears of joy streaming down her face. “Dear, are you alright? What happened?”

Lily smiled. “It’s a long story.”

# The Tale of the Original Dragon

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Gan, Chi Chang – 11*

Back in 2003, there was a discovery of a new dinosaur fossil called the Oriental Dragon, named after the dragon-like body.

According to scientists, this dinosaur dates back to the Triassic Period when the world was dominated by the lizard-like overlords. However, do you ever wonder, how this creature came to be? I'm sure scientists have an answer, but I would like to believe that a creature with such an important name must have a story behind.

Once upon a time, in the Jade Pavilion (a city of immortals) there lived a powerful general that had conquered many battles. In return, the Jade Emperor gave him the right to become a dragon. And so, his battlefields were filled with death throes, his enemies pleading for mercy. He was soon the most feared man in all of Jade Pavilion.

One day, the news of the generals' never-ending victories reached the vigilant ears of the Jade Emperor and he became worried. "How can one rule a kingdom if one is overthrown?", he thought, as it is usual for a ruler to worry about his leadership. So, he sent one of his daughters, the God of Dust, to kill him.

The God of Dust, or Guizhong as she was named, reached Qingyun Peak, the general's abode. She then defeated the dragon with a swift attack of dust. The general's dragon form dissipated, leaving him in a weakened form, a dinosaur. He fell on to earth. He wandered the lands, trying to find a way to reunite with the Jade Pavilion, he spent his days praying and making sacrifices to the Jade Emperor, hoping he would be forgiven. But alas, the Jade Emperor could not hear him, he was far too busy celebrating the death of his greatest warrior.

Only his skeleton remained as he grovelled in despair, for Guizhong was once his lover, betrayed by his own loved one is a pain that an ordinary person wouldn't understand. As his dinosaur form hardened into rock, he let his soul be free and his spirit became the other dinosaurs (soon evolving to become other kinds of dinosaurs), wandering the world for solace in finding their kin. However, all things have consequences, without the general leading the heavenly army, the kingdom fell. In his last moments, the Jade Emperor said, "I have made a grave mistake, I beg of you, great general, when I reach the underworld, please forgive me." And so, the last god of this race, faded away. There were no gods left to govern China, the general's lost spirit had pity. He created a race of dinosaurs, and in their place, he died.

This is a curious story, is it not? Of course there could be no way that this is a real story, however, I believe this myth was based on a popular conspiracy in ancient China. The Chinese used to believe that dinosaurs were actually the less powerful offspring of dragons (a mythical race of lizards) because of their similar appearances (I believe they got the inspirations from dinosaurs). Indeed, there were rumoured records of dinosaurs in the Western Tin Dynasty, some rumours from that time was of the newly discovered creatures.

Now let's focus back on the Ancient Chinese dinosaurs. Near the Qizong City, there were traces of fossils which were dug up many years later. Dinosaur bones are unusual, there were no direct records of them. However, they believed in dragons, did the ancient Chinese know about the existence of such beings?

# Final Sunset

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Ho, Yee Lok Victoria – 11*

My earliest memories were filled with joy and carefree games.

The sun peeked over the horizon when I woke up, reflecting off of the drinking stream the way I always loved it to. The way the warm orange glow shimmering in the water was mesmerizing.

I started towards the stream when my little sister, Nyx, burst out behind me and started bounding towards it, giggling as she passed me. As my sister ran like the wind, her thirteen foot tail helped her balance waving in the air.

“Come on slowpoke!” She yelled, wading into the water. It splashed around her, making a ruckus. I let out a laugh as I followed her into the coolness of the water enveloping me.

She was lucky to still be this small; our kind usually grows to half a pine tree by now, towering over the ferns and cycads that dot our homeland. I watched her scramble in the water, enjoying her size while she was just a child.

“You’re so lucky to be barely the size of three rocks,” I teased. “Wouldn’t want to wake mama up.”

She nodded seriously, then broke into a grin. And all of a sudden, I felt like I was being splashed on all sides at once, water covering me like a blanket.

“Oh! A dreadful attack! It is on!” I splashed back playfully, getting giggles and a small squeak in return.

Our species' natural tendency to enjoy the water, evident in every splash. The other hatchlings played with us, talking and laughing, loving to socialize in our vibrant herd. Though I had to admit, Nyx was the best at it.

Mother was a bit sickly, but she would always check on us, making sure we ate. We'd (poorly) imitate her stretching her neck to eat the leaves on tall branches and we'd bask in the sun with her. I loved the moments I spent with her, and I would have loved it even more if I would have found out how little time we had.

We'd play until the sun painted yellow and red streaks in the sky, relishing tranquil moments I had. We moved when the season changed, but kept our tradition with playing in the water at dawn. Though eventually, we outgrew the early morning games and started living a little bit of our separate lives.

I developed a loving passion for exploring, finding other strangers. Like our friendly neighbour that has long legs and a short neck (our exact opposite) – I believe she was called Avi... Aviminus, yes. Nyx was the best speaker, and she would usually be the caretaker of most abandoned hatchlings, and recruited many others to join or combine our herds.

Life was good.

And all good things must come to an end.

I was woken up from my slumber after my sister and I play-fought until night by a trembling hatchling Nyx had brought, desperately nudging me awake. I blinked confusedly at him, and he said three words that would haunt me until the day I died.

“It’s your mother.”

I ran towards where my mother slept the night before, the herd already starting to crowd around her, my mind blurring their faces and words, shoving my way through the crowd.

Silence was all that could be heard, until an anguished cry split the air. Nyx is here.

Nyx was kneeling on the ground, The ground where our mother laid. Sleeping. No. Not sleeping.

“Nyx.” Even as I said it, it felt like watching someone else’s life happen underwater, blurred and incomprehensible.

“No,” I thought, or maybe said, or maybe screamed, “no, no, no, this wasn’t how it’s supposed to go—”

“But she was... she was just here. This morning, she watched us fight. She was smiling. She was... she was alive.” Nyx whimpered.

I nudged her gently. Physical contact was a sign of comfort in our herd. It was a sign of understanding, and how we would be there for each other, but Nyx didn't seem to be acknowledging anything. I considered speaking, but I was scared that if I opened my mouth, I'd scream.

And in between one breath and the other, we were alone, in between one breath an the other, she was asleep.

Sunrise has never looked so colorless that day.

Eventually, all of us move on. Though when a heart is broken, it will never be the same again. Even if it does heal, it would be all crooked and disfigured, as if a bad weaver tried to stitch it back together. Everytime Nyx and I watch the sunrise at the drinking stream, an instinctive silence would fall, even if there is no one to bother.

And the deceased would have their five seconds of fame. Then we'll all be buried here under the growing piles of dirt, always.

Even when humans arrive and colonize the lands; even when tall walls built by mankind claim this territory as theirs; even when nations attack and the country falls apart; even when people find our fossilized bones in the soils of China. Our legacy, names and words, are long forgotten, yet we remain part of this land, echoing through time.

# The Magical Fossils

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Hung, Hei Lam Bella – 9*

In a small town in Beijing, there was an extraordinary orphan named Lily who lived among dirty cardboard boxes. She loved Chinese culture and dinosaurs, especially plant-eating dinosaurs. She knew everything about them—every fact and every detail of them! She always dreamed of seeing real dinosaur fossils in the museum, but sadly, she never had a chance.

One gloomy afternoon, she felt bored and hungry, so she went for a walk in the park to find some food. When she was walking, she suddenly tripped. Lily quickly scrambled up and observed the ground to see what had tripped her. Out of the blue, she saw a bit of a smooth and white bone stuck to the ground. She was a very curious girl who loved exploring, so she decided to dig the bone up. After about two hours of digging, she found that the bone was giant. She also found millions of bones down there! Suddenly, Lily remembered an old legend that her mother told her when she was little. It goes like this, “Once in a million years, a girl that loves dinosaurs will be born. She will find some fossils. The fossil will turn into a mysterious creature.”

Lily observed the smooth and white bones carefully and a few minutes later, she wondered if there was any chance that the bones were from a dinosaur. She hurried to the library to find some books about dinosaurs. She started to compare the bone with the pictures in the book. The more pages she read, the more assured she was that the bones were from dinosaurs. She was overjoyed, she dreamed of seeing fossils of them, but here she was, finding them all by herself! After she returned to the park, she stared at the bones. She could not believe that she was about to discover dinosaur fossils. All of a sudden, she heard a sound. Boom! Boom! A loud sound interrupted her moment of happiness. “What was that?” Lily said to herself. She turned around and froze in fear when she saw the bones floating in the air, twisting and turning until..... it assembled into a dinosaur that was found in 1936, Lily’s favourite dinosaur, an Omeisaurus skeleton.

The Omeisaurus had a long tail, thin legs, a giant body but a small head, some spikes on its body and a long neck. Its neck was so long that when it straightened up its neck, you had to climb onto your rooftop to see its face clearly. The weird thing was, everyone else was acting normal. They didn’t seem to see this happening, as if the Omeisaurus was invisible. But Lily did not care, she was way too excited to care. She ran to the Omeisaurus and hugged it. The Omeisaurus thought Lily was attacking it, so it thrashed its tail wildly but Lily still didn’t let go. The Omeisaurus eventually realized that Lily was friendly, and they became friends.

Lily gave the Omeisaurus a name, Omy. She was relieved that it was a plant-eating dinosaur, if it wasn’t, maybe she would become its meal. Lily and Omy had a good time together living out in the woods. One cloudy morning, Lily went out for her daily walk. She saw some white bones sticking out of the ground. She dug them out and put them in her bag. When she returned to the forest, she told Omy about the bones. Omy said, “Actually I have two kids! One is called Oscar and the other is Olivia. Their necks are a little shorter than mine and their legs are very chubby. Maybe the bones are from my kids! Please try to find some more bones.” Lily then searched the park again and again. She brought back a few bones every time. After a month of finding bones every day, in one stormy afternoon, the fossils suddenly raised into the sky, amazingly assembled into two smaller Omeisaurus!

“Mom! We are so glad to see you!” said Oscar and Olivia. “Me too! I missed you guys so much!” This is the human who saved us all!” said Omy. They all had a warm hearty hug with tears in their eyes. Since then, they all lived together like a family, caring for each other. Lily once thought back about what her mother said to her, she must be that girl, the girl who has special power on the fossils. Though missing her mother a lot, Lily, the girl who once was called an orphan, was never lonely again living with her beloved dinosaurs.

# Embarking on a Journey of Excitement

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Khoo, Zhi Xi Katherine – 11*

I woke to icy water lapping at my feet. The sun broke over the horizon, painting the sky in hues of orange and gold, while the waves crashed gently against the shore. As warmth surrounded me, unease settled in. What had happened? Where were my friends?

It was a breezy day and I was going scuba diving with my friends at one of the most famous beaches in Jiangxi, China. As we got our gear ready, anxiety washed over me: What if we got lost or got injured by a shark? It gave me shivers whenever I knew I was far from shore.

Diving beneath the surface, I revelled in the cool water and marvelled at the beauty of marine life. Schools of fish swam by, flashing me with their colorful scales. The coral reef brightened the water with vibrant colors, crabs scuttling along the sandy ocean floor, dolphins playing happily, fish playing hide-and-seek in the undergrowth of the sea. It was...magical.

I pulled out my underwater camera, capturing our smiles quickly, everyone eager to get back to exploring. When I glanced at the picture, I spotted a dark shadow in the far distance. I called out to my friends,

“ Hey! It looks like there's a weaving shadow over there, it seems intriguing!” I said, gesturing to the areas beyond the coral reefs. Looking at my hand, they waved me off.

“ We don't need to look at that. Besides, that looks risky, we don't know what's there.”

They swam away, occupied by something else. I don't know what happened, but I swam in the opposite direction, curiosity getting the better of me. As I descended, the water enveloped me like a cool blanket. I could hear the muffled sounds of my friends laughing and splashing above me, but a strange stillness surrounded me. Suddenly, a flicker of movement caught my eye. I turned, my heart racing as I spotted a moray eel, its scarred body weaving through the coral. It seemed menacing as if it carried the weight of untold dangers lurking in the depths. All my senses were on high alert. I felt hesitant and torn. Should I go back to my friends, or should I follow this dangerous-looking eel?

As I followed the eel, I felt my heart thumping in my chest. Then we arrived. At a cave, in which laid the strangest bone-like thing that I've ever seen. I stared at it in shock. Oddly familiar.

I knelt beside the skeleton, running my gaze along the body. On a stone, it was written 'Jiangxi, China' and 'Titanosaurus.' As if breathing out was a way to protect me, I took a deep breath in and out, then I braced myself for the cold bone and ran my hand along it. It was rough and it gave me the chills. Suddenly, it creaked and on instinct, I shifted out of the way. The world glitched around me, and I was transported to what seemed like a long, long time ago. I saw a place that I somehow recognised — I was in the exact same cave! Then something flashed by, dinosaurs! Weren't dinosaurs extinct quite some time ago? Next to me was the dinosaur lying in the cave, except now alive and well and a toddler. How did dinosaurs go extinct?

It was a hot day, with the sun shining brightly. The dinosaur beside me let out a hoarse cry, ran out of the cave and scrambled across the wide, grassy area. I squinted my eyes and saw another dinosaur sprinting over, towards the little one. Then side by side, they lumbered across the grassy plains, and ran in a circle, trying to catch each other. I was captivated by this wonderful display of friendship. They playfully nudged each other with their long, thick necks, whilst a bigger dinosaur watched over them fondly. They had rough-looking skin that was grey-brown, with thin hairs along their necks and backs, and beige patches on their thick armour. They occasionally clambered over to other grassy patches to look for food and water. They were like gentle giants, big and aggressive-looking, but unexpectedly, you never guessed that they would never hurt a fly. While I was watching them in wonder, the sky suddenly seemed to change colour, from a bright blue with wisps of clouds floating to a gloomy grey with a storm building up. In the far corner of my vision, I saw a large volcano looking ready to erupt. Just as I was thinking, the volcano started shaking, then BOOM! Lava spilt down the sides of the volcano, the ground trembling, fiery magma seeping toward the little ones. They opened their mouths, ready to scream, but nothing came out. I shrieked and ran towards the dinosaurs, who had looked up, petrified and frozen with fear. I reached out my hand to take them with me, but my hand passed

through them as if I were a ghost. I trembled, realizing that I had just caught a glimpse of what had happened millions of years ago. I couldn't change it. I winced, I wanted to save those dinosaurs' lives— even if I found them a little scary— they should have been able to live longer.

Then the world glitched again and I found myself kneeling beside the skeleton. I snapped back to reality, I was still reeling in shock about what had just happened to me and I immediately fell to the ground as darkness started to engulf me.

In the warm embrace of the sunshine, I smiled sadly, knowing that I was one of the few who had lived through this devastating yet remarkable story.

# The Legend of the Azure

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Lai, Jacey – 12*

In the valleys of Huizhou China, where the soaring mountains kissed the sky and rivers whispered ancient secrets. Villagers often spoke in hushed tones about a legendary dinosaur known as the Azure, this mythical creature was said to protect the earth's hidden treasures and maintain harmony in nature. The tales of the Azure dinosaur were woven into fabrics of the villagers' lives, passing down through many generations like a cherished heirloom.

One fateful evening, when the lazer moonlight was gleaming in the jet black sky, Baihe dug thoroughly through the excavation site. Her mission was to uncover fossils that are related to her obsolete village. As Baihe began her search, she felt an indescribable connection with the land. The air was heavy with excitement, as if the earth itself was holding its breath.

After hours of digging, she stumbled upon a remarkable fossil. Suddenly, the ground started vibrating and a ray of luminous light shone from the underground, revealing a spirit that resembles the fallen Azure dinosaur from the local legends. Its long neck twisted gracefully as it beckoned Baihe with a pleasant gaze. The Azure spoke in a soft whisper that echoed deep in the startled girl's soul,

"I have been trapped between worlds for millions of years," it said, "I am here to warn you about a huge disaster that will threaten your village: a ground disturbance that could destroy everything you love dearly."

Baihe listened closely as the Azure dinosaur revealed its wisdom.

"To save your village, you must uncover more fossils and learn their history. Only then, can you understand better about what has appeared in this land."

As the night descended upon Huizhou, Baihe warned all the clueless villagers, a ghostly silence covered the entire village.

The villagers, aware of the excavation, gathered around a campfire, sharing stories of the Azure dinosaur. They spoke of how it had once soared through the skies and breathed life into the land. Little did they know that their stories were about to intertwine with reality.

Determined to heed the dragon's warning, Baihe gathered her crew at dawn. With enthusiasm, they delved deeper into their excavation site. Each fossil they unearthed told stories of ancient ecosystems—lush forests filled with life and vibrant creatures that roamed freely before a devastating event changed everything.

As they worked tirelessly, Baihe felt a sincere bond forming with the spirit of the Azure dinosaur. In moments of quiet reflection, she experienced visions that took her back in time: images of flourishing landscapes filled with magnificent creatures that had once grown in harmony with nature. Days turned into nights as they excavated layer after layer of fossil history. Each discovery brought them closer to understanding what had caused such sadness in past ages. Baihe learned that an ancient tragedy had disrupted this delicate balance, a reminder that nature's wrath could be both beautiful and terrifying.

With urgency upon her, Baihe knew she had to share her findings with the villagers before it was too late. During a gathering at sunset, she stood before her community, her heart pounding as thunder clouds loomed darkly overhead.

"Listen!" she implored as she reviewed her discoveries: the fossils that spoke of peace and prosperity before disaster struck. "We must respect our history and unite to protect our valley!" As fear spread through the crowd, they looked up at the sky where lightning cracked ominously. But instead of losing hope, they took Baihe's words to heart. Hand in hand, they began chanting ancient verses she had uncovered during her research—words meant to honor their ancestors and make peace with restless spirits and souls. The atmosphere shifted, energy cracked around them as they

chorused louder. Just then, a brilliant flash of lightning struck nearby but miraculously spared them from any harm. The ground beneath them settled peacefully as if acknowledging their respect for its history.

With the Azure dinosaur finally at peace and its warnings noted, Baihe felt an overwhelming sense of pride among her people. She had not only saved their homes but also built a strong connection with an ancient world that would forever remain part of their legends.

As dawn broke over Huizhou, casting golden rays across the village, Baihe looked out at her community: united and resilient. They had faced fear together and got even stronger for it.

At that moment, Baihe understood that legends are not simply just stories, they are threads woven into our lives, guiding us through challenges and reminding us of our place with nature.

The villagers would continue to tell tales of the Azure dinosaur for generations to come: stories not just about their mythical creature, but also about courage, unity, and respect. And so, under the watchful gaze of their daring and intelligent guardian, Huizhou thrived once more, a witness to both history and hope for future generations to continue flourishing with bravery and respect.

# The School Dilemma

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Leung, Sin Yu Elyse – 11*

“Argggggghhhhh! Why is there a dinosaur in the classroom! Dinosaurs are my worst fear! Get it away from me as far as possible! Immediately! Now!” said poor, old Mrs Pitts.

Mrs Pitts is tall and scrawny like a plucked chicken, with horrid, bony hands and long, clawed fingers, her back is hunched like a question mark. The dinosaur that burst out just a few seconds ago jumped out from the fossil and started roaming around the classroom, thinking this is a museum with humans on display. We were observing the fossil placed on Mrs Pitts’s table when this incident happened. The only person who was frightened was Mrs Pitts, who was screaming in a high-pitched voice whereas the others were busy admiring the dinosaur and taking photos of it as they had never seen a dinosaur before. The words “Amazing!”, “Cool!”, were floating around the classroom like a tornado. Eventually, we caught the baby dinosaur and put him into the cage at the corner of our classroom. After seeking approval from the headmistress, we were able to retain the baby dinosaur in the school. Everyone loved the baby dinosaur and checked on it every day, as they were interested in the new “student” in our school.

At first, everyone loved the baby dinosaur so much that they would spend the whole break in our classroom just to play with the dinosaur. However, after a while, people started to feel frustrated at the baby dinosaur because we brought it to different school events and it ruined every single one of them. Here are some examples: During Sports Day, it kept changing tracks, which made the competitors bump into each other; During swimming gala, it broke all the strings that separated the lanes, which led the competition into a mess; During an outing to the Hong Kong Art Museum, it broke the most expensive vase in the museum, which was 300 million dollars, and the school had to pay for it; During the exchange tour to Singapore, it was too busy eating at one of the cafes at the airport that it forgot to board the plane and everyone had to wait for it for a hour until the plane could take off; During the Christmas Concert, it tried playing the violin, however, he made an intolerable noise that all the audience decided to leave.

Many of the students started to write complaint letters to the headmistress after these accidents, telling her to send the baby dinosaur to the zoo as it is causing a lot of disaster and the school has been losing reputation. However, other students said to keep the baby dinosaur as it is very attractive and they doubt what the zookeepers are going to do to it if it is sent to the zoo. The headmistress thought for a long time and decided to let the school vote if the dinosaur should stay or leave.

Before the voting day, something unexpected happened, 2 government officials came to our school and told us to give them the baby dinosaur. They said, “This dinosaur is a *Sauromithoides*, it is very scarce in the olden times, there were only 1 *Sauromithoides* found in 100 dinosaurs, that's why we need to take hold of it to our laboratory and study it.” Everybody started to have a paradox in their minds, should we let the baby dinosaur go with the government officials? The headmistress had a meeting with all the teachers to figure out the answer.

At the start of the meeting, Mrs Pitts said “We have to let the baby dinosaur go! It is my worst fear! I have had nightmares every night since the day the stupid dinosaur burst out of the fossil!” Another teacher, Mrs Lam said “The students have been developing empathy with the dinosaur living in the school. Some parents have been sending me emails telling me that their child has been showing empathy to their family and friends, that's why they want us to keep the dinosaur at school. “After a few minutes of deafening silence, the headmistress spoke, “Mrs Lam is right, the children have been developing empathy and showing it to everyone. However, if we keep the dinosaur, the only people that can see the dinosaur are the children in our school, the other people living in Hong Kong cannot see the baby dinosaur, that would be a very selfish act, isn't it? So, if we let the experts take the baby dinosaur, after they finish studying the baby dinosaur, they may also allow Hong Kong citizens to meet the baby dinosaur. In conclusion, I have decided to let the baby dinosaur go.”

Two weeks later, the government officials took the baby dinosaur away to their laboratory. Although we are separated now, the school will never forget that we once had a dinosaur that lived in our school, and now, it will live in our hearts forever and ever.

# Clone of Time

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Ng, Yue Yan – 11*

Five excited palaeontologists were gathered at a site in Jiangxi. A farmer had just discovered the biggest, prettiest piece of amber on Earth, and there was a completely perfect, astonishing titanosaur fossil inside.

With only a few traits from titanosaurs, the fossil had a far larger head, and possessed a wolf body. But the most terrifying thing was that there were six perfectly intact human skeletons inside the vegetarian's stomach.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Exhausted from a failed solo interview with a busy billionaire, Wu Yulin trekked the treacherous path from the glamorous office building back to her family's wrecked little hut in the mountain area. Then she noticed her grandfather, usually frail and tired but now pumped up with exhilaration.

Immediately spotting the dinosaur fossil, she exuberantly dashed up a nearby slope to get a good shot of the area, but in her excitement she tripped on a pebble and fell, twisting her ankle in the process.

Not wanting to alert the palaeontologists of her presence, the reporter quickly grabbed her camera equipment and started recording, sitting on the ground silently.

Just as she started the video, there was a deafening *THUD!* in the air and a smoking spaceship crashed right next to the site. The spaceship appeared to be glitching, and several parts were flashing red and blue, teleporting left and right.

Too scared to scream, the seven humans at the site stared in amazement as the spaceship doors opened. With trembling hands, Yulin directed her camera to the gigantic ship.

It was a wreck. The equipment was exploding into dust, and the four green-skinned crablike creatures inside opened their mouths in a soundless scream as their flesh gradually disappeared – dying, thought Yulin.

And then the dinosaur appeared. Looking starved, identical to the one in the amber, it had an unusually large head with rainbow skin and the wolf body.

Yulin's mind flashed to the six humans inside the belly, and her camera almost fell from her hands. But no... it was a vegetarian... it wouldn't.

Would it?

The trembling camera followed the mutated titanosaur as it slowly *thump-thumped* to the site. Every step shook the earth, sounded like thunder, and beat a hammer down on Yulin's heart.

The titanosaur dramatically stopped in front of Yulin's grandfather, and lightly picked him up in its teeth.

Yulin took a desperate breath in, furious at herself that she couldn't do anything to help and was recording her own grandfather's end.

The spaceship spawned a couple of gigantic rainbow ants.

There was a soft *crunch* as the jaws cracked open the farmer's body, and the titanosaur went on a bloody frenzy. Within seconds it grabbed all five palaeontologists and threw them into its mouth.

The dinosaur slowly prowled onward, reaching the fossil. Its own fossil, Yulin thought. The titanosaur was meeting its own dead body from millions of years ago. But how?

The dinosaur sat down with a huge *thump*, throwing an anguished Yulin off her feet.

Lifting the fossil easily with its strong arms, the dinosaur blinked at itself. It must recognize the body. Then, softly, gently, it put the fossil down and turned. It *thump-thumped* back to the spaceship where it came from slowly.

The titanosaur ate the gigantic rainbow ants and walked inside.

Yulin drew a breath in. The spaceship's doors closed suddenly, and the titanosaur gave a roar, something that rumbled the very earth under Yulin and scared the guts out of her.

Then the spaceship glitched one last time, opening some kind of dark time portal under it – then transformed into a huge piece of amber and fell into the portal.

It all disappeared.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hyperix, the rightful king of the planet Azuron, thumped the controls of his royal spaceship, Azurite 1, frantically. He had been chased out of Azuron by his ambitious brother Alxarion. But his spaceship's navigation system had been sabotaged remotely, crashing into planet Earth's atmosphere, and he could feel the temperature rising now. Admitting his fate, sat down in his seat and stared at the live broadcast on TV. Alxarion was claiming a spaceship malfunctioned, blasting him off into space, and declared himself the king. Hyperix felt like he was about to puke if the broadcast continued, but luckily the TV glitched and went off. He sighed, staring at the wall of the ship. This was quite a noble way to die, after all. He might as well enjoy it... The TV turned on. Live broadcast from Earth's channels. The images were blurry, and the camera was shaking, but Hyperix stood and focused on the screen. He recognized the dinosaur.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There had been another spaceship, crashing into Earth a hundred million Earth years ago, the crew dead, and the titanosaur had stepped into it, curious. The spaceship had shut its doors, trapping the dinosaur in. Then, glitching, it mutated the dinosaur: rainbow skin, insane health, smarter brain, wolf body.

Then the spaceship blasted itself into space, but fell again and landed in a remote landscape of fields in Anqing. Another spaceship built specifically for Earth had came and the dinosaur had been put into a makeshift laboratory on live broadcast, causing many troubles – refusing meat, escape attempts – and after a week (100 million earth years), Azurites got annoyed by the useless creature wasting resources.

Hyperix had decided to remove the dinosaur from Earth, since it was mutated. At that time the whole research crew had died, unaccustomed to the Earth's weather, but before the last member died, under order he put the dinosaur into the spaceship, then sent it off.

But Earth's gravity had changed, and the spaceship had crashed into Earth yet again. Right at Jiangxi next to its own fossil.

The titanosaur became the first, last and only dinosaur to go into space.

The TV melted, spraying Hyperix with scorching sparks. He closed his eyes.

Azurite 1 exploded in the sky in fireworks.

# Threads of Nature

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Song, Man Ka Megan – 12*

The world was a tapestry woven with threads of silence and scattered whispers. The world was changing, every minute, every second.

Small village huts became tall skyscrapers, fields became highways, and books became phones.

Nature fought desperately to reclaim its territory, but now, nothing was left of her but a small corner of land, hidden away in the expanding metropolis.

Xiao-ling wandered the remnants of a life once lively, her vibrant pink hair and eclectic fashion making her a colorful specter against the dreary backdrop of abandoned buildings and overgrown ruins of the once prestigious National Museum of China. Petrichor filled the air as Xiao-ling stepped into the remains, awe and pity weighing down her heart as something once so magnificent, a symbol of life, has been reduced to nothing but a pile of rubble.

Xiao-ling wandered around in the 'museum', reading the remaining plaques still intact. "A... Therizinosaurus?" she read out loud. The word sounded funny. Her laugh gently echoed off the walls of the damaged room.

As she was about to leave, a glint caught her eye. A small rectangular shape caught her eye. There on the floor lay a recording device. "Strange..." Xiao-Ling muttered. Out of her curious nature, Xiao-Ling picked it up with caution, slipped it in her pocket and hurried home.

Walking back home may only take a few minutes, but to Xiao-ling, it felt like an eternity. She couldn't wait to study this peculiar thing. Her pace quickened and soon enough, she arrived at her front door. Slamming the door open, she took out the recorder and fiddled with it. A big red button was in the middle of it, urging her to press it, to find out what secrets it contained.

With a trembling hand, she pressed a button, and suddenly, the room was filled with a symphony of sounds—a cacophony of calls and roars. Xiao-ling found herself in the middle of a forest, surrounded by green, unseen in the mega-cities every living soul now resided in.

A lush landscape teeming with life, great feathered bodies moving in rhythm with the music of their environment. She saw the magnificent creatures—the last echoes of dinosaurs—living in harmony with a world that no longer existed. Their emotions surged through her, vibrant and alive, each roar a note, each call a chord in the symphony of existence.

Xiao-ling looked down. In her hand was a small book, with the words 'Dinosaur Encyclopedia' on it. She turned to the first page.

## **Therizinosaurus:**

**This dinosaur is known for its long, claw-like fingers, which could grow up to 3 feet in length. It lived during the Late Cretaceous period and is believed to have been herbivorous, despite its intimidating claws.**

Xiao-ling raised her head. In front of her were two Therizinosaurus, feathers sheen and claws sharp as knives. The duo was munching happily on some leaves, oblivious to the stranger that had suddenly appeared in front of them. Not that Xiao-ling minded.

She flipped the thin and leathery paper of the encyclopedia, and was met with a different dinosaur.

**Sinosauropteryx:**

**Sinosauropteryx is one of the earliest known feathered dinosaurs, discovered in Liaoning Province. It lived during the Early Cretaceous and provides crucial evidence for the connection between dinosaurs and modern birds.**

Xiao–ling turned her head to the right, and everything around her flashed. It was like travelling through a wormhole, with blue and purple lights sparkling around her. Suddenly, she arrived. She looked to the right, and a raccoon–like dinosaur looked back at her. With terror in its eyes, it scampered away.

Xiao–ling looked around her, the place lively and energetic, the opposite of the futuristic megalopolis. *So, these are China's dinosaurs, huh?* She thought to herself. Xiao–ling strolled along the path, soft grass tickling her bare feet. Dinosaurs surrounded her, but each doing their own thing, all untroubled and–

In a flash, all the dinosaurs disappeared, all the scenery left without a trace, and the joy–filled air vanished. The only evidence left was the now silent recorder, resting on top of Xiao–ling's table.

Day after day, Xiao–ling returned to the abandoned ruins, desperate to find out more about the dinosaurs and nature.

Day after day, she heard people discussing abolishing the only piece of nature left.

Day after day, the time she had left to save nature shortened, and she would return to living her dull and lacklustre life.

Days became weeks as Xiao–ling delved deeper into the recordings, her evenings spent hunched over the device, while her nights transformed into adventures through time. She felt the weight of their struggles, their joys, and the pulse of a world that thrived long before humanity's greed began to choke it. She wasn't just hearing the past—she was living it, every sound anchoring her more deeply into the fabric of a forgotten world.

After uncountable hours of reliving the dinosaurs' comfort and angst, a plan formed in her mind.

Under a blanket of stars, Xiao–ling stood at the heart of the ruins, connected to the recording device. As she pressed play, the haunting cries of dinosaurs echoed around them, reverberating into the night. She plucked the strings of her lyre, and with each note, she painted a soundscape that evoked emotion and memory.

Slowly but surely, people heard the music. The community swayed, mesmerized, as memories flooded back—what it felt like when nature was alive and thriving.

Her music cascaded through the crowd, intertwining their hearts with the pulsations of the past. It was a celebration, a lament, a call to preserve the beauty that remained after generations of exploitation. People wept, smiled, and most importantly, remembered.

The past and present fused through her music, breathing life into a narrative of nurturing over neglect, hope over despair. Together, they stood at the threshold of a future that honored the echoes of the past, promising to safeguard the fragile threads of nature still woven into the tapestry of existence.

# Discovering Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Stevens, Annabelle Joyce – 11*

I'd like to share with you the story of a wonderful discovery!

Our story begins with my friend Claire and I. Neither of us had ever learnt about dinosaur fossils, until one day in Form One, they captured our attention during a science lesson with their mystery, their scarcity and their connection to our ancient past. From then on, every day after school we would read science magazines and scour online forums dedicated to finding these special rocks that had changed our whole view on life. Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into years, and we were still as obsessed as we had been a decade before. By then, we were in our early twenties. We had decided to become paleontologists, to take on the daunting task of finding one of the last undiscovered dinosaur fossils : the Chinesinosaur, as we named it. This mighty ancient beast was believed to be dark blue in colour, with crimson boots and ivory-coloured stripes on its back. Chunky brown patches dotted this dinosaur, making it look somewhat like a discoloured giraffe. From our contacts at university, we gathered a team of like-minded individuals to discuss and guide one another on the journey to explore the last great Asian frontier of paleontology.

After three months of preparation, we finally set out on a balmy day in late summer, when the temperature was just right. Our vessel, the “Star of Hope”, awaited us at the public ferry pier in Central, bobbing up and down enthusiastically in the swell. The experienced captain, who was the only sailor on board, taught us how to use oars. Eventually we made it round the coast to a jungle in Fujian province that was known to be abundant dinosaur fossils containing peculiar volcanic ash that had never been studied before. This was a hard time for us all; from the prospect of unpredictable weather that threatened to capsize our vessel to falling victim to viruses that spread rapidly. Through all of this, our friendship became stronger. Little did we know how deeply we would need to tap deep into our reserves of determination and grit!

Upon our arrival, cloaked in the mists of late summer, the jungle wilderness was covered in a spidery tangle of trees, where bushes and thorns presented us with gnarled limbs like ghostly figures.

“Should we go back? It’s impossible to walk in here with creepers seeping into the floor! And all the creepy crawlies! It’s way too creepy in here...” Claire whispered, scratching at her unkempt hair. We had not showered for days.

“If you’re so scared, then just leave. I can carry on by myself,” I replied.

Claire rolled her eyes and took a step back.

After several more hours of scavenging through the thickets, I struck gold. I squinted and gasped, “Come here, Claire, come here! Look! I think that’s a fossil.” Her eyes sparkled as she rushed over. It was indeed a fossil. I flipped through my notebook and exclaimed, “It doesn’t look like anything we’ve seen before, it’s a new discovery!”

Examining the fossil more closely, we caught a brief glimpse of China’s ancient past. What more would we learn?

However, for all our excitement, we couldn’t shake off a feeling of being exhausted, utterly drained. I was puzzled. We worked and slept at regular hours, so why would we suddenly feel this way? Could it be the spring water we had been drinking, the plants and insects we had eaten? Either way, the jungle was draining us, and we had to return to Hong Kong.

Gradually it seemed that the foliage was growing thicker, closing in on us. Had our presence offended someone or something in the jungle? We were simultaneously paralysed with both fear and an overwhelming fatigue. As we stood there in a small clearing, Claire and I feared the ferocious wrath of the natural world, but unable to resist any longer, we both lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

As afternoon turned into evening, thankfully, the fog of lethargy slowly lifted. We awoke in the twilight and retraced our steps to the boat.

The following afternoon, the captain navigated us back safely to our drop-off point in Aberdeen. Word had spread of our adventure, and a crowd of well-wishers, friends and reporters was waiting for us at the quayside. “How does it feel to find the last piece of the puzzle? Are you excited?” shouted the reporters. Claire shouted back, “We have been dreaming of this day! I can’t believe it finally happened. Now we just want to get home and celebrate.”

That evening, we met our old university professor, who confirmed that indeed we had made a breakthrough. The Chinesnosaurus was reborn.

We were thrilled with the recognition that we received in those following few days, but wanted to share our interest and fire a passion for paleontology in young people. Taking our discovery around China, we toured all of the major cities. A replica of the fossil was placed in the city museum of Xiamen, while the original now resides at the Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui under the grandly-named “Chinesnosaurus of the Cretaceous Period” exhibit.

Looking back now many years later, every time I think of this dramatic period of my earlier life, it feels like a miracle of good fortune and perseverance. How glad we were to keep going, overcoming the daily challenges and our own doubts. The next chapter in this story will be written by the next generation of scientists and innovators, their energy and enthusiasm will burn brightly for many years to come.

\*\*\* THE END \*\*\*

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Tam, Nga Wan – 9*

"A young boy and his grandpa were vacationing in Jiangxi, China when one day they stumbled upon a discovery of bones while hiking on the Wugong Mountain. No one knows what or where they came from, but scientists say they are working on the research, and it looks like the remains of dinosaur fossils," the news reporter said, with curiosity and hope. "Look, Papa, look!" I said, thrilled at what I had seen. Papa bent down and leaned forward to take a closer look. "What's that, darling?" He asked, looking down at me with wonder and interest in his eyes. "Footprints, I suppose," I replied. I paused for a moment, but then I broke the silence. "I'm not sure, but I reckon it is human footprints. Doesn't it look abnormal?" I bent down to inspect it. My darling grandpa began looking at me as if I had done something. His eyes shifted to the footprint print, and my focus shifted there too; we took one look at each other and then burst into peals of laughter. The footprint looked hilarious. Once we'd caught our breath, I told Papa about my idea for an adventure! He agreed, and off we went. Grandpa and I were down in the heart of the mountain when an arrow whizzed past. "That was close. We almost got pierced by an arrow!" Papa said while taking his towel and dabbing his forehead with it. We had barely taken 2 steps, and there was a gunshot. There was smoke everywhere. We saw a shadow coming from it, and a man who was dressed in bulletproof vests and holding weapons emerged from the smoke. "Hello," he said in a deep voice. "My name is Marcus, and I am on a quest to find rare dinosaur fossils. I don't..." "Us too! What about you join us?" Marcus agreed, so we began digging. We dug for hours, but we still had no luck. Papa wanted to give up, but Marcus and I forced him.

The next day, we saw Marcus by the riverbed kneeling and catching fish. Papa asked for breakfast, but Marcus was in a bad mood. After a hearty breakfast, we found lots of fossils! Papa and I were pleased, but Marcus was furious. Despite my fears, I decided to propose scouting for them tomorrow.

The next day, we started looking for fossils again, but this time we found footprints instead, so we decided to follow them. The prints led to a huge rock. We looked at each other back and forth. "Lift it up!" Marcus yelled, "Don't just stand there!" We three used all our strength to pull the rock up. Finally, we put the rock away. "Yes, I have succeeded!" We scattered the fossils around and began putting them together. In the end, we ended up with a chicken leg-like fossil. We weren't sure what it was, so we were disappointed. "It's not good enough!" Marcus said. Papa sighed and told us that he had an idea: "We gotta cross over the land connected to this mountain, but it's at the bottom of the hill, and it would take us forever to get..." "Doesn't matter. As long as we think about the great things that will come to us after, we'll be fine." Interrupted, Marcus, but...

We were exhausted as we slid down the mountain but still unstoppable. "Good work, guys! Let's get some rest," Marcus said to us. Papa and I nodded, and we rested. After some sleep, we were back to walking. In the middle of the land, as Marcus, Papa, and I wandered the dusty paths, I suddenly felt a dark presence behind us; there was also a heavy breathing in my ear. I panicked; I turned to Marcus. He drew his knife out and held it out. A dark aura coiled around us. A shadow emerged from it.

The shadow was pure blackness, just a cloak and a hood wrapped around its invisible face. The wind pulled back the hood and revealed a dark, menacing face. The creature let out a slow and fearful laugh. "Hahaha, hello Marcus, or should I say Igor? I've been watching you for a long, long time. I thought you wouldn't betray me!" The man held Marcus by the neck. They had powers! "Igor, you were my bravest pupil, and now look at you, all weak and helpless. What happened to you?" He said. "I found friends, kindness, and love. I'm done being your slave, Edgar!" Marcus choked underneath Edgar's tight grip. "Hm. I guess I'll have to hurt your friends then." "NO! I will NOT let you hurt them!" Marcus escaped Edgar's iron-like grip and transformed into a handsome warrior. He charged at Edgar. The two broke out into a fight. Finally, Marcus dropped to the ground along with Edgar. Marcus stayed there, but not for long. He rose to the moon; he lifted his arms in the air, and a dark red light flew from his eyes to Edgar. Edgar got

squashed by the light and got trapped inside. “I’ll get you, Igor! Just...” Marcus simply smiled and shot him straight to the moon. Papa and I glared at Marcus. “You’ve got some explaining to do,” Papa said to Marcus. Marcus sighed. “That man was my leader. I don’t belong here. I come from a realm called Aragrath. In my world, we live by sacrificing humans and animals so that our power grows stronger. Edgar sent me here to find a power source — the fossils, for Aragrath, so that’s why he sent me here.

When they sent me here, I was bitter and cold, but after meeting you both, I realised that not everything is about power; instead, I found things that are more valuable than power, like you.

I’ve got to go back for your safety,” I hugged him and said,” Thank you, Marcus, I’ll really miss you.” “No, thank you, I found friends for the first time. I’ll never forget you. Here, take this,” he handed me and Papa a small necklace made out of amethyst. “Here is this necklace for you. It symbolizes our friendship. I have to go. Just remember I will be watching over you.” He said. Goodbye!” He said to us. We hugged one last time, and Marcus teleported away. Without Marcus, we decided to save the adventure for him. Even without Marcus, I have cherished that necklace since then. Keeping the spirit of adventure alive in our hearts.

# The “School Project”

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Tam, Sun Wing Karina – 12*

Scarlett was home from school and she brought Pete and Clara with her to finish their “school project” which was actually a time machine they have been working on for two years, but they called it a “school project” so that Scarlett’s mum wouldn’t suspect anything when Scarlett needed to bring Pete and Clara with her to make the time machine.

The time machine could go back to China two hundred million years ago and it was finally the day for them to test it out. Pete had even been researching dinosaurs for two years just for this day!

“Ready? I’m going to count to three, and we’re going to step into the time machine together,” said Scarlett. “One, two, three!”

The three friends stepped into the time machine and *whoosh!* They were sucked into the big hole and landed flat on the ground. Just then, Scarlett realised she forgot her phone. They shivered in the cold and checked their watches—it was a chilling ten degrees! They looked around them and realised they were surrounded by trees. There were cycads, tree ferns and even conifers.

Suddenly, a mysterious shadow appeared behind the trees. It walked slowly and turned its face to Clara.

“Aww, is that a weasel?,” said Clara.

It was not a weasel, it was, in fact, a dinosaur named *Sinosauropteryx*. The *Sinosauropteryx* was from the *Compsognathidae* family, which is a family of *coelurosaurian* theropod dinosaurs, carnivores with bird-like features.

The sun shone on the dark shadow, and the three friends finally realised that they were face-to-face with a living dinosaur, not a weasel or any other cute animals. They screamed and ran as fast as they could until they found a massive tree trunk and hid behind it. Sticking their heads out, they managed to observe the *Sinosauropteryx* without it seeing them.

The small dinosaur had delicate, hair-like feathers that were up to three centimeters long, covering most of the body to keep it warm. Its long, bony, ginger-and-white striped tail was used for balance as it ran on its hind legs. Using its razor sharp teeth, the *Sinosauropteryx* ate its lunch—lizards and bugs. A short while later, the *Sinosauropteryx* finished its lunch and left the woods.

The children came out from behind the tree trunk and gasped with relief. Pete filled them in about the dinosaur, “Wow! I’d never imagined seeing one of my favourite dinosaurs — the *Sinosauropteryx* — in real life! It was discovered in Liaoning Province in 1996. It lived 125 million years ago. Its name means “First Chinese Dragon Feather” since it is the first Chinese non-bird dinosaur found with feathers, providing further evidence for the link between dinosaurs and birds.”

“Wow, such interesting facts!” sneered Scarlett sarcastically. “Well, we’ve got to go somewhere else now that the *Sinosauropteryx* is gone, we have to go somewhere else and continue exploring the past! There’s nothing else to see here!” said Scarlett.

“You’re right. Time machine, take us to 5 years later!” said Clara.

The three friends stepped into the time machine, and the time machine brought them to the Early Cretaceous Period. They fell into a forest with massive trees. In front of them was a *Psittacosaurus* from the *Psittacosauridae* Family.

Scarlett and Clara kept yelling at Pete to run away from the dinosaur, but Pete knew it was a herbivore and harmless dinosaur that only eats plants. Pete said, “This dinosaur, a *Psittacosaurus*, is a primitive member of the horned dinosaurs, and is six point five feet in length. Its skull has a bone that formed the upper beak, and its upper jaw curves over the lower jaw, looking like a parrot’s beak. It also has a thick, bony ridge on its head where the lower jaw is attached to the skull.”

The three friends discovered that this dinosaur was bipedal, meaning it stands on two legs most of the time, and that the posture of the Psittacosaurus made it look like a capybara. Using their watches, they also found that the dinosaur was discovered by Henry Fairfield Osborn in 1923 in Mongolia, and the meaning of its name is “Parrot Lizard”.

The three friends stepped into the time machine for their final destination. This time, they landed on a mountain and saw a dinosaur walking along the tree ferns.

“This isn’t a carnivore, is it?” asked Clara.

“No, it isn’t. It’s a Qianjiangsaurus, and it’s a herbivore,” replied Pete.

This dinosaur was so gigantic in height and length, it was eight meters long! It had a wide body, with spikes on top of the body to the tail. As it slowly chewed the plants it found, the children also discovered it had yellowy–brown patches on its body. Pete quickly explained that the Qianjiangsaurus was from the Hadrosauridae Family, and lived in the Late Cretaceous epoch, about seventy million years ago from 2025. It was discovered in 2022 and was named after a river called Qianjiang and a man called Changsheng Wong.

Before the time machine took the children back home, it generated a quiz for the three friends to test them about the three dinosaurs they had just seen. The first question was: *What is the Sinosauropteryx’s tail used for?*

“It is used for balance as it runs on its hind legs,” replied Pete.

A tick was shown on the screen. The second question was: *Is the Psittacosaurus a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore?*

“Herbivore?” muttered Clara unsurely.

Another tick was shown on the screen. There was only one question left: *How long is the Qianjiangsaurus?*

“8 feet,” replied Pete.

A red cross was shown on the screen. The screen read, “You have five seconds to answer correctly, or else you won’t go home. The timer starts now.”

As the clock was ticking, Pete became more and more anxious. *What if we all can't get back home? Then it will all be my fault!*

At this point, he simply just gave up and blurted out the number one answer in his head, “8 meters?”

Lucky for him, it was correct. The time machine brought them back to Scarlett’s room, and Scarlett immediately put the time machine back under her bed so no one could see it. Suddenly, her phone on her bedside table started ringing: it was Mum.

Scarlett answered the phone, “Yes?”

A panicked voice answered, “Why didn’t you answer my phone calls? I was so worried about you!”

“Sorry mum. We... we went to get some supplies from the... the grocery store but I forgot to... to bring my phone...” lied Scarlett.

“Why didn’t you just ask me?” sighed Mum. “We have apples at home! Anyways, it’s very late now, so you have to finish your project with your friends next time.”

“Okay mum,” replied Scarlett.

## The Quest for the Heart of Gem: A Beipiaosaurus Adventure!

As warm sunlight filters through the trees, bathing the mossy ground in a golden glow, I wake up with a start. My name is Beipi, a young Beipiasaurus from the Early Cretaceous period in China. The morning air is crisp, filled with chirping birds and rustling leaves, but something feels off. I call out for my parents, hoping they'll wake up so we can play in the lush forest I adore. When I realize they're missing, a wave of anxiety washes over me.

I scramble to my feet, my heart racing. Where could they be? I call for my best friend, Confu, a tiny Confuciusornis who swoops down from her nest, her feathers glistening in the sunlight. Abandoned by her herd, she has found her way to my forest, and we've been inseparable ever since.

"What's wrong?" she asks sleepily, her beady eyes struggling to focus.

"I can't find my parents," I reply, my voice tinged with worry. Confu senses my anxiety, and without hesitation, she decides to search with me. We weave through the underbrush, but the forest feels daunting and unfamiliar.

After searching all morning and afternoon, we conclude that my parents are truly missing. Shadows stretch as the sun dips below the horizon, filling me with dread. We decide to find Elder Alxa, a wise therizinosaurus who knows the secrets of the forest.

When we find her, she stands majestically among the towering trees. After I explain the situation, she listens intently.

"Your parents, Bea and Goliath, have stolen the 'Heart of Gem,'" she explains. "They hoped you would become the strongest and fiercest dinosaur." The gem belongs to King Taurion, a Minotaurasaurus, and my parents are imprisoned in Gloomspire Cave, rumored to be haunted by lost souls.

To rescue them, I must return the 'Heart of Gem' by dawn tomorrow, or my parents will be trapped forever. Confu eagerly offers to help, though her usual cheerfulness seems dimmed by a flicker of fear in her eyes.

The journey is exhausting. We must swim across the Wailing Waters, known for its tumultuous waves, then walk through dense forest and climb Phantom Peak. As we approach the waters, the sound of crashing waves grows louder.

"We can do this," Confu assures me, but I notice her wings flapping nervously. We leap into the water, the cold shocking us. The waves toss us around, but we swim with all our might and eventually reach the other side, panting and soaked.

At the foot of Phantom Peak, I gaze up at its imposing height. The ascent is grueling, and my legs ache. Confu lingers a few steps behind, her eyes wide and darting.

"I'm scared!" she chirps, glistening with tears. After what feels like hours, we finally reach the summit. The view takes my breath away, but I'm anxious to find the gem.

Desperately searching the rocky terrain, I feel the weight of time pressing down on me. Just as despair creeps in, I hear Confu call out, "I think I found it!"

I rush to her and see a huge emerald shaped like a heart, lodged deep within the rocks. Using my claws, I dig it out while Confu breaks the stones around it. After a lot of hard work, the 'Heart of Gem' is finally free. I hold it triumphantly, overwhelmed with joy.

However, when we arrive at the cave, I can't find my parents. I hold onto hope that King Taurion will free them as promised. As I descend Phantom Peak, I suddenly notice something strange happening with Confu. Small gusts of wind swirl around her, and she glows faintly.

"Confu, what's happening?" I ask, my heart pounding in my chest.

"I... I need to tell you something," she stammers. "I'm not just a regular bird. I'm a descendant of Joy, the fairy who created the 'Heart of Gem.' This gem is tied to my family's legacy."

I'm shocked. "But why didn't you tell me?"

“I was afraid you’d see me differently or think I was a burden. But I need to embrace who I am to save your parents.”

Her honesty fills me with admiration. Together, we hurry toward King Taurion’s palace to return the gem.

When we arrive, I thrust the gem into Taurion’s hands. He is overjoyed and promises to free my parents.

“Great job, both of you!” he says, his eyes sparkling with gratitude. “The ‘Heart of Gem’ is a crystal from Prince Titan Rex himself. It was created by a kind young fairy named Joy.”

Finally, after such a long day, we understand why the ‘Heart of Gem’ is so precious. To my surprise, my parents appear out of thin air! “Mom! Dad!” I cry out, my voice filled with joy.

“Sweetie,” my mother replies, tears welling up. She hugs me tightly. “I’m so sorry,” my dad says, his voice filled with regret. “I convinced Bea to steal the ‘Heart of Gem.’ I hope you can forgive me, Beipi.”

I nod, overwhelmed with happiness.

In that moment, I see not just my parents but the lessons we’ve all learned. “We’re stronger together, and we can face anything as a family,” I say, feeling a newfound strength.

We decide to celebrate our reunion with a feast in the heart of the forest. The once-shadowy place now feels vibrant and alive, echoing with the sounds of our joy.

# The Dinosaurs' Fate in my Team's Hands

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Tsui, Hoi Lam – 11*

I rushed around my apartment, packing everything I needed for my next trip, my mind rushing as fast as my racing legs. I could not believe it, I had brought a Chinese Confuciusornis fossil back to life with an AED machine! I had found it in China's ancient lake deposits mixed with layers of volcanic ash! What was more, the fossil had told a group of dinosaur experts and me about its life through a tailormade translator, and we were asked to try to travel back in time to save the dinosaurs from dying. It was said to have died of hunger and thirstiness and begged us to bring food and water for it and its friends while they were still alive to save them some pain. We agreed, and have been preparing for this trip ever since.

Finally, I was ready. I brought all my things to the time machine and clambered inside. My blood was gushing in my veins as I had never been on such an important trip in my life before. My actions could change the whole world's fate—if dinosaurs lived, they might eat humans and make us extinct instead. Luckily — to my surprise as well—most of the nations approved of our idea of saving the dinosaurs and wished us their best as we set off.

When we were all on board, we heard the captain say “Alright then! We're off to the Early Cretaceous!” cheerfully.

I heard a whirling noise and then felt pressure on my shoulders before we flew back in time. Everything went black, and then I could smell the fresh dirt and could hear the squawking noises all around me. I knew we had succeeded in time—traveling. I climbed out of the time machine and looked around. All the dinosaurs seemed to be in a hurry to do something, and I could sense panic everywhere. One of the experts looked at the sky and said “Uh oh. We better hide!”

The others need not be told twice, for something huge loomed over us. We scampered around, looking for somewhere strong enough to hide from the asteroid impact. Soon enough, we found a hole in a mountain. It wasn't long after we moved in that we heard a gigantic ‘BOOM’ as the world around us collapsed. When everything stopped shaking, I knew it was safe and signalled my teammates to go out and have a look at our surroundings.

“SQUAWK!”

I looked around, bewildered. Just then, I noticed a Confuciusornis stuck under a tree. I immediately rushed to help it, dragging it hard. I heard a tiny crack, then the dinosaur broke free. I was horrified to see that its wing was bent! I called other crew members to give it some food and water so that it could rest properly. Suddenly, I remembered something: the Confuciusornis that spoke to me with the tailormade translator had a bent wing too, could this possibly be the same dinosaur? Was I the one who bent it?

I had no time to think, for a large group of dinosaurs were crowding around us! I couldn't blame them, they all looked hungry and innocent, being the survivors, and there was a strong scent of delicious food wafting in the air. Then, slowly, we gave them each some food and water, ensuring that everyone had enough to live. Soon, the dinosaurs seemed to think that we meant no harm and ate calmly. After a while, we figured that the Confuciusornis couldn't eat much because they had a toothless beak and that we gave them too much hard-to-chew food! We sheepishly gave them some soft, raw meat as Confuciusornis were carnivorous, blaming ourselves for not remembering that point.

After all the dinosaurs we fed were full, we used the tailormade translator to comfort them about their loss from the asteroid impact. The dinosaurs seemed to accept our words and agreed to live in peace with humans if they survived one to two hundred million years which is until 2025. Fortunately, we promised them that we would come back with food to visit them regularly to maintain their health. We promised to look after the wounded too so as to make sure that the bacteria wouldn't spread and give the dinosaurs deadly diseases.

With that, the dinosaur experts and I scampered back into the time machine and sped off towards the first day of 2025.

Everything was dark at first so I only heard a shrill call of a baby Confuciusornis before everything else came to my senses.

“It’s okay, buddy, it’s okay!” came another voice. That one was familiar to me—it was my best friend’s—Charlotte’s.

I opened my eyes: everything was fuzzy at first. Then, I realized that my very dear friend was actually holding a baby dinosaur in her hand! The baby was crawling around Charlotte’s hand, looking at me with big, round, adorable eyes. I immediately fell for it.

“Aww, it’s so cute!”

“My dinosaur’s eggs have finally hatched! This is the eldest Confuciusornis of the batch. I brought him here to welcome you back! His name is Silverfangs. Say hi, Silverfangs!” my best friend introduced me to her best dinosaur buddy energetically as the baby purred and stretched before going back to sleep. On the way back home, I spotted people all over the place walking with their pet dinosaurs happily.

I am so glad that dinosaurs can live to this day! I hope these uniquely sweet bonds between humans and dinosaurs can last forever!

# The Truth

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Tsui, Sum Yin – 10*

Gaudium (Joy in Latin) Spes (Hope in Latin) looked out the window, thrilled and speechless. Ever since her parents, excellent and famous palaeontologists, had agreed to bring her with them to a new digging site, she had been enthusiastic beyond belief.

Hundreds of her parents' co-workers helped dig up new fossils every day, and as the Spes family drove to the site, Gaudium wondered if she could be one of them, one day.

"Daddy, can I help you and Mommy today? I promise to be really careful and helpful!" Gaudium asked, with shining eyes.

"Alright, darling," her father chuckled, happy to see her be such an eager beaver.

Gaudium had been obsessed with dinosaurs her whole life. From books to models, all she had were dinosaur-related. Now, as she sat in the car, she thought optimistically, I might discover a new fossil! This is my big chance!

The Spes family finally arrived at the site. With Gaudium watching their every movement, they carefully dug through the layer of rock with the chisels and awls. Mr Spes suggested, "Let's go into that cave over there, there are a lot more fossils, I'm sure." With Gaudium helping, they dug up a variety of fossils and a special-shaped one. "Hey, wonder what it is," said Gaudium, feeling curious and stretching her hand out to touch the special-shaped fossil. The moment her hand touched, a blinding flash of light that illuminated the room occurred, and she vanished. All workers panicked, and Mr Spes looked as if he was about to faint as he searched desperately for his daughter.

"Ow, that hurts so bad! Ahh, it's freezing!" Gaudium screamed as she hit the icy cold ground, freezing and bleeding. Her arm was broken, but remembering she had fallen a long way in the icy depths, she considered herself lucky she wasn't dead.

Even though she was on solid ground and temporarily safe, she was panicking and practically finished herself off with a blue fit.

"Whoa, whoa, girl! You've given me a scare! You are better off than you think though." A deep voice echoed around her. Though Gaudium knew the person talking was probably trying to reassure her, this only horrified her more than she already was, and she screamed louder.

She only stopped when a light suddenly turned on, revealing that the voice belonged to..."DINOSAUR!" Gaudium yelled.

"Hey, girl, don't worry. I am a Gastonia, I only eat plants!" it said coolly. Looking closer, anxious, and terrified, she realized the dinosaur wasn't lying. Gastonias were three-meter-tall dinosaurs, and this was definitely one of them.

"You speak?" Gaudium asked, "B-but I-I thought you couldn't speak English."

"Girl, we speak alien," the Gastonia said, basking in the profound glory of Gaudium's astonished and amazed expression.

"Hey, I know that's a lot to take in!" the Gastonia said, "I'm friendly. By the way, my name is Toni."

"Merciless, blood-hunting creatures with no intelligence whatsoever?" Toni roared with laughter, "No, no, no, that's all wrong, all wrong, my girl... by the way, what's your name?"

"I'm Gaudium. I want to ask... what am I doing here? I'm not a dinosaur." Gaudium felt puzzled.

Toni opened his mouth, but before he could answer, a booming voice sounded, “Well done, Toni. We know Gaudium is worthy now.”

A disco brighter than a thousand light bulbs appeared, Gaudum exclaimed in wonder. Whatever craziness this was about her being worthy, it was certainly wondrous.

A rainbow-coloured dinosaur came into view, shining like a thousand suns. It was followed by several silver deinonychus, not quite so bright.

Looking around, now that she could see clearly with the lights, she was surrounded by dinosaurs, gigantic or tiny, all living together in peace. There were even dinosaurs from different periods – all peaceful. It was a dream come true!

“Gaudium,” the beautiful, shimmering, rainbowy dinosaur approached. It was as big as any diplodocus, twice as menacing as any tyrannosaurus rex, and had blue glowing eyes like a sea reflecting the moon. Gaudium was completely enthralled by its beauty and radiant power.

“I am Queen Bluebell of the dinosaurs,” Queen Bluebell said. “I am an alisaur, a type no human knows about. For eons we have been searching for a worthy human, who cares about dinosaurs and will be willing ... to change” Gaudium gasped with fascination. Then she frowned. “Change what?” Gaudium asked, perplexed.

Bluebell gestured dramatically. “Global warming. I created a new planet called Neptune. This gives space from your stinky factory air.”

“Wow! That’s amazing! You created Neptune?” Gaudium was awed.

“Yes. We believe you are a worthy child, you are the change!” Bluebell roared.

All the dinosaurs looked at her with bated breath, would she just be another failure, or would she be the change and the exchange between worlds?

“I know I can be of help, my love of dinosaurs shows more than ever. Therefore, I must say yes!!” Gaudium announced.

“Bring some dinosaurs with you. When they say that they are able to make peace with dinosaurs, we will be there. Now go reveal yourself to the world! Oh, and a hospital!” Bluebell said, gently nudging Gaudium.

Gaudium looked at their bruises and broken arm.

She yelled, “Goodbye Bluebell! Bye Toni, and everyone else!”

Then she vanished.

“Gaudium! Oh my god, I’m worried about you! I nearly got sick!”

Hugging her dad, she felt a nudge on her legs – a fruitaden! “Ah! Something is touching me,” Mr Spes gasped. “It’s a mini dinosaur!” he screamed.

“Oh dad, it’s just a fruitaden, a mini plan eater.”

“Hello,” the fruitaden waved.

Gasps went through the crowd. Mr Spes roared with laughter. He gingerly patted the fruitaden.

This news spread quickly and Gaudium was interviewed on TV everyday becoming a celebrity having a golden sling on her arm as she said all she could about the dinosaurs and how they wanted peace.

Soon, factories were banned. Many estimated it wouldn't be long till the dinosaurs would come...

# New Tales of China's Dinosaur

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Tsui, Yik Nam Sofia – 11*

This story takes place in 2056, in China's Jiangxi, about two sisters who have a fascination with dinosaurs. "Look Hazel, look! It's the triceratops's fossils! I told you I could find it," exclaimed Natasha Yang. The sisters were on a fossil hunt in the museum to see who can find dinosaur fossils first. Suddenly, a loud boom emitted from behind. "What was that?" said Hazel. They cautiously walked towards the noise, "Oh no! the T-rex's fossils are gone!" cried Natasha, but Hazel continued to walk towards it. Natasha followed her and discovered that the dinosaurs' plaque was glowing. Suddenly, the plaque swirled and burst out into a portal. The sisters were terrified but also curious, so they walked into the swirling portal...

After they entered the portal, the first thing they heard was the howling wind. Hazel took out her phone, and sighed, "No signals..." However, Natasha noticed her watch had been spinning madly for about five minutes until, it finally stopped. "My watch is showing that we're in...sixty-six million years ago! That means..." Natasha said. "We've gone back in time!" They shouted together. Suddenly, they heard another booming noise, which was a velociraptor – one of the fastest dinosaurs. The two girls ran for their lives but was no match for the velociraptor, just as the girls braced themselves for the fatal bite of the dinosaur, the velociraptor passed them and ran off. "Well, that was close!" panted Natasha, looking at her sister, still white-faced with fear. After they both recovered from the sprint, they found themselves a cave to rest in.

The next morning, Natasha and Hazel set themselves to explore this world that was new to them, and their fear was replaced by curiosity. "Hazel, watch out!" Natalie screeched. There was a T-rex just passing in front of Hazel, but she wasn't frightened at all and went poking at the dinosaur. She explained to her sister, "I just figured it out! Since we're from another time, they can't see us, and they don't even know that we exist. We're totally safe, Natasha. Want to try?" Natasha petted the dinosaur gently. "You're right, it feels good," she said softly. Then she spotted a triceratops (their favourite dinosaur) and immediately alerted Hazel. Little did they know that this dinosaur was a trap for the girls. Natasha and Hazel smiled as they petted the triceratops while the anaesthetic began to enter their bodies through their hands. Natasha wanted to say, "Is it just me or are you feeling a little woozy too?" but came out as "Ish iz jush me er are yo faaling a lizzle shoozy woo?" Hazel gave a slight woozy nod before both of them descended into darkness.

When they woke up, they found themselves fastened in stone chairs with stone shackles, chaining them both. "I thought you said that we were safe! Now look where we are—chained up!" Natasha whisper-shouted to Hazel. "Sister, I don't know what's going on but maybe whoever chained us up is from 2056 too." Hazel responded.

"You know, she's not wrong," came a deep unfamiliar voice chuckled. "Who are you?" Natasha asked.

"I am Dr. Emmett Brown! I was testing my new invention, a time portal to explore more about dinosaurs. After I got sucked in, I immediately started wandering around and spent time with the dinosaurs here, but when I got bored and wanted to go back, I realized that I had forgotten then to create the reciprocal portal. Just so happens, two curious girls opened the other side of the portal," the scientist said.

"Then why don't you just let us go with you right now?" Hazel asked.

"I wanted to do a test to see if you're smart enough to go back with me. Let the games begin!" He cackled evilly.

The girls were moved to another room full of rocks. However, there was one unusual item in the room that shocked the girls...a television! "How come there is a television in this room?"

"That isn't important because the game starts...Now," he smiled maliciously and turned on the screen with the questions. "Question 1, name the top four most popular dinosaurs."

Hazel answered quickly, "The T-rex, triceratops, stegosaurus and the brontosaurus."

"Correct," he said with an amused grin. "Question 2, how did dinosaurs go extinct?"

"An asteroid impact was the main culprit" Natasha answered. "Correct. Question 3, which dinosaur's name means 'bird robber?' He was sure that the girls didn't know this one, but Hazel surprised him again.

"Ornitholestes." "Correct. Last question, which dinosaur lives in China?"

"The Confuciusornis and the Protarchaeopteryx," Natasha said. "Correct! Umm—"

“So...can we go back now? We’ve answered every question and I think that you’ve held us here for far too long!” Natasha said to Dr. Emmett Brown.

Unwillingly, he admitted these girls are smart and said. “Fine. It is over, you can go home.”

When they went back home, Natasha was surprised it was still in the morning. Their parents actually said, “Coming back so early?” Natasha was about to reply but Hazel cut in and said, “Yeah, we finished our challenge in the museum early!”

Hazel then whispered to Natasha, “I don’t think our mom and dad would be so keen on the idea of us going on an adventure without telling them, right?” Natasha gave a slight nod and said to their parents, “We’re kind of tired now. Can we go take a little nap?” Natasha asked with droopy eyes.

“Sure, but remember to revise on your Putonghua and Chinese history exam.”

“Already done, Mom,” Hazel replied. They dashed up to her room. Hazel asked Natasha what was wrong and she uttered, “There is an exam? How come I didn’t know? I am so going to die!”

Hazel laughed and told her that she probably just didn’t pay attention in class. She then told her sister not to worry because she would help her revise. Just another normal day at the Yang household.

~The End~

# Time—Travel to the Cretaceous Period

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Wong, Yuk Fei – 10*

The world was dark. I couldn't feel any life in me. All I knew of was the roar of the wind that whipped harshly at my face, shrieking dangerously. I screamed, high up into the heavens that I couldn't see, the sound piercing the air and echoing through the darkness. This was the end. All the hope drained rapidly out from me as I fell, yelling out for mercy, begging to the unforgiving environment. Suddenly, as if my prayers had been answered, the fierce wind halted all at once and the darkness ebbed away. Unfortunately, the falling of me didn't stop and nor did my fear disappear as I stopped for a millisecond in midair to open a tentative eye. Wha— NO!! I was six hundred meters above the ground! I gasped when I saw the dark, dark sea like a devil's mouth stretched out below me. My fears were confirmed — I was terrified of the sea. Five hundred. Four hundred. Panic bubbled inside my chest and a faucet opened inside me, drenching me in cold sweat. Three hundred. Two hundred. I couldn't take it anymore. Every nerve in my body burst and I screamed, bracing for my coming death. One! Suddenly, the strong scent of the salty sea hit the roof of my mouth, followed by the ruthless roar of the waves. Everything disappeared into the swirling contents of the sea, seizing me roughly with its murderous hands, then all was gone. Quiet.

Something in me stirred. My breath came in wheezing gasps. Before I knew it, I was on my feet, pumping more feeling into my limbs as my blurred vision came into focus. Rough sands piled beneath me and a raging sea appeared, churning and crashing. With an unbelieving gasp, I realized that I was on a deserted island. *Yes, that's right*, I told my new brain as it whirled to life. *Think. What happened?* Gazing at the hostile sea, memory flooded rapidly back and, startled, I remembered — I am a paleontologist and a scientist. Recently, I created a time travelling machine to return to prehistoric times to study dinosaurs! I glanced eagerly at my time machine — a black watch — and yelped. It wasn't functioning properly! It still needed twenty-four hours to restore and, until then, I could be welcomed by my homeland in Fujian... Just as I was submerged in thought, an odd clicking sound drew close within the mists of the shore. A shiver tore down my spine and I spun on my heels, only to see strong, salivating jaws lunging past me. A pair of gleaming eyes flashed at me as I sidestepped barely in time, letting a choking cry escape as I recognized its feathered body — the carnivorous Yutyrannus. Just as it roared and lunged again, I grabbed desperately at a piece of driftwood and drove it straight into its chest with all my might. The great Yutyrannus howled in pain, stumbling backwards, giving me just enough time to sprint past it straight into the twisting labyrinth of conifers, cycads and tree ferns, my lungs wheezing for air. Every muscle in my entire body screamed in protest as I raced through the dense forest, the brambles and thorns tearing at my legs. *I had to survive this island, no matter how*. I sighed and planned my work mentally, half-dead under the shade of a tree. Gathering up my courage, I glanced wearily at my surroundings for the last time and plunged into the work of survival.

After an hour's work, I approached the perfect shelter with smooth walls and small passageways. I crawled joyfully into the cozy cave and spread out my leaf mattress. Placing my water filter down, I put elderberries and fish in a stone bowl. I was about to make curtains when a slight scuffling echoed through the cave and my heart skipped a beat. Whipping around, I caught sight of a baby Sinosauropteryx with a fish dangling from its jaws. It was an abandoned weakling with unusually long legs and a reddish-brown coat. It realized that it had been discovered and immediately dove into my mattress, whimpering as it dropped the fish. I laughed airily at such a sight and coaxed it out with a fish. It sniffed and licked it cautiously, but within seconds, it was attacking the fish like a tiger, growling in desperate hunger. I welcomed it into my new shelter and we spent the evening gazing at the sky as it turned from a light orange hue into a dark shade of midnight blue. The stars twinkled above us, counting down the hours I had until I was in the arms of what I call home. Finally, the little Sinosauropteryx snuggled up beside me and we slept.

Dawn broke steadily, beaming its first rays of sunshine through the branches of the elms, bringing the whole island to life. Microraptors glided elegantly through the pale pink horizon, Psittacosaurus plucked plump nuts from tangled bushes and Beipiaosaurus hunted lizards skillfully nearby the silver river. Wispy clouds drifted across the soft sky, and even the forever-young sea calmed down, just like a smooth, rippling mirror. It was time to leave, and I would miss this island even if it was where ancient creatures thrived in a harsh environment. Just one thing more. "Challenges will come twice as hard for you," I whispered to the crippled Sinosauropteryx. "but the results will come twice as good." It blinked warmly at me and stood taller as I stroked its head gently. I gazed wistfully around the island, smiling, and clicked the time-traveler, disappearing into bright sunlight, the breeze caressing my face. The familiar swooping sensation tingled yet again, but this time, it felt pleasant.

Arriving back to my lab, I felt an indescribable joy filling my soul as I cherished my day on the island. These special memories, heart-warming and life-threatening, will stay with me for the rest of my days, and I vow to love the wonderous world as myself.

# The Messenger

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Yeung, Hei Yu Audrey – 11*

“Well?” I asked, tapping my foot impatiently at the creaking floorboards, “where is it?” Atalanta smiled mysteriously, beckoning me to creep closer and closer to the covered birdcage. The birdcage had sat vacant until recently, my sister had caught something inside.

Atalanta grinned sinisterly, pulling the birdcage cover off, “Let me introduce you to the bird I caught in the park: Hermes!” I stared at the feathery creature, it definitely wasn't a bird. It was too big to be a bird. Then it hit me, Hermes wasn't a bird but it's early descendent, the dinosaur. My eyes bugged out like a frog's, my jaw nearly touched the floor, my hands shook and trembled. “It's...it's... a dinosaur!” I finally exclaimed. Atalanta blinked in confusion, “but I caught it in the park... and dinosaurs died long ago anyways! Didn't they?” She frowned as if she couldn't comprehend the fact. “I don't know but I'm sure that your Hermes is not a bird,” I replied.

After digging through mountains and mountains of books, searching online for what seemed like years, we came to a conclusion. Hermes was a dinosaur. A Sinornithosaurus to be exact. “Weighing about 1–3 kg, a child Sinornithosaurus is about 2 feet tall. They would have had a diet of insects, small reptiles and carcasses found. They are found most commonly in the Yixian Formation in China” I read aloud from one of the books. I looked up at Atalanta, whose eyes were raging with fear, amazement and disbelief, “should we tell father?” I asked. Atalanta blinked doubtfully, and then shook her head. I knew how she was feeling, torn apart with two choices: to show the world of this impossible happening, or, to instead hide and protect her new pet.

...

We arrived early at the park the next morning, the sky was still deep blue, with the slightest hint of the sun climbing up from behind the mountains. As I pushed past the dew-veiled leaves, I felt a brush of cold. Shivers of doubt ran up my spine, creating an ominous and forbidding atmosphere. Despite the crisp morning air, drops of perspiration formed along my brows as I hauled the birdcage unwillingly behind me. “We're there!” A voice came from behind a huge green leaf. I pushed past the leaf, and the other-worldly sight took my breath away. There were trees as tall as skyscrapers, with rough barks and roots like bridges. Weird bird-like creatures flew through the air, diving and flipping as if showing off their talents. We turned our attention to the cage, where the little Sinornithosaurus was heard growling and clawing at the bars. We pulled off the blanket we used as a cover and looked at Hermes. His claws were a little blunted from scratching his current ‘prison’. The cage itself was in a worse shape than Hermes, it had scratches all over it and flattened areas from where I slammed it accidentally into rocks. Nevertheless, we didn't mind. We were here to do a job and we would do it right. I pulled open the cage door with a quiet ‘creek’, and waited for Hermes to rush out of his cage, overjoyed to be back in his home. However, he stayed firmly put in his cage. Not even when we desperately tried to pull him out, he didn't budge. We had wanted to bring him back to where he belonged and set him free! What were we going to do? The sun had already climbed up from behind the mountains, painting the sky with streaks of pink, gold and orange. Fluffy cotton candy clouds floated lazily in the sky while the autumn breeze made leaves dance in the air. Atalanta sighed, “let's just leave him here, he'll get out eventually...” But as we turned and walked away, we heard a scrambling sound from behind us. It was Hermes! He was following us!

...

We were walking near the lake at the park with Hermes following close behind, we saw some boys pointing and gawping at us. Then quite suddenly, we were bombarded by a cascade of stones and pebbles. Hermes immediately leapt forward, sheltering Atalanta and I. We stood there, our bodies frozen to a standstill, unable to move a single muscle. All we could do was to stare in shock as Hermes bounded around, snatching pebbles out of midair but getting hit as well. My heart ached as Hermes was kicked and smashed by the brutal rocks, and then, time restarted again. I darted forward, punching the boys who dared to hurt Hermes. But it was too late. Hermes lay on the stoney ground, blood dripping from his many wounds, his long tail crooked and his eyes were fluttering weakly. “No!” Cried Atalanta desperately. She rushed to her dinosaur's side, “you can't die! I don't permit you to!” But Hermes instead cracked out a small painful smile, “it's too late,” we stared in shock as Hermes began to speak human language, a speech we would remember for a lifetime, “I will die soon. Remember my words. This world is in danger. Danger of you humans destroying it. Soon, the planet Earth will drown in pollution. Your species will be exterminated, just as mine was too. Earth was angry that the dinosaurs caused too much damage and hurt each other. So she made the volcanoes explode

and wipe us out. It will be your end too, soon. But we don't want that. So they sent me to tell you this: treasure....” He was gasping now, “treasure what you have, don't end up like us...” Then, our friend, our very first pet, the only dinosaur, our teacher fell limp in our hands. I found myself weeping, so hard I did not know that I had subconsciously returned to home. I did not fully understand what Hermes meant, and till now, I can only grasp the surface of his wisdom: Save Earth, before it is too late...

# Dawn of the Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Yuen, Hui Yin Viann – 11*

Cling! Clang! The monotonous and incessant sound of the reagent bottles clinking and clanking together was more than Chen could bear. The laboratory had a snail-like slither of water oozing down the walls and from a darkened corner came the low moan of an old man. Grandpa had been experimenting with countless numbers of testings for the past decade to dig up fossils easier as he had always thought that doing so was the be all and end all if he wanted to gain fame and wealth.

Bored, Chen picked up an unknown specimen from Grandpa's workbench and threw it in the science experiment. The liquid inside started to bubble and spume, fogging the room with a dark black. Bang! The small laboratory room collapsed and exploded, exposing a piece of land, right smack in the Niaoxing Formation in Ganzhou city in China. Beams of sunlight hit Grandpa's eyes and faded soon after, so he could identify the creature next to the debris.

"It's the fossil of the Titanosaur! Ch... Chen! Do you understand what this means?" Grandpa exclaimed energetically.

Grandpa touched the fossils one by one. In the middle of nowhere, desiccated and barren, lay the hidden treasure of China. Grandpa was caught up in a reverie, looking right to view the entire body of the Titanosaur, to him, that was heaven.

Well of course, when there's heaven there's always hell. Grandpa proceeded to tap on the fossils, the beat of the ancient song rose the Titanosaur fossils on the ground and the fossils swayed to the rhythm of the atavistic song. They then morphed into a lifelike Titanosaur and her svelte neck twisted gracefully while she bent down to look at Grandpa and Chen, her eyes were hollow but bewitching and orphic.

"My dear, what can I do for you?" Grandpa asked.

"Good," she whispered softly. "You have to help me find at least one carnivorous dinosaur in China. They will suffer torture if they fail to return to Nirvana in time for the return of the Wizard. Some dinosaurs have consumed too many innocent human beings and he will punish those who consume guiltless creatures as Nirvana has no suffering. I don't want them to suffer. Please."

"How do we start?" asked Grandpa.

"All you need to do is to follow this yellow brick road and it will lead you to the silver letter as it is a guide from the Wizard. You must follow his instructions to find the remaining dinosaurs."

Grandpa had his mind set on finding the other dinosaur and set off his journey with Chen. Following the Wizard's instructions and arriving at Shangshaximiao Formation in the Southwestern side of China, Grandpa used the magic map to lead them to the piece of land where the carnivorous creature was buried under. The ground cracked and rumbled, revealing a radiant, blinding glow. The last few patches of radiance faded and Grandpa could finally identify this heinous creature. The creature had two muscular legs, a rather short neck, a colossal head, razor-sharp teeth and a massive tail that was half of its body's length.

"Oh. My. Gosh. It's the Yangchuanosaurus," Grandpa exclaimed.

"Chen! Chen?" Grandpa cried.

As the Yangchuanosaurus was cannibalistic, he charged towards Chen, huffing and puffing along the way, staring hard at Chen. Just as the lamb was about to be slaughtered, Grandpa frantically clapped to the beat of the ancient song. Suddenly, the portal of Nirvana opened up and the creatures plummeted on the ground from the sky.

The ground beneath Grandpa and Chen shook uncontrollably as if it was waking up from a deep slumber. Grandpa staggered back while the Yangchuanosaurus' fossils turned into specks of red. Something was wrong, this dinosaur discovery was never just a discovery, it was an awakening.

"Grandpa... What is this? What have we done?" Chen's voice broke through his thoughts.

The Wizard's vile grin widened, his tone eidolic and dark. "I guess curiosity does kill the cat. You have opened the door, these fossils you have found, they are records, not bones! Old man, you have unlocked the history of everything that has ever set foot on your planet... and everything that will..."

A sickening realization hit Grandpa hard. This was not just about wealth or fame, this was about control. The fossils were never a key to the past, they were a map to the future.

The broken ground cracked deeper, revealing something far more disturbing. A herd of mechanical dinosaurs looked up, eyes devoid of warmth and life, and a presence that bent the air around them.

"What in the world are they?" Grandpa gasped.

"It is the next step of evolution. You see, humans like you have always thought that they were the leaders, the rulers, the controllers. Anyone of you would sell your soul for fame, for power, for wealth, but never for perfection. Everyone on this planet has made life imperfect; humans always want more than they can take. But I am changing this for the better," the Wizard bellowed.

"I... I thought this was just a discovery..." Chen let out a choked sob. The sky fell, and a horrifying truth settled in. Nirvana's portal was never just a way out, it was a way in, into a world where humans were no longer the inheritors.

"What happens to us?" Chen cried.

"Adapt. Or you will be wiped out, just like every other species before you. Humans have always looked backward, but evolution waits for nobody."

The Titanosaur's hollow eyes somehow flickered with recognition and sorrow, as if sensing fear, and she whispered.

"Not all awakenings are meant to be."

In an instant, the mechanical dinosaurs lowered their heads to the Titanosaur and the Wizard's grin faded when the portal above began to collapse and destruct.

"No! This wasn't my plan!" he cried.

As the ground crumbled, Grandpa and Chen fell into a cold, dark void.

"Grandpa, are we in the past... or the future?"

# Time Travelers: To Jurassic!

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Yung, Mary – 10*

Splash! Splash! Splash! The drumbeat of raindrops pattered furiously onto the young woman's blue umbrella, as if looking for revenge.

She wasn't used to the bustle of city life and felt rather unsettled and exposed in the lonely streets of Shanghai.

Even the slightest hint of nature, the tiniest spring of flowers could calm her heart.

"No, no, no! I can't! My parents entrusted me with some sort of quest!" She thought as a deep hole of longing opened in her heart.

She quickly realized that her mind had yet again spun into a web of darkness and calmed herself.

Just then, a whirring sound from the locket around her neck distracted her, "Wha—?" Without any time to react, she had been surrounded by golden ribbons of silk and within a second, she had disappeared into thin air. This is Mina Zhang, the last of the Time Travelers.

The first thing she saw were wide and tall jungle trees, giant, shiny leaves and mysteriously, a book written in *English*. With curiosity and safety fighting, Mina opened the book to the first page.

"Ack!" Without warning, a timid-looking, red striped dinosaur *with wings* scooped her onto its back.

"Westriclas, a winged dinosaur, living in high altitude places, they glide with their two meter wings to get to places. Although much skilled in flying, their relatives are quite different, called Oceancles. They hop around in water with thin wings." Mysteriously, words began to engrave themselves onto the book. As the "Westriclas" flew higher and higher, Mina saw they had translucent wings with runes etched into them, some of them even looked like the Chinese word—shui, which means water. The one that had been carrying her placed her on a cliff without a word. A purple one swerved in the sky, crying a summoning call for the others and dived at their target. Their speed and grace looked impossible to replicate. With precision and wits, they had caught their prey. A forty kilogram bird was passed between them, shared equally.

In the far distance, the Oceancles were peacefully floundering on the clear shores of a beach. Mina, catching something on them, frowned. Scars, scratches, and even some gun-like punctures were *all over them*, but after seeing the way they play-fight, she immediately understood. A pair of them

were ruthlessly wrestling each other with their blunt teeth and sharp spines. Beside the pair, a group was hauling large amounts of *dry* seaweed onto a patch of sand. From the looks of it, they had purposely given the plant a sunbathe. Mina wanted to observe them more closely but a roar from a cluster of palm trees distracted her.

In a clearing near the center of the vast forest, claws flashed, blood whipped through the air and leaves flew frantically. Two dinosaurs were fighting. On one side, a four-meter carnivorous animal twirled and leaped with stunning grace and speed, it looked to be teasing its opponent, one moment to the right, the next on the left. "Sinotropatur" again, the book started to write "these mischievous reptiles are known for their solitary nature, preferring to fight than hunt. Also famous for a move they can use, called 'Deadly Spit'—spitting acid ranging from two to five meters—which few can master. The males of this tribe wear a rather eye-catching pattern: red and gold, the traditional colours of Chinese tunics. This move is used to attract females, instead of the usual colour: dark red."

Mina could notice the other dinosaur was getting riled up. She saw with keen eyes—this was a Talontic Raptor, from the movie Jurassic Park. Its chest was heaving, but a look of determination and fury sparked. With a savage look in

the eyes, it swiped viciously, revenge turning the tides. Slash! The Sinotropatur's tough plates were pierced. Swish!

Slash! Swish! One step at a time, the raptor was clearly winning.

Screeching with outrage, the Sinotrochus reared up with fury sparking every corner, but admitting defeat, it ran off like a bear chased by bees. With grace, the Talontic Raptor bowed elegantly to the watching crowd, as if it was exemplifying its skilled and prolific nature.

Heart beating fast, Mina couldn't believe what she just saw. On one hand, she thought these intelligent creatures were filled with tricks; on another hand, she thought this was brutality higher than her imagination.

"Calm down! Calm down! Calm down..." Mina pressed herself against the stone wall, relieving herself. She turned, hoping to see peace. Miraculously, her wish had been fulfilled: multicoloured dinosaurs were grazing on some leaves—specifically the chili leaves native to Beijing, China—they were relaxing themselves like worries, exams..., they were all gone.

Right on time as usual, the book started "writing". "Branchosaurus—multicoloured long-necked dinosaurs, these vegetarians spend most of their time having fun rather than fighting over territory.

They form groups of ten and continue to live with them, just like how they would treat family. Occasionally, the groups will gather around the territory with the richest foliage—and spend time; share news; party together...this is the secret to living a carefree life."

Amazed by their beautiful nature, she reached out. Suddenly, she felt a feeling of nausea. Collapsing, she fell onto the soft grass, gasping for air. "Grass?" Mina sat up, thinking what magic is this.

She was sitting on grass, and the most astonishing part: *Mina was sitting next to Branchosaurus!* By accident, she brushed against one of the "gentle giant's" feet. It felt rough like sandstone, somewhat like an elephant's. Up close, they had a mint, rain and lavender scent. The one next to her bent its head down with a friendly smile. It let out a soft "Roohh", the nearby Branchosauruses all left the clearing, with a slightly different "Roohh", a small dinosaur—its baby presumably—came. "They're almost like us," Mina thought, "same sounds with different accents have different meanings!"

Suddenly, with a boom, she was transported back to the street. Somehow, she knew her parents were still with her.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Chau, Yan Tung – 11*

Aaron woke up and looked at his clock. “Oh no! It’s already so late! What am I going to do?” He quickly changed his clothes and gobbled down his breakfast. As he ran to school, he thought, “I hope I’m not late. I almost forgot today is the day to visit the dinosaur museum. I wonder what I will see?”

“Ding—dang—ding!” The school bell rang. Aaron panted as he arrived in his classroom. “Luckily... I’m not... late.”

His class teacher, Ms Chan, announced, “Everyone, please sit down. I know you are all very excited for the trip to the dinosaur museum, the bus will soon arrive.”

Suddenly, a voice spoke through the microphone, “Primary Six, Class C, please go to the school playground to ride the bus.”

“Alright, the bus is here!” said Ms Chan. “Everyone, please get ready.”

It was clear that not only Aaron, but the whole class was very eager to visit the dinosaur museum. Everyone kept chit-chatting on the bus. In a flash, they arrived at the museum. “Wow!” Everyone looked at the various types of dinosaurs, astonished. Aaron got carried away and completely forgot to keep up with Ms Chan. “Hey,” said Aaron. “Isn’t this cool?” He looked around. Where were his classmates? He realised he was lost and thought, “Where is Ms Chan? Help!” He was worried, and he panicked. He ran to find his classmates, but something on the floor made him fall. “Ouch!” Rubbing his swollen foot, he looked at the object that had caused him to trip. It was a strange-looking machine in the size of a water bottle. Driven by curiosity, he picked it up. He wondered, “What is it?”

Aaron put the machine in his backpack and continued searching for his classmates. Suddenly, a strange, cold wind struck him. He was sucked into a weird space. As he looked around, a mysterious voice echoed, “I will now send you to China in 1984.” Aaron fell from the sky and landed in a fossil quarry. A man approached Aaron and shouted, “Get to work!”

“Where...am I?” Aaron asked.

“You’re at the Dashanpu Quarry in China. Well, you don’t seem to be one of the workers.” The man left.

“I travelled through time?” Aaron was amazed. Just then, a girl ran up to him.

The girl asked, “Are you from the future?”

“Yes,” replied Aaron.

“I knew it. You are not like the others. Anyway, we both have travelled through time, and we are in China’s Dashanpu Quarry in 1984. We need to find some dinosaur fossils before we can go back home. My name is Emma. If you have any questions, please ask me.” “Well... nice to meet you, Emma. I am Aaron.”

Emma grinned, “Now let’s dig for fossils.” She dragged Aaron to the fossil digging area. A paleontologist said, “You must be the helpers. Come to help me, and I’ll tell you what to do.” The paleontologist continued, “When I tell you to give me that tool, please hand it to me.”

They helped him for hours when a voice shouted excitedly, “We’ve found it! We discovered a new dinosaur species!” Everyone rushed to help him. After weeks of hard work, a complete dinosaur fossil appeared in front of everyone.

Aaron and Emma heard the voice that rang in the time machine. He said, “You have found an Abrosaurus. Abrosaurus means ‘delicate lizard’ in Greek. It is a genus of macronarian sauropod dinosaur from the Middle Jurassic Period, found in 1984 and first described in 1986. With that, the voice disappeared. Aaron asked Emma, “Will any time pass in our time?”

“I really don’t know, but I think it won’t.”

Aaron asked Emma how she came to the past. She answered, “I got a clock from my mum one day, but when I dropped it, I got transported here.”

“Why don’t we work together?” asked Aaron. “It would be much easier for us to find fossils.” Emma agreed, and a new adventure for Aaron and Emma began.

Will Aaron find the remaining fossils and return home safely? Will he reunite with his classmates? How will he overcome the challenges ahead? The mysterious adventure continues...

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Chien, Kayla Yukiu – 9*

Bing Bing and her sister, May, are two brave young adventurers who longed to visit The People's Republic of China. They began planning a trip during winter. They heard that the majestic snow-covered landscapes of Beijing were an incredible sight to be seen. They were keen to go, and Beijing was the place to be. The Great Wall of China was going to be their exploration spot! They could not contain their excitement.

Before this great event, the young sisters packed their thick clothes for sub-zero temperatures; hiking boots for the long steep hikes; gloves, beanies and all the gears to stay warm at night on top of a freezing mountain. They also packed their super strong wind resistant tent, sleeping bags, a portable stove, packaged food, and of course their map, compass and shovel.

On the day of their travel was pure excitement. Bing Bing could not contain herself. There was a brief and hurried farewell to their parents before the sisters rushed to the airport and took their flight to Beijing. Arriving in Beijing, Bing Bing was overwhelmed, and she could already feel the cold of winter on her dry lips. They quickly hailed a DiDi and whisked away from the airport, past the great landmarks of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, and towards the section of the Juyongguan Great Wall.

The Great Wall was steep. It was hard climbing up. It was very long and kept on going upwards. The steps were uneven and tricky. The metal handrails were extremely cold. Their hands were purple and almost frozen. As Bing Bing and her sister climbed through each fortress tower, they noticed faint inscriptions in some of the walls and tiles. Some of them seemed to mention about giant winged birds or dinosaur-like creatures. The sisters at first did not notice as there were many inscriptions along The Great Wall, including some that say 'I was here' or others saying, 'I will continue to work hard next year'. After going past the 13<sup>th</sup> fortress tower, the sisters decided to find a spot to pitch their tent for the night.

The next day, the sisters explored the rugged terrain away from The Great Wall. It was strange, there seemed to be some flat open areas amongst the boulders and huge rocks. It was very cold but luckily there was no snow. On a number of occasions, Bing Bing noticed some odd 'rocks' in the barren dry landscape. Towards the late afternoon, she started to dig around these 'rocks'. To her amazement, these were no ordinary rocks. They were giant bones of some kind. As she kept digging further, the sisters realised that the bones belonged to a giant winged dinosaur! Bing Bing stayed and continued to excavate more bones. She asked May to go and find help. Near the bones were fossilised scales – This could mean these big creatures had scales and could fly!

After what seemed like an eternity, May returned. She brought with her an army of officials, paleontologists, scientists, researchers and journalists. Over the next several days, everyone was busy excavating, making scientific notes or being interviewed on TV. It was the first type of dinosaur found in China. It was all over the news, not only in China, but all across the world.

This new information enabled scientists and paleontologists to look into the past and find out how creatures lived. Bing Bing and May also told the paleontologists about the very faint inscriptions they found around the fortress towers of The Great Wall. This immediately started an investigation. The scientists took brightly lit machines that buzzed and binged and started examining the fortress towers. They soon found that the fortress towers also had some of these giant winged dinosaur bones carefully buried underneath. It meant the ancient Chinese already knew about these magnificent creatures! They had carefully kept these bones safe in the fortress towers of The Great Wall. The ancient Chinese wanted to preserve them in their original locations and keep them for future historians. This was amazing, the world was abuzz with this new incredible discovery.

In the weeks that passed, other dinosaur species were also discovered. Some of the towers in The Great Wall had hidden passages leading to chambers. These chambers had different species of dinosaur bones carefully stored or displayed.

Bing Bing and May were interviewed on television and radio shows. They had many interviews about this amazing discovery of the latest 'China dragon bird'. Journalists asked Bing Bing and May why they chose to visit Beijing. To this question, they always had the same answer, 'In the 1990s, a farmer in China found the world's very first feathered dinosaur, Sinosauropteryx. This made us very curious to search for China's future dinosaurs...'

# Imperial Evolution

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Law, Tsz Lok – 12*

“It is just another normal day...” so he thought.

Huangfeng, a paleontologist and a researcher, was working again in the laboratory of the Black Wind Research Facility, a place where many wondrous discoveries of the distant past took place. He'd been doing experiments for a few years now, each day making steady progress toward a grand project that the facility was working on, known as Project Fengbo. The main purpose of this project was to try to revive a long-extinct species of Titanosaur, a dinosaur that once roamed the Earth. The higher-ups and senior researchers couldn't think of a fitting name, so they simply gave it a codename, Qi. While Huangfeng was analysing a newly-discovered ancient scroll referring to Qi, it suddenly ripped itself into shreds. Unexpectedly, the pieces began floating in the air, swirling like a hurricane. Then, an orb of antimatter was formed. “What ancient strength is this?!” he stammered as he was absorbed by the orb, and vanished along with it.

“Hm? W-WHERE AM I?” Huang stammered, as he found himself in a strange place covered in plants and ponds, with the sunlight shining vividly. He stood up, trying to find any remnant of the phenomenon that took him there. All he could find beside him, was a piece of that ripped-up map that loosely resembled his surroundings. “It can't be... have I been transported into the realm of the map?” he pondered. With the remaining piece of the map in hand, he began to traverse toward a place on the map, its name was obscured in a layer of unremovable, thick soot. He hoped to find something or someone there to help him escape this realm.

He walked and wandered; arriving at a pair of large gates. Curious, he knocked on the gate doors. “Is anybody there?” he called out, hoping for a response.

Not long after, the doors opened. Behind them, was a person wearing traditional Chinese clothing. “Who are you?” he asked. “You don't look like you're from here. What are you wearing?” a hint of confusion in his voice.

“Oh, this? It's a lab coat,” Huang replied.

“What?” the man asked in confusion. “Do you need help? I can find you somewhere to stay.” He offered help to Huang, looking at the stains on his clothing.

“That would mean a lot, thank you!” Huang exclaimed in gratitude. Then, the two went to the Imperial Palace to ask the emperor for a room that Huang could stay in for the night.

“Who are you?” the emperor asked him sternly.

“Mighty Emperor, he is an outsider. He has requested for a place to stay at for the night,” he explained, kneeling in front of him.

There were a few moments of silence as the emperor considered the request. “Hm... Very well. He may stay.” The emperor agreed after a while of consideration. “However, I order you to stay with him for the night, just to ensure he isn't a threat to us.” The emperor ordered.

“Understood, Mighty Emperor,” he replied, kneeling again. Then, the two made their way to the quarters the emperor allowed them to stay at. “By the way... my name's Huoyan. And yours?” he introduced himself to Huang.

“My name's Huangfeng,” he replied. The two began chatting and eventually arrived to their quarters. From the various flags and signs, Huang figured out that he was in the Jiangxi province of China. While the two were asleep, Huang was awakened by a strange roar from the sky. He looked out the window and saw two more pieces of the map appeared. “Where are these pieces coming from?” he thought. Unexpectedly, the map pieces were pulled together by a strange force and became one. With this map, he decided to leave tomorrow and pursue the ‘Cloud-treading

Mountains', to get more clues on how to leave this realm of the past, and maybe learn more about that odd creature. The next day, as the sun illuminated the skies, Huang bid farewell to Huoyan and began to set off to the Cloud-treading Mountains. The road was treacherous, Huang had to go across ponds, tread on thick grass, climb a steep mountain, and he even had to avoid a landslide that could've taken his life. But eventually, he reached the peak of the Cloud-treading Mountain. He heard an ear-piercing roar that filled the air, and he looked around. Suddenly, he saw a colossal, three-eyed serpent with iridescent scales, and long flowing whiskers that glistened like platinum. It conjured whistling winds, and a strange orb appeared in front of him. Abruptly, Huang vanished in an instant after coming into contact with the orb, but he managed to hold on to something strange before being transported.

Huang soon woke up with a blurry memory, surrounded by the other paleontologists. "What happened?" one of the paleontologists asked Huang. "Where were you? You were gone for so long!" a scientist asked him.

"I... I think I saw... the thing we're trying to revive... Qi..." he said.

"What is it? What did it look like?" A researcher asked as the others looked around in confusion. They also saw something inside Huang's clenched fist. Somehow, Huang was able to keep the creature's odd scale, now clad in rocks and becoming a fossil. Maybe with this, it could help with the Project Fengbo's progression even further...?

A few years had passed, Project Fengbo managed to achieve a great success. The paleontologists and scientists were able to create a creature that resembled the beast that Huangfeng had seen, having a few differences and looking more like the form of a dinosaur. This new creature possessed different traits from other animals. It had the arms of a sabertooth tiger, the antlers of a deer, the wings of a pterodactyl, the legs of a lion, whiskers like a cat, and a head that looked very similar to the Loong. This marvel of scientific research is now called... the Galouranosaurus.

# The Ultimate Apex Predator

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Lee, Nigel – 12*

Long ago in the deep and freezing winters in Jiangxi, an apex predator was migrating through the bitterly cold land to a warmer, more sustainable place to live. It moved through dark freezing forests, scaled gigantic mountains, and icy cold rivers. Soon it reached the border between the frozen Jiangxi and the tropical Anhui, but unfortunately, this apex predator was about to experience the biggest challenge of life. A generational super storm was about to rain down on the apex predator. This unbelievable natural phenomenon was caused when a freezing climate and a warmer climate went through a merge. This created a super storm. It could tear apart the strongest dinosaurs with ease. Would he be able to stand a chance against this super storm?

The calm before the storm... it had arrived. The winds blew the trees down with unfathomable speed, causing landslides from mountains, and swirling water from river everywhere. Although the beast survived, it was a barren wasteland. No food, no water, just an empty land. And the predator soon died...

But who was this apex predator? How did we find it? Well first, this is a legendary Inzinosaur, a type of newly discovered titanosaur. Let me explain how we found it. Scientists were on a fossil expedition in Anhui, when one of the scientists was stuck under the rocks and had broken his leg. Suddenly, a landslide hit the camp and he was stuck under the rocks, so they had to move him to the nearest hospital in Jiangxi. After the incident, scientist was treated properly at the hospital and was recovering. They sent him back to Anhui but stopped at Jiangxi for one night. There was still a long way until they would reach Jiangxi. For fun, the scientists decided to search for fossils in Jiangxi for a while, to make up for the time lost because of the accident. As they were checking the ground with a seismic energy tester, they spotted something gigantic. They called the main laboratory in Beijing to send a fossil excavating team to the site. When the men arrived, they worked day and night. Finally, they dug out the first bone. It was a small part of the tailbone, and the dinosaur bone was soon brought to a lab for study.

It was DNA scanned. There was also a thorough study about the bone. The Komodo dragon is actually a descendant of the Inzinosaur. More bones were uncovered in the dig site and soon the full tail was unveiled. In its full size. It was about 700 feet in length and 5000 tons in weight. Although this bone was at first not too special, the more scientists researched about it, the more incredible it became! The DNA preservation and the sheer size of this dinosaur was absolutely amazing. Scientists and some expert mathematicians concluded that the full weight of the fossil was about 150000 tons in weight! Now this was scientist's best chance at reviving the dinosaurs. The scientists decided to extract DNA from a Komodo dragon. Then they also extracted a good amount of DNA from the Titanosaur. Finally, they put the DNA together in a microscope and what they saw amazed them. Dr Lim, the head scientist of this huge project said, "What I saw is astonishing. The 2 areas of DNA have merged so beautifully. First, many tendril-like things came out of each part of the respective DNA. Then they started to pull each other closer and closer. And BOOM!! A huge bright light shone from the microscope, filling the room with these aurora-like rays of light. They came in all sorts of colours, green, red, yellow, blue, you name it! I looked back in the microscope and saw this little egg. Like a fermented egg with tea leaves! There were green veins growing in the egg and an exceedingly small little creature." But even though they had this egg ready, they had no clue how to incubate it. They tried countless methods: letting a chicken sit on it, putting it in an incubation machine and shining hot lights on it. But none worked. All hopes seemed lost.

Dr John made an amazing discovery that would impact the research a lot! He stated that animals and their ancestors all have similar ways of breeding and giving birth. If Dr John's discovery was correct, then all the scientists would have to do was to incubate the egg, like what a Komodo dragon would do. They placed the egg near a Komodo which had just laid 7 eggs, and the Komodo treated it like its own egg! 2 months later, when all the other eggs had hatched, the scientists thought the egg was not fertile.

But one day, BREAKTHROUGH!!!! The egg finally hatched and an adorable baby dinosaur came out. The news spread like wildfire. It was the top news report around the entire world. Everyone helped with the funding and research of the little dino. But keeping it alive was quite a challenge. The climate was different from 500 million years

ago. The poor dinosaur would have a hard time surviving. But with the entire world helping with the research, they found a solution.

By studying the weather charts and many complicated calculations, they found the perfect place for the young dinosaur to live. The best place for the little dinosaur to live in was Norway. It was similar to the freezing Jiangxi from a long time ago, and the climate and global warming levels were low, so it was the best place for the little dinosaur to live in. It found its place in Namsskogan family park, which soon became a top tourist attraction. The dinosaur went on with its life and lived happily with its caretakers, it behaved well and was named “The Kindest Dinosaur to Roam the Earth”.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Mak, Hei Wang – 11*

Last week, something made me feel proud and joyful, it was ever so incredible and unforgettable.

It all started on an ordinary Saturday night. I was done with homework and was getting ready to sleep for tomorrow's beach cleanup activity. Just then, I saw the news on television, which said, "Our local museum found free new species of dinosaurs, but there were only a few bone pieces of the new dinosaurs. If anyone found a fossil, please contact the museum. Thank you!" I thought if I could find the fossil pieces, I would feel honoured and proud ...

Then, a voice asked me, "When are you going to sleep?" It was my mother, so I did what she said and hopped into bed.

The moment I landed on my comfy bed, I fell asleep and had a dream. I found a fossil in the sand during the beach clean-up activity. Being shocked and surprised, the moment felt miraculous. Then I went to contact the museum curator, I was congratulated for my contribution. I genuinely felt that I was going to explode with joy! But I realised it was all a dream, and it was fake. So I woke up feeling a little disappointed and got ready for the beach cleaning. Maybe, just maybe, I would find a fossil piece...

When we arrived at the beach, it looked dirty! I was distracted by the possibility of finding the fossil that I ignored my good friends and my kind-hearted teachers. They were all greeting me like, "Ready to start cleaning and make the world better?"

I replied, "Yeah... Sure." I honestly felt guilty.

When the activity started, I was looking for fossils instead of picking up plastic waste, that was why my team's total weight was pretty light compared to others. When I was 'looking for waste', I found a bone-like object, it had to be fossil! I stuffed it into my bag, filled with excitement and kept on thinking about it until the activity ended. Then I dialled the museum's contact number...

After I dialled the number, the museum staff asked, "Hello, how can I help you?"

"Oh, I think I found one of the new dinosaur fossil pieces, would you like to inspect it?"

"Sure! Just go to the museum half an hour later and we'll meet you there, okay?"

"No problem, meet you there!"

I was super excited! I truly couldn't believe I had found a fossil! Half an hour later, I was waiting at the museum gates, and a group of museum staff welcomed me in.

There, I met a professor, who asked me in a deep voice, "May I see your fossil?"

"Yes, of course," I said while handing over the fossil, anticipating.

"It's a rock, silly!" A huge wave of disappointment and embarrassment flow through my body as I was brought out of the museum. I went to the park before I went home.

I miserably tread across the park, and I noticed a strange stone in the soil. "No, it couldn't be another one, no way," I said to myself. But I was too curious, so I walked a little further to inspect it and it was a skull! A fossil! I immediately contacted the museum curator again.

The staff asked, "Hello, how can I help you?"

“Another fossil again! At the local park! I swear, I swear!”

“... Fine, we'll come to you this one last time, and you'd better not fool us, kid!”

“Sorry...Sure then, meet you there.”

After around 10 minutes, the museum staff arrived, and saw the skull. “No way! This is a new species!” mumbled the professor, while inspecting the fossil. Then, a team of news reporters came to the scene and interviewed me, it was unbelievable that something like this could happen to me! Once the interviews were over, I headed home in the evening and got scolded by my mother for coming late, but it was fine because I did something more important than coming late. I was so tired that I skipped dinner and slept instead.

On Monday night, my mother was watching the news and it said, “A little boy has found a new species of dinosaur fossil and has contributed it to the museum. He helped in discovering species of the past, we shall all thank him.” There was a footage of me being interviewed. My mother was speechless as she looked at me, grinning with joy. I felt amazed and proud from this experience because not only did I help the people of my country learn about China's prehistoric past, but also do a contribution to my country's palaeontology.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*Diocesan Preparatory School, To, Yu Yat – 12*

In the quiet, misty peaks of the Tianshan Mountains, where the soft clouds lightly touch the snow-capped peaks like an endless embrace, something incredible lies beneath the Earth. An area known to hold ancient secrets, secrets that haven't yet been uncovered by the human race. Dr. Mei Lin, a paleontologist from a prestigious university, has been studying fossils near this area. She and her team have been tireless in their efforts to retrieve fossils and study them. They have been in this region for a few months. One particular day, she and her team discovered something unusual: a fossil they had found on the side of the mountains. It was unlike anything they had ever seen before.

The fossil was half exposed, and as the team got a closer look, they all gasped; they had never seen such a large fossil before. Mei stared in shock. Then she quickly regained her composure and said, "Bring me the equipment." Then she muttered under her breath, "This could change everything." As they gathered around the fossil, they soon discovered that it was an apex predator. It had a tail that was 5 feet long and had claws so sharp it could tear their prey to pieces in seconds. It also had long, strong legs that could run up to 100 kilometers per hour. They figured that this animal was built for speed. The team was filled with excitement and the thrill because of the discovery. They concluded that this creature was unlike any dinosaur they had ever encountered before. At noon, the team was exhausted after the painstaking process of uncovering the fossil, so they drifted off to sleep. By sunrise, Mei and her team awoke and decided to continue their work on the fossil. One of the workers, Xiao, told Mei that the skull of the creature had a horn on top. This fascinated Mei, so she hurried back to check. Mei muttered under her breath, "This may be an entirely new species of the dinosaurs." The discovery of the fossil shivered down their spines. The team wondered if there could be more species of dinosaurs like this one. Thoughts drifted into Mei's head as she pondered what secrets the Tianshan Mountains could be keeping. After further inspection, the team decided to name the dinosaur 'Sanchinodon.' They figured that the Sanchinodon was older than the T-Rex. Later Xiao told Mei that they had discovered that there was another fossil nearby, so Mei and Xiao hurried back to see the fossil. It looked bigger and stronger than the Sanchinodon. After further investigation, they discovered that this dinosaur was another apex predator and had a similar tail to the ankylosaurus, and it was 6 feet long. It had long claws that looked like it could slice anything with one ferocious swipe. It was more agile and intelligent than the Sanchinodon, too. After inspecting the fossil for another few long, tiresome hours, they finally fell asleep. At sunrise the team awoke to the sound of birds chirping and decided to continue exploring the area for more fossils.

The more they explored, the more they realised that the Tianshan Mountains had ancient history at its peaks, and Mei and the team were not going to give up so easily. Every discovery was life-changing, not just for them but for other people, too. With that in mind, they decided to uncover as much as they can from the Tianshan Mountains. Who knows what else they might find?

# The Return of the Ancients

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Dash, Sai Anvika – 10*

One day, in the mountains of Yanshan, a thief was looking for a fossil that would make him richer than ever. He had heard about the fossils of the great dinosaur, which every paleontologist was trying to find.

The thief started to hit the rocks with a hammer and when he looked back for a second since the trees were hustling, he suddenly saw a big black dinosaur with red eyes coming out of the big fossil. He was scared and fainted. The dinosaur started flying and flew towards North Beijing.

The Chinese nightmare about the ancient black dinosaur called the 'Dark' had come true.

Thousands of years ago Dark used to be the most dangerous of all dinosaurs! He used to breathe fire and scare the little kids away and destroy everything that came its way. But in that age came Shenron – the good dinosaur. The sun shined brightly when Shenron used to come, the strongest of them all from the Yunneng mountains to save the people and the kids from the Dark.

In that time thousands of years ago, Shenron the dinosaur had a big fight with the Dark and they fought for 10 days. At last, the Shenron defeated the Dark, and Dark died in the Yanshan mountains. The Shenron then flew back to Yunneng. Many many years after Shenron died peacefully having saved many lives from the Dark.

Now by destiny Dark had become alive from its fossil and flying over North Beijing, people were praying and hoping someone comes and saves them from Dark....

Slowly it was getting windy, and the clouds were getting darker and darker in North Beijing the people were getting scared. Dark was smiling happily. Then suddenly the sun started shining again more brightly and the people started beaming with joy as the legend of Shenron had come true, Shenron had come back alive, and the dark clouds had gone away...

Dark was furious, he was bursting fire out of his mouth!!! He shouted at Shenron saying "Don't mess with me again (groaning)!" Then Shenron said "Yeah, I agree, I did because you messed with my people! You messed with the whole NORTH BEIJING! And I have promised to save the people (shouted Shenron). Go back where you belong, Dark, in a fossil!"

Dark was infuriated more and more...

Then suddenly a guy sitting on another dinosaur came with 4 other dinosaurs with giant red eyes... It was the thief who was sitting on the dinosaur. He said – "I was looking for more fossils than I found these AWESOME dinosaur fossils and then suddenly they came out of it. And I am here to rule the world with these four dinosaurs. If you, the Shenron and the Dark, become my followers, I will spare your lives."

Then there was this absolute moment of silence.

Shenron said "you fool, you think you can control dinosaurs and rule the world, then you don't know the power of dinosaurs. Dinosaurs have ruled the world for ages and cannot be ruled by human"

The Dark, couldn't bear the thief's thoughts of ruling the world with the help of dinosaurs. He attacked the thief sitting on one of the dinosaurs. The Shenron also attacked the thief and four other dinosaurs with him and along with the Dark defeated them.

The thief and the other four dinosaurs were defeated and killed.

Suddenly Shenron & Dark became friends. They realized they should not fight each other but be friends as they can defeat evil together. After defeating the thief and his dinosaurs, they were happy to see smiles on the face of North Beijing.

They decided to fly back to the jungles of Yanoda rainforest and come back when they need to protect the people of the great land of China!! This was the start of a new legend, legend of good dinosaurs – the Shenron & Dark.

# Finding Peace

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Davis, Nolan – 9*

“Class!!!”, the teacher yelled. We are going to the Gan Zhou dinosaur park for camp. The children were very excited to go to the park, they were looking forward to this all week. After a long fun bus ride, they reached the park. They saw a large sculpture of a dinosaur with a board saying Dino World.

They entered the large building filled with Dinosaur fossils. The children ran from one exhibit to another. When they were looking at some dinosaur statues and information for their project, a staff named Mr. Gronicle volunteered to tell a magical story. They all gathered around Mr. Gronicle and sat down eager to hear the mysterious story. The story goes like this...

Once upon a time, there was a big village filled with a herd of big stegosaurus dinosaurs. In that village lived a family of dinosaurs with two young kids named Jack and John. They both were very close brothers. Jack was very brave and strong, while John was very wise and intelligent. One day when Jack and John were coming back from playing catch outside, the humans attacked their village. All of the dinosaurs in the area died including their mom and dad. Some dinosaurs were put in cages and taken away. Luckily Jack and John survived the cruel human attack. The two brothers Jack and John struggled to get food and shelter. They were really sad. After moving from one place to another, they found a cave to live in. They survived on the food they could find.

One day they luckily found some juicy berries and ate it. Suddenly they heard the bushes rustling, it was a human boy!!!! They were very frightened. They hid for some time but the boy found them. He did not attack them. Jack slowly gave the boy some juicy berries. The boy's name was Nolz. They again saw the Nolz the next day and the next day. Nolz gave food to the dinosaur brothers every day. After days past their friendship grew and they became best friends. One day, they decided to play truth or dare. Nolz said “truth.” Jack asked “where did you come from.” Nolz explained that his dad worked in the DDB (DINOSAUR DESTROYING BUREAU). The brothers were furious and said, “are you going to kill us too.” The brothers explained that the DDB was responsible for the death of their parents and friends in their old village. “No” said Nolz, I am going to tell my dad to stop working for the DDB!!

So, they went to their dad's office. The Dinosaur Destroying Bureau's office was a very large building. But when they reached there was a lot of security guards. So, Nolz went alone to try to convince his father. The dinosaur brothers stays back outside the gate hidden in some bushes. Nolz came out after a while and told the dino brothers, “My dad agrees that he should not work for DDB anymore, but we still have to convince the Chief of DDB to stop killing dinosaurs.” They suddenly heard a dinosaur cry. Nolz and the dino brother sneaked in to see what was going on. They saw that dinosaurs were in cages. They all decided that they have to help these dinosaurs to get out and escape. They waited for the security guards to be distracted and opened the cages with the help of Nolz dad.

The dinosaurs were out of the cages, but the security guards and the DDB chief Mr. Faul was on their way. They tried hard to convince the Chief to let these dinosaurs free and that they are harmless creatures. But Mr. Faul refused to hear them and asked his strongest men to catch the dinosaurs and cage them again. Now the dinosaurs were not going to stay quiet. They fought back together against the humans; they threw their weapons in a pond and pushed them into the cages. Nolz dad helped to lock the cages. Now the dinosaurs were outside and the humans inside the cages. The dinosaurs had got their revenge. Mr. Faul, the Chief was put in the DDB's upgraded diamond dino cell because they wanted to make sure he does not escape and destroy the dinosaurs again. So, from that day, the humans and the dinosaurs lived in peace in Gan Zau Dino Park.

Mr. Gronicle ended his story. The children were amazed. “How do you know this story?”, asked one of the children. Mr. Gronicle grinned with one side of his mouth opened. Huh!!!, screeched one of the children. While Mr. Gronicle was narrating the story, one of his teeth fell out. The children also noticed a DDB sign on the shirt he was wearing. It said “Chief, DDB.”

# Field Of Fossils

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Gill, Avani Kaur – 9*

It was Friday afternoon and Izzy Li rushed home from school excitedly. She was looking forward to her best friend's birthday sleepover this weekend. But when she walked through the front door, she found her father with his head in his hands. "What's wrong Dad?" asked Izzy. "Your Grandma Li passed away this morning," replied Mr. Li sadly. "We have to go to China tonight, for the funeral." "China?!" exclaimed Izzy in disbelief. That meant she would miss the sleepover. Izzy didn't know what she felt more sad about. After giving her dad a hug, she went into her bedroom and saw her mum packing some clothes. "Hi, Mum. Do we really need to leave tonight?" "Yes Izzy, we need to go for Grandpa Li. I know you're sad about missing the sleepover but this is more important." With a sigh, Izzy helped her mum pack and after a few hours they were on the flight to China.

The flight from London to Shanghai was very long, and it was an even longer drive from the airport to the city of Zhucheng. Izzy and her parents were exhausted when they reached Grandpa Li's cottage. They all greeted Grandpa Li with a huge hug, and then sat down to a delicious dinner.

Later that evening, Izzy went for a walk in the garden while Mr and Mrs Li were unpacking. Grandpa Li joined Izzy. "Your grandma loved you so much, Yi Zi. She kept this for you and was going to give it to you when she saw you." He took something out of his pocket, a string with a smooth, cream coloured rock on it. "A tooth?" Izzy asked, confused. "A dinosaur tooth." said Grandpa Li. "A dinosaur tooth?!" shouted Izzy in shock. "Shhh!" said Grandpa Li. "Everyone will find out!" "Wait, you mean nobody knows!" Izzy said. "Yes, your grandma found it in our fields but never told anyone. Here, put it on", said Grandpa Li. "Wow! Thank you Ye Ye, it's amazing! What dinosaur is it from?!" asked Izzy, excitedly as she put the pendant around her neck. "I am not sure. Maybe **you** will find out." replied Grandpa Li.

The next day was the funeral. The day after that Izzy went out onto the little farm they owned. "This is so boring! I could be at my friend's house right now." mumbled Izzy to herself. Then she saw something out of the corner of her eye. She dusted away a bit of soil with her hand and gasped. It was a long, curved bone, like a claw. "A fossil!" she said to herself. She ran back inside her little cottage and cried, "Mum, Dad! I found a fossil!" Her father chuckled and said, "What an imagination you have dear." and her mother, who didn't look up from her book, said "Wow! Amazing!" Grumpily, Izzy went trudging back to the farm and got out the biggest shovel she could find in the shed. Then she went to dig up the fossil. After an hour of digging, she saw three more claws glistening in the sunlight.

Soon, Izzy's mother and father came out calling for her. "Izzy what are you doing?" called Mr. Li. "I'm digging a fossil!" replied Izzy. Obviously Mr. Li didn't believe her, but he went over any way. "You, you, you really found a fossil!" he stuttered when he saw the bones in the soil. "Yes, of course I did!" Izzy said. Izzy's mum and dad got shovels too and they all carried on digging. Grandpa Li then came out to see what all the fuss was about. By now they had uncovered more of the dinosaur's skeleton. "Wow!" Izzy whispered. "I'm going to name you Abby."

The next day they reported their findings to a museum. The museum sent a team of experts to the Li farm and called the newly discovered dinosaur Abrosaurus. A few weeks later, the Li family was very famous and people paid for a visit to their farm. After a few months they were quite rich.

Many years later, Izzy was lying in bed in her mansion and thought about her grandparents. It had been a few years since Grandpa Li died, but she still thought of her grandparents and how their special gift sparked her curiosity. She still had her pendant and a thought came over her "What if the tooth on my pendant belonged to the dinosaur that I found?" That would be a discovery for another day. Izzy had been back to China many times since she found her first fossil, and she was planning another trip back to Zhucheng next month. She loved her job as a palaeontologist, working to uncover the hidden secrets in China.

# Time Travel to the Jurassic

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Panneer Selvam, Neha Shree – 10*

## **When It All Started.**

One fine Friday, My Mom returned home so happily.

I asked her, “Mom, why are you so happy?”

My mom said, “Nikki, My Teammates and I found a dinosaur fossil”.

I asked, “What did you do with it mom?”

She replied, “We have to find out which Dinosaurs family the fossil belongs to.

So, we sent the samples to your dad’s lab”.

“That’s a good idea. My dad is a great Scientist! “My brother Jordan shouted.

When my dad returned home in the evening, my mom asked, “Jack, what about your research on the fossils we sent?”

He said, “Yes, Jess, I’m researching it. But first, I need to look at the place where you found it. It will help me determine exactly which dinosaur family it belongs to.”

She said, “Okay, Jack, you can come with me tomorrow”.

Curious, I asked, “Mom, could Jordan and I come with you too?”

She said, “Yes, you all can join”.

## **Visiting to the Spot.**

The next day, I was so excited to see the fossils. We reached that place; my mom took us near the fossils. While seeing that, Jordan and I became a bit sad because we saw two fossils nearby.

I asked, “Why are there two fossils? One is so big, and the other is small?”

Mom said, “Maybe both were in the same family”.

My dad said, “It’s a plant-eating dinosaur; that’s why its neck is so long! “

He researched and found that it was a ‘HAMITITAN XINJIANGENSIS’ that lived in the late Jurassic era.

I asked, “Is this the place where they lived?”

“No Idea, Nikki” mom replied.

Suddenly, Jordan asked, “Dad, could we use your ‘Time Machine’ to go and see what happened to the dinosaur’s family?” Still, it seems he was so sad about the small fossil.

“No! It’s only for scientists to research”. Dad replied.

My mom said, “But this is also for research purposes”.

My brother started to nag, “Please, Dad, can we use it?”

Finally, he said, “Yes...!” We both were so happy.

We returned home and slept early after dinner because we were tired.

The next day, we went to our dad’s science lab to see the dinosaurs.

My dad clearly explained about the ‘TIME MACHINE’ and said, “Make sure you all can’t change the Past!”

We agreed.

## **Travelling to the Jurassic.**

We stepped into the Time Machine, and Dad pressed some keys and said, “65 million years ago”. It was so dark for five minutes, and finally, lights appeared. The time machine landed on a plain surface.

It was a beautiful place with many trees and plants, 'blooming' flowers. 'High-rise Mountains added more beauty. Birds chirped rhythms, and I liked that place a lot.

Then we started to walk to find the dinosaurs and reached a valley.

"Nikki, turn back!" Jordan shouted.

I saw something big and very tall there, eating the leaves on top of the tree.

My dad told my mom, "Jess, this is the dinosaur fossil you found. It's a plant-eating dinosaur".

Nearby, we saw another dinosaur; he added, "Its SILUTITAN SINENSIS and HAMITITAN XINJIANGENSIS".

We saw lots of plant-eating dinosaurs' family.

My dad told me that, those dinosaurs have flat teeth for the purpose of grinding the plants and trees. It has unique stomach acids that help digest cellulose.

"Mom, Dad. Where is that little dinosaur?" Jordan interrupted.

"Yeah, it will come", I replied quickly.

Suddenly, something flew down, grabbed a dinosaur egg, and flew back into the sky.

I asked my dad, "What's that thing?"

He said, "It's a 'PTEROSAUR' – a meat-eating dinosaur".

### **Every Dino is not friendly.**

Suddenly, the earth started to shake and rumble! We saw two big dinosaurs heading towards us at full speed. My dad shouted, "Run! They are also meat-eating dinosaurs, and they can eat us."

We all hid behind a tree. I asked my dad, "What are the names of these dinosaurs?"

My dad searched and found it was an 'ALECTROSAURS' and an 'ABELISAURS'.

We saw the meat-eating dinosaurs eating the small dinosaurs. The big and tall dinosaurs defended themselves and their hatchlings.

Finally, the Alectosaurs and Abelisaurids left that place.

My brother asked, "Is it safe to go out now?"

"Yes, it seems those deadly dinosaurs have left". Mom replied.

After some time, my dad said, "It's getting dark; we have to go back home."

"No!! We didn't see how those dinosaurs died", Jordan yelled.

"Okay! We can stay a bit longer. Don't shout, they may come back", mom said.

They started to walk further and enjoyed the scenery over there.

"It's been two and a half hours; we have to go back," Dad started to warn us.

"Okay, we will go back now", I replied.

We walked back to the time machine with some disappointment.

### **It's all over.**

We all entered on the time machine, and the dome shutter locked and the screen switched on. My mom noticed and showed a 'METEOR' coming so fast, and it crashed into the ground; a big and a small dinosaur buried under the ground with some dinosaurs.

Jordan said, "Mom, those look like the same that we saw as a fossil".

"Yes, you are right! I have to look for more fossils near that" Mom replied.

We travelled and came back to reality.

### **Spreading the news.**

The next day, I told my friends about “what happened yesterday”.

Sam and Mia said, “We wish we were there.”

I said, “Maybe I can take you to the fossils.”

After some days, Mom took Me, Sam, Mia and Jordan to see the fossils.

Jordan was still so sad for the small dinosaurs.

I took a Dino toy and started speaking like Dino: “Don’t worry; I’m here.”

Everyone was shocked and speechless!

# The Faith in Dino Lord

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Panneer Selvam, Nethra Shree – 10*

## Ch-1

### **The Big Announcement.**

Riya is a little girl who lives with her lovely family in Tianjin, China. Her father, Mr. Chan, is a Paleontologist. He loves fieldwork and always says, "Paleontology is so fun and thrilling!!"

One day, she got a phone call from her dad. He said, "He is going to feature on TV News and announce about his new research."

Riya is so excited about that. She invited all her friends to her house to watch the News.

"It's 7 'o'clock, Riya, switch on the TV", her mom said.

"Okay, mom", Riya said.

Her father appeared and started talking about the new fossil they found. He explained that "the fossil was a small theropod with a long tail and short arms, with a length of 1.5 meters and a weight of 1 pound." That fossil belongs to the dinosaurs, "The SINOSAURSPTERYS," which means "The China Dragon Bird." He added, "These Dinosaurs lived in Ancient China."

Everyone except Riya was so happy about the news because she didn't believe it.

After dinner, she asked, "Mom, all these are true?"

"Yes, my dear! There were Dinosaurs in the past, and some of them were worshipped by people!!" Mom said.

But still, she didn't believe it and just went to bed.

## Ch-2

### **Falling into the Dreamland.**

Riya could not sleep soon because she continuously thought about the Ancient Dinosaurs. After many hours, she fell into a deep sleep and had a "Big Dream...!!".

In her dream, she found herself and her friends in a dry place covered by lots of sand. At first, they liked that place and started to play there. Then, after a while, it started getting dark, and the kids felt hungry.

One of Riya's friends, Rose, said, "It's no use sitting here! Let's go home!"

They started to walk. A few minutes later, they realised, "They were all stuck in that dry place...!!".

Riya shouted, "Girls, there's something over there".

In that place, they saw a dinosaur head that looked like the one Riya's father showed on TV!

Suddenly, a voice came from that head. All of them were afraid, but the voice was so gentle: "Hi all. Don't worry. I know that you are all looking for a way back home, and I can help you with that."

"How?" Melody her friend, asked.

The head replied, "You all need to help me to find my parts, "body," and "tail," and fix it. I will give you some clues."

"What are they?" the girl named Maya asked.

They are "A cage in a cage" and "Middle of Hot", the voice said.

All of them started to find the clue. But none of them knows.

Suddenly, Tina yelled, "I know what the clues represent! Here, Look at these 'Cacti'. It's grown harder and looks like a cage, and we know that body is like a cage. So, we need to check inside these Cacti cages."

Everyone started to look for the body part inside that.

### **Ch-3**

#### **The Sabotage.**

“Girls, I found it!” Maya came out of the cactus with the body of the dinosaur.

Five of them ran quickly near to the head and fixed it.

“Good. Very soon, you will all find out about the body. But finding the tail will be much harder because my enemies may plan some sabotage”, the head said.

“Tina, what does ‘Middle of Hot’ mean?” Riya asked.

“Well, I think we are going to find the tail in the middle of something hot, but it may not be easy” " she replied.

The friends walked for a long. They became very tired.

After some time, they reach a place with some trees. They saw the “Tail” part on top of a ‘Big Rock’ in the middle of a pond. Everyone was happy and ran near that pond. They forgot about the voice that had warned them.

“Friends, I know swimming, and I can get it”, Melody said.

Suddenly, they heard a loud noise of “laughing.” Two giant Dinosaurs from the pond filled the pond with Lava and said, “It will not be so easy; it’s a hot Lava Pond.” They disappeared.

Everyone was Shocked!

### **Ch-4**

#### **Team Work.**

“NO..!!!!, now what do we do?” Rose asked.

“I have a plan, but I’m not sure it will work, but it’s worth a shot!” Tina said, and she took a rope from her bag.

“So, from this end, we can tie this rope in this tree, and one of us can go around the pond and tie the other end.

Then we can reach the rock using the rope by swing like in the ‘Monkey Bars!’” she added.

Maya ran around the pond and tied the rope.

Using that idea, Riya was ready to get the tail. Everyone was scared, but she made it, threw the tail part to Melody, and came back from the hot pond.

### **Ch-5**

#### **Knowing the Truth.**

The friends ran back and fixed the tail with the remaining parts.

At that moment, a ‘Miracle’ happened. That dinosaur got ‘alive’ and started to ‘glow’.

Everyone was surprised. ” Yes!” that dinosaur now became a “Dino Lord!” and said, “Thank you, girls. You all believed me and, as a team, solved my clues and found the parts of my body. Now, I will help you to go back home.”

They climbed on the dinosaur and came back home.

At that same time, Riya woke up from her bed and realised it was her big dream to believe that dinosaurs lived in the past. She ran to her mom and said happily, “Mom, you were right! Dinosaurs were real and like gods in the past.

Now I want to become a ‘Paleontologist’ like Dad to find more “DINO LORDS...!”

# Dori the Dinosaur Companion

*Dulwich College Beijing, Chan, Marcus – 11*

In the vibrant and bustling city of Hong Kong, where towering skyscrapers reached for the sky and colorful street markets filled the air with enticing aromas, there lived a ten-year-old girl named Irene. Despite the city's fast pace with its endless stream of people, traffic, and neon lights, she often felt like a solitary figure lost in the crowd. However, Irene had an extraordinary secret that set her apart from her classmates. Ever since she could remember, she had a giant fascination with dinosaurs. They were the characters in her dreams, the subjects of her drawings, and much more.

One hot afternoon, while wandering through a small, hidden park near her apartment: an oasis of calm amidst the noise, as she would call it, she came across a twist of roots and rocks. Curiosity piqued; Irene approached the spot. As she brushed away the leaves and dirt, she discovered a shimmering stone half-buried in the earth. The stone was unlike anything she had ever seen, carved intricately with scenes depicting magnificent dinosaurs. Clearly entranced, Irene carefully pried it from the muddy ground and brushed off the dirt, her heart racing with excitement.

Suddenly, the stone glowed and pulsed with a golden light. Startled but intrigued, Irene clutched it tightly in her hands. "What are you?" she whispered, feeling a current of energy pulse through her fingers. Just then, the ground began to tremble beneath her, and with a blinding flash, she found herself amid a lush, prehistoric landscape, opposite of the bustling areas of Tsim Sha Tsui.

Irene stood in a vast jungle filled with towering ferns, vibrant flowers, and the distant sound of rushing waterfalls. In the air, the calls of strange creatures echoed, a symphony of primal sounds. Wide-eyed and curious, she took a few tentative steps forward, marveling at the ferns and the gigantic trees that filled the canopy.

Out from the underbrush, a small dinosaur appeared: a fluffy, feathered creature that seemed both curious and playful. It was no larger than a carrot, with bright orange feathers highlighted by soft blues, and it had a small, mischievous glint in its eyes. "Wow!" Irene exclaimed, glancing around to make sure she was truly alone. The tiny dinosaur paced toward her, its tail wagging enthusiastically.

"Are you the one who brought me here?" Irene asked, crouching down to get a better look at her new companion. The dinosaur chirped in response, hopping closer. She chuckled at its playful act, and in that moment, she felt instant connection. "I think I'll call you Dori," she said, her heart swelling with joy. Dori chirped again, as if in approval.

They explored the surroundings together. Dori led Irene through lush meadows and ancient forests, revealing stunning landscapes she had only ever imagined. They encountered groups of Triceratops grazing peacefully and watched majestic Pterodactyls soaring through the sky above. Amidst the excitement, there was also danger; the shadows of larger predators loomed, reminding Irene that they were in the real world, where survival was key.

Days turned into what felt like months in this incredible landscape. Although Irene missed home, she had never felt so alive. Dori became her loyal companion, following her everywhere, almost as if they were the best of friends. Together, they laughed, played, and shared countless adventures. Irene taught Dori tricks, and in return, Dori showed her secrets of survival.

One day, as they splashed around in a crystal-clear pond, Irene noticed a sudden change in Dori's personality. The little dinosaur's ears perked up, and it looked towards the trees with urgency. Irene followed Dori's gaze and saw a large shadow creeping through the foliage. Her heart raced; it was the dreaded Tyrannosaurus.

“I need to hide!” she whispered, panic washing over her. Dori nodded, sensing the danger, and led Irene behind a thick cluster of bushes. They held their breath, watching as the T. rex lumbered closer. Irene's heart thudded loudly in her chest, and fear threatened to overtake her. But watching Dori's brave face gave her courage.

As the T. rex sniffed around, Irene felt urges to protect her new friend. Summoning bravery, she grabbed a handful of small stones and quietly hurled them away from their hiding spot. The T. rex turned its head, distracted by the noise. Dori, quick and agile, took the opportunity to dart toward the nearest tree, urging Irene to follow.

With the T. rex momentarily confused, they fled deeper into the jungle, panting when they finally reached a grove of trees that provided cover. After catching their breath, Irene hugged Dori tightly. “You’re amazing!” she exclaimed.

But as the sunlight began to wane, Irene felt the pull of home beckoning her. She glanced down at the glowing stone she still clutched tightly in her hand and realized it was time to return. But inside, she knew she would miss Dori. The bond they had formed was unlike anything she had ever experienced.

“I have to go home, Dori,” Irene said, her voice wavering slightly. Dori chirped softly, nuzzling her cheek. “I’ll come back,” she assured, heart heavy with the thought of leaving her newfound friend.

Irene pressed the stone into the ground. A warm light enveloped her and Dori, swirling around them until the bright jungle dissolved slowly. As the world shifted, Irene glanced back, taking in one last sight of her dinosaur companion, who chirped one last goodbye.

In an instant, Irene was back in the park, the stone gleaming in her palm. She looked around, her heart racing with excitement and longing. The city felt different now; it no longer seemed as overwhelming. Instead, it was filled with memories of adventures.

Irene dedicated herself to uncovering the mysteries of dinosaurs back in her world. She adopted a small lizard named “Little Dori” and transformed her room into a sanctuary of dinosaur-themed decor. But in her heart, she knew her friendship with Dori would remain eternal.

# Once Upon a Time

*Dulwich College Beijing, Chen, Della – 9*

Most of you, I believe, reckon that dinosaurs are long extinct. Yes, scientists have concluded, that they have been. However, here is an interesting fact to be told of. They are severely endangered... with only one dinosaur left.

So, let's hear the applause.

So, this dinosaur was found in the heart of the Liaoning Province. It lived in the Early Cretaceous period, which was, according to research, about 120 million years ago. That was where it lived in a lush environment, surrounded by swaying trees and comforting wind.

It was home to many creatures, from gigantic dinosaurs to minute creatures. This Sinosauropteryx was amongst the smaller creatures.

This petite dinosaur was a small, nimble dinosaur, only about one meter in length! It also possessed a long, stripy tail and curious behavior.

Scientists later found out that the dinosaur's name was Isabelle. She was a bright, curious creature who persevered through life's challenges. She was spry and lithe, and always helped her former siblings find some fish from the crisp waters. Her life was prolific and verdant.

From her mother, she learned how to attempt for her first solo hunt. From her father, she learned how to use her speed and agility to escape slightly larger animals.

Isabelle's prolific part of life was short-lived, however. When she was three years old, the valley where she lived experienced a natural disaster. A volcanic eruption caused plumes of ash to rise into the air. Isabelle was frightened and afraid. She wanted to protect her family, and they were all desperate. A few days later, her family members were all congested with diseases. They passed away one by one. Isabelle wished she was with them, but no matter how much she prayed to the god of the dinosaurs, they would not come back and she was never with them.

One day, Isabelle met a small creature, miniature and lithe. It swiftly flapped something that looked like a fan on the side of its body. Gracefully, it leaped into the air. To her surprise, though, it did not fall down, but instead, flew farther and farther until it was only a tiny silhouette. Slightly later, it vanished from her sight. At that moment, the young Sinosauropteryx caught an aspiration. One day, she wanted to fly. She wanted to see the world forever beautiful from her own eyes. She tilted her head and glimpsed at the side of her body. She did not have the flaps the lithe creatures do. She was dismayed and disheartened. It seemed like her heart instantly deflated.

*Seeing the world forever beautiful.*

The words reverberated in her mind. Maybe that could be her dream. Peeking out through the gaps between the lofty trees, all Isabelle could see was the sun, hot and orange, and the debris of the previous volcanic eruption. It all occurred to her at once that the world was now disheveled and grotesque.

Isabelle rose in the morning to see the sky as a vivid shade. She had never seen the sky so blue in a while. Yesterday and the dark days before, it was gray and dull. The color made her squirm. After a few berries from those statuesque trees, she proceeded to the volcano that killed all her beloved ones. Prudently, she gazed at the massive natural structure. There were now no signs of the continuous flames that were so obvious before. It was a colossal mountain of magma and lava! Isabelle climbed up the mountain gingerly. The world was now forever beautiful. She forgot the last time she'd seen the world like that. When she was halfway up the fiery summit, though, she was frightened and proceeded to the base of the volcano. There, the clouds were racing along an invisible path. It was like they possessed undetectable legs. During the dark, gloomy days, the clouds were gray and stationary. Now, they were pure white and agile, as they were racing along the 'path'. The trees were swaying and its leaves rustling. The grass was damp and soft in comparison to the lawn covered with gray ash. The rivers were flowing actively, as if they were also excited. Isabelle froze in excitement and crept over to the other animals, who were also gazing eagerly at the amusing scene. Although there were no more species of her kind, she felt warmly involved in the animals'

community. Looking intently at the blue sky and the green, damp grass, she felt glad and satisfied. She barely believed it. The gods of the dinosaurs gave her the time of peak perfection. They helped her know her dreams would come true someday.

When Isabelle finally retired to her grassy bed that night, she was filled with anxiety and questions of nervousness. What if tomorrow wasn't such a nice day as today was? What if the volcano erupted again? The young *Sinosauropteryx* drowsily closed her eyes and waited patiently for tomorrow to come.

Surprisingly, the next morning was an unparalleled delight! After the same type of berries from the same kind of soaring trees, she saw the blue sky, the lithe and agile clouds racing along the invisible path with their undetectable legs, the damp, grassy fields and lawns, and the flowing, crisp waters and air. Again, the animals fixated enthusiastically at the glamorous face of the world. Seeing this scene with her own eyes, Isabelle knew her dream had finally come true.

She saw the world forever beautiful.

# The Mysterious Creature of Liaoning Sheng

*Dulwich College Beijing, Earl, Harry – 9*

This story is about my astonishing experience when I was very young. Believe it or not, my story begins like this...

1986, I was about 7 years old at that time. I visited Liaoning Sheng to see my grandparents, because that day, a unique festival took place. My grandfather was 89, which was the oldest in the whole, entire town. He was also prominent for being amazingly wise and thoughtful. I stayed with him every single holiday and every time he influenced me with the chronicles of the spectacular, courteous dragon.

To make the long story short, once upon a time there was a powerful but tiny dragon that secured the town from getting dangerous. Unlike the dragons we usually think of, this creature cannot breathe out fire or fly; it was just a caring, serene guard. But one day, it vanished. Some suggest that it soared over to another town, some say it is in an infinite sleep. Because of this, at November 15<sup>th</sup>, people celebrate the festival to pray that the guard dragon will come back to this town. I firmly believe that this mythical creature is real even though our teacher always reminds us that they are just juvenile, fiction things.

Today is the celebration day, it was my first time getting invited to this enjoyable, graceful festival. The moment I arrived at the town, the gorgeous-looking dragon statues were welcoming me. My mind was filled with excitements that I can actually meet a dragon. All of a sudden, a familiar voice greeted me, "Oh, hi Tom!" I curiously peeked behind. It was my grandfather! He seriously continued, "I am quite busy today... Can you look around alone without getting lost?" This was because he was one of the hosts of today's celebration. As I was about to say, "Yes of course I can.", a strange creature appeared at the edge of my eye.

It was covered with brown furs and stripes, it had an elongated tail attached to its fluffy, scaly back. It was surprisingly similar to the dragons in the legends. I was determined to follow this bizarre, adorable creature. It easily shifted through the complex landscapes of the mountain. After a couple of minutes of spying on this animal, my brain was racing with questions. What if I get lost? Is this even a real dragon? It was leading me into a cave. I suspiciously stared at the dragon. Suddenly, it turned back, it noticed me! "Hello, Tom. It is a pleasure to meet you." The dragon talked in a cracking, high voice and more importantly, it knew my name! I was totally dumbfounded. The jolly, nice dragon explained, "I can only be seen by people who believe in me. To add, since you were the first person to see me, I will give you this." He reached down his old, rusty drawer and handed me a small rock. Its stripy, brown shell glistened in the shiny, warm sun. As I thankfully grabbed this lovely, surprising gift and stored it in my pocket, I swiftly started to ask questions such as, "Why did you leave the town?" The dragon replied in a depressed manner, "The town was too cold for me to live on, it was freezing, all my best friends escaped in time, but I unfortunately got trapped in this cave forever." As soon as I heard about that heartbreaking story, I felt extremely bad for this poor, depressed creature, I was desperate to help him. "Really? You will?" the delighted, ecstatic dragon gasped, "Alright, my body is completely stuck in that narrow spiky hole down there. It might be too tough for you to lift that."

I sprinted to my grandfather and swiftly went through everything. By the time we reached the top, grandfather looked exhausted; his sweat was streaming down his cheek. We finally arrived at the dragon's den. There was nothing, even the dragon itself had vanished. Was that a dream? Looking disappointed, grandfather sighed, "Where is the dragon? It is ok Tom; sometimes you may see something differently, or it might be your pure, exciting imagination." I suddenly realised that only people who believes in the dragon can see it. Grandfather did not believe in them for the whole time! I had a sudden betrayal on him for a while.

About 10 years later, a shocking news came out on the TV. It reported that a new fossil was discovered in Liaoning Sheng. About a baker's dozen of reporters encompassed a group of exhausted, diligent palaeontologists. The fossil looked so familiar to me. After a few minutes of concentration, I had finally figured out what it was. It was the dragon I encountered a few years ago! That amazing, miraculous second, I heard a deafening phone call echoing through my ear. I exuberantly hopped to answer it; as I heard the pleasant, tranquilising voice, I knew who it was chatting to me, it was my grandfather! After a welcoming greeting, he went on, "See, Tom. I can't be prouder than ever! You actually discovered a dinosaur! It is from the prehistoric times!" Just when I was going to finish the call, a dusty, bizarre-looking rock fell off from my pocket. I leaned closer to discover what it was; it was the gift from the dragon—dinosaur ages ago. I blissfully picked it up and told my grandfather everything about it. Moreover, it was not just a boring, dull rock, but an peculiar-looking ammonite fossil.

From now on, I can pridefully say that I was the one who first spotted the interesting, new dinosaur fossil.

# The Dinosaur's Last Moment

*Dulwich College Beijing, Hou, Evan – 11*

Tears streamed down my cheeks. I felt a sharp pain in my chest. I could barely distinguish reality from illusion. Something was wrong with me.

It all started with an exhilarating afternoon when I visited our local museum. As I walked through massive dinosaur bones and miniature dinosaur eggs, something grabbed my attention—a fossil of an animal that looked like a bird without wings, and it was hard to connect it with dinosaurs. And there it was, the *Sinosauropteryx*. But it seemed to be experiencing serious soreness. Just as I was fascinated and captivated by it, a dazzling beam of light made me unable to see the things around me. Before I could fully realize what had just happened, a dizzying swirl of colors engulfed me, and in an instant, I was thrust into an ancient cave.

Spider webs hung from the ceiling of the cave. The cave was filthy, and I couldn't breathe normally. A sudden, violent tremor shook through the ground beneath me. Another one... Then, the stone roof began to tremble. Then, I heard creatures screaming painfully. I ran down the slope of the hill and saw a massive volcano... erupting! I could still feel the heat even though the volcano was about a kilometer away. My heart pounded faster and faster as if it would jump out of my throat at any second! I suddenly lost my balance before I knew what was happening and tumbled down the rocky cliff like a bird without wings. I was dizzy and mostly—in pain. The pain was incomparable to what I would feel later on. For me, shutting my eyes was a choice.

By the time I opened my eyes, volcanic ash had covered the dull grey sky. The low, thick, humid air nearly made me suffocate. I couldn't believe what I saw. I slowly stood up and saw numerous dinosaur bodies lying on the ground; only a few were still escaping. Then, something happened. This was one of the most intimidating moments of my life... I saw the lava flowing towards me. I screamed in a loud and horrifying sound and instinctively dashed toward the forest. I kept running even though every single part of my body told me to stop and look back. After some time, I couldn't take a step forward. I saw a *Sinosauropteryx* lying on the soft earth, crying for help.

I undoubtedly and desperately wanted to help the small dinosaur, but the burning rocks and the floating lava made me think that it was an unwise decision. “No”, I thought. “I must save it”. Fortunately, I was able to hold this injured dinosaur. Just then, a group of *Giganotosaurus* rushed towards us. Things couldn't get worse—not even a little. This time, I seemed to have some kind of superpower, and I even jumped onto the back of a gigantic dinosaur, and there I was, riding it while holding a smaller one in my hand! It was such a wild experience, feeling the giant creature move under me as I gripped the little dinosaur carefully. The dinosaur seemed to be running at a blazing speed across the lava-surrounded jungle. Unexpectedly, a massive *T-rex* dashed toward us and collided with the one I was riding on.

I was thrown forward with the jolt, and for a fleeting instant, I thought I could fly, that time had stopped just for me. Everything swung around us, and I wrapped my arms around the little *Sinosauropteryx*, trying to keep it safe. We landed with a painful thud. The entire ground shot up in huge clouds of ash and lava, splattering everything in terrifying shades of red and black. A massive beast, muscles rippling and ready to strike, passed before my eyes, *another T-rex*. I felt my heart drop. This was the king of dinosaurs, bigger than the ones I'd seen at the museum, and they weren't just looking for food; they were escaping, and we were right in the middle of it! The giant dinosaur roared, and the sound boomed in the air, shaking my chest in a split second. I couldn't do anything except to lie on the ground. Its tiny heart pounded fast against me.

Then, something unexpected happened — BOOM! The volcano erupted again. An enormous quantity of burning rocks shot toward us. I knew I had to act fast, with blood rushing through my veins. But it was too late... Everything was too late. The blazing lava had spread into the deep jungle forest. Countless plants, from grasses to the tallest trees that pierced the grey clouds, were all burned down and buried underground. Before my eyes, the giant dinosaur was struck by the scorching rocks and died—surrounded by tons of lava. I tasted the bitterness of the soil for the last time. The last thing I saw was the sizzling lava approaching me... Only 30 centimeters left. I could feel the hot air all

around me. I shut my eyes tight because I was too afraid to open them. All at once, I felt a severe pain in my back and lava scalding my body. It was the end.

But a moment later, the air around me cooled down. The scream gradually faded. I thought I was dead. And here I was, standing on the concrete floor of the Dinosaur Museum. Isn't it just a hallucination? But the strip of orange feathers in my hand proved it wrong.

# China's Last Dinosaur

*Dulwich College Beijing, Hu, Matthew – 9*

*35 million years ago, Jurassic Period: 1,000,000 BCE, Month: 1, Week: 1, Day: 5*

The landscape was barren and charred, a silent wasteland with the crackling of fire as its only voice. Wood burned and collapsed, and smoke hung like a haunting shroud over what had once been a lush, vibrant world. Amid the destruction, a lone, weary dinosaur huddled in a thicket of dead branches, chewing on the few torn leaves he could find to regain his strength. He looked around at what was once home—now either burned, broken, or simply gone. Ashes covered the ground, the remnants of the green world he had known.

Just hours earlier, he and his family had been resting in their makeshift shelter, a circle of logs around a large patch of moss, laughing and chatting about their day at Dino School, when his mother suddenly burst in with a frightend Sinosauropteryx, her voice trembling as she told them to hide from a massive object falling from the sky. Everyone scrambled to find cover—everyone except him. Frozen by fear, he watched his worst nightmare unfold until his mother shoved him into a mossy, damp hole with a pungent odor, throwing herself over him in protection. A blinding white flash had engulfed the world, and when it faded, devastation reigned. The scream echoed through the wasteland as dinosaurs trudged across cemetery battered and bruised. One by one, they collapsed onto the ground, their last breath breathing out smoke. Yet his mother had saved him, the last dinosaur.

*Present Day: Year: 2041, Month: 10, Week: 26, Day: 31*

The dinosaur blinked, slowly opening his eyes to an unfamiliar world. He stood amidst the bustling streets of Beijing, where animals and humans around him stared in shock and awe. Some pointed, some took pictures, while others simply stood, stunned at the sight. This dinosaur, the last of his kind, was known by everyone as the Angelsaures. A random kid with a baseball cap was selling sugar figures; he offered a bowl of dumplings to the dinosaur.

Suddenly, a tremendous explosion rocked the building nearby, and the ground shook as the roof caved in. People screamed as walls crumbled, the city erupting in chaos. The dinosaur, covered with bruises, fought to stay upright, memories of another white flash and a familiar shockwave flooding his mind. Panic spread through the crowd as humans scrambled to survive, but the dinosaur felt the world slowly fading around him. A Chinese temple with a painting toppled over him, trapping the last dinosaur.

The dinosaur trampled through the city, destroying everything in his path. Glass shattered as he trampled through. Videos of the rampaging dinosaur flooded social media, spreading news of his appearance. Scientists and researchers raced to capture him, hoping to study and protect this specific creature.

However, a group of extremists feared that the dinosaur would bring the end of humanity. Believing he was an omen of doom, they plotted to kill him. Now, the dinosaur found himself torn between two worlds—he would need to survive both to return to the time and place he once called home.

Suddenly, the frightened dinosaur fell through a wormhole, a voice in his head whispering omnisciently, “Find your family.” Over and over. As the prehistoric landscape formed around him, streams bubbling with life from pine trees touched the sky as plants grew enormously. The sky was royal blue with fluffy clouds floating around. Nearby, a Sinosauropteryx growled and prowled, unaware of the interloper back from the future. Cranky, as he had become known, realized with astonishment that he had returned to the time before the disaster.

Hopeful to find his family, he wandered through the dense jungle until he found them, gathered around a familiar tree. He tried to warn them about the looming danger, but they laughed, dismissing his words as absurd. Just then, the earth trembled as a strange sight appeared: a human army, their weapons aimed at the dinosaurs. Bombs exploded, fires raged, and the forest turned into a powerful battlefield. Humans charged, intent on decapitating the dinosaurs, throwing every weapon in their arsenal, including a powerful Tesler Bomba.

The dinosaurs fought back fiercely, stomping the humans with their unbelievable size. They won, but at the cost of many precious dinosaurs losing their lives in this treacherous battle. Cranky, bloodied, but triumphant, they scavenged the weapons left behind by the retreating humans. Sharing the spoils with the velociraptors, Cranky led his allies in fortifying their home, building missile silos, and training for future battles. Soon, dawn broke, casting the sky in shades of orange and gold, and the dinosaurs were ready. The humans returned, prepared to fight once more, but this time, Cranky and his army were prepared. In the final clash, missiles flew, buildings toppled, and civilians screamed as the two worlds collided in a tornado of chaos. Space and time unraveled, and as the dust settled, only the survivors of both worlds could tell the tale of the last dinosaur's final stand. As ash and dust flew all around him, as everything he had known to love was destroyed, the last dinosaur gazed out at the world that had birthed him—a world that would also be his undoing. With a heavy sigh, the dinosaur closed his eyes, finally succumbing to the bullets... and he felt pain, terrible pain that shattered him as every ounce of power inside him slowly faded, until all that was left was a shell of his body. The humans suddenly stopped and looked Cranky. He had tried to unite the worlds but died in this battle. A blinding light flashed, and the world disappeared.

Back in the present time, slowly, the dinosaur legends widely spreaded, about the bravery that Cranky had to unite humanity and animals. People respected him for his last stand: a giant memorial was built for him. At last, the dinosaur can rest.

# Cynra's Tale: Uncovered Truth

*Dulwich College Beijing, Liu, Esmee – 10*

A flaming sun hung in the deep blue sky, reflecting off Cynra's sharp claws. She felt calmer than ever, watching the Gigantoraptor kids chase around with their long tails swishing in the overgrown grass. But worry crept up her veins when she recalled the terrible moments of Etye's grief over his daughter's death.

*He had blamed the Gigantoraptors. Why would he blame us, the innocent ones, when we did nothing wrong? Sure, there was a drip of blood in the territory, carrying the scent of a Dixiatitan, but that could have easily been some other creature.*

Still, nervousness slipped back in a jolt, when an eerie wail rang in her ears: there it was, Etye's revenge. Mysterious food had been appearing strangely on their leaf piles, with bits of poison smothered on the sharp edges, not to mention the dying trees.

*No, she thought, ripping the remains of twigs caught under her claws, I need to discuss with Terbote. The clever Wulong had to know something.*

Terbote glided to the edge of the territory as soon as she whistled, his well-groomed feathers tucked away at the back of his head. Calm as the wind, he flexed his sharp claws, almost floating to the branch so they were eye-level.

"I know what you are about to say, a topic I recommend avoiding," he rasped, politely dipping his head. "Yet I know you are clever, so here's the truth: no one but you suspect Etye is killing your forest. A mind of wisdom is needed."

Terbote drifted off without another word.

Taking a deep breath, Cynra stampeded into her leader Diara's den, sending a few leaves fluttering past.

"There is something I need to tell you," she pleaded urgently. "Something related to Etye." Diara's eyebrows shot up, but her voice remained steady as she nodded towards the nest for Cynra to sit. Gratefully, Cynra stared into Diara's shadowy eyes. "I suspect Etye is the one poisoning us," Cynra urged.

Diara's shadowy eyes narrowed and snapped, "Where's the evidence?"

"It seems quite obvious Etye has bad plans in his mind." Cynra commented.

"Give me some time to think—"

"We don't have time!"

"You don't get to decide," Diara growled as she seemed to grow larger by every second and gave Cynra an ultimate side-eye before stomping away.

*If Diara is going to be so ridiculously unreliable, she thought, feathers puffing up, I'm going to deal with this myself.*

Stalking silently out of her shelter, Cynra exploded into a frantic dash as she crossed the border between the Gigantoraptors and Dixiatitan. She fought back the tug in her stomach, leaping over logs and splashing through puddles before spotting Etye. Taking a deep breath, she blindly leapt onto Etye's back, snarling furiously.

Rolling onto one side, Etye angrily clutched her throat, fire dancing crazily in his eyes as he let out an earth-shaking growl. Pain tore through her ripped cheek, and just when she thought it was over, Terbote appeared.

The Wulong that never broke rules, the wisest, most loyal dinosaur, crashed out of the bushes. He almost froze mid-air as he spotted Cynra but recovered ever so quickly.

"Terbote!"

Cynra and Etye froze and glared at each other when they realized they had said his name together. *How could Etye be happy to see Terbote?* Cynra's thoughts were interrupted by the last voice she wanted to hear.

"What is happening?" Diara crashed out from the trees, fury lacing with every feature. Glaring murderously, she eyed her surroundings and snapped at the air. "Tell me!" she demanded.

Terbote immediately dipped his head in respect, his wise move making her uncomfortable. "In my territory those two, sleeping with a string of drool. Cheeky little youngsters, making as much mess as monsters!"

Confusion swirled in Cynra's head, wondering if Terbote has lost his mind. But Terbote just scrambled up a massive tree and took off hurriedly.

The leader, her unease growing, leaped into the air, grabbed Terbote by the foot and pinned him down. She signaled for Etye and Cynra to come closer.

"I know more than you think," she hissed, glaring at Terbote, who flailed helplessly under her grip. "I've been thinking about what Cynra said this morning. And even though it wasn't necessary, I've spoken with the other leaders."

Her narrowed eyes glared at Terbote, "Care to explain your special poison juice?"

"*Special poison juice now, is it?*" Terbote hissed. "It was just a small does. Should I try some on you?" Cynra could hear the evil in every word.

Despair weighed on Cynra heavily, her face went blank as white paper.

*All the time they had spent together, since the start of her life... he has never been a loyal friend?*

Loss tangled her heart painfully. Etye seemed as shocked, his grip loosening on her as he stared into the sky, which now seemed darker.

Cynra trailed back to her nest silently, ignoring all the attention from her clan.

*Why does news ever have to spread this quick?* she thought, glaring at the ground in disgust.

All that mattered now was that Terbote needed real punishment. Maybe one that costs him his life. She needed revenge, just thinking of shredding his face, punching it till it cracks—

"Watch where you're going! I get that you're mad, but still, you can't cross the border!"

Cynra forced herself to focus on the present.

Her Microsaurus friend, Yaji — a *true* friend— waited at the border's edge, a grin plastered on her face.

"The punishment has come! Terbote's being exiled— let's see how long he lasts out there."

Yaji winked at Cynra, and both followed Yaji's leader, who was in a serious discussion with the Wulong leader. Soon, Terbote appeared into view, hatred smothered in his expression as he let out a deafening roar. "You'll regret this!"

"Oh, I assure you, we won't," Diara growled coldly.

Everyone stared as Terbote stormed out, vanishing into the depths of the forest.

# The Dinosaur

*Dulwich College Beijing, Liu, Thomas – 11*

“You can’t take the short-cut through the forest! You’ll get lost, then a dinosaur will eat you!” Victor’s, Grace said with genuine alarm.

Victor snorted with amusement, then replied, “Don’t you know dinosaurs are extinct? And what would they be doing in China?”

“Do you know how many fossils were f—” Grace began, but Victor had already turned his back on her and heading towards the forest, that loomed over them like a hungry monster ready to devour anyone who dared to enter. He heard Grace sigh, then call out, “Fine, but I’ll be going the long way. I hope you don’t get lost.”

Ten minutes later, he did. The paths all looked identical in the dancing shadows. It was impossible to know which way to turn. Why had he come this way? He was starting to regret his choice. What if he didn’t find his way out of the forest? If he didn’t... His breaths were coming in short gasps now. Panic ripped at his heart like a vicious claw. He started to run. Maybe he would somehow escape the forest. Deathly trees blurred pass. Each path looked the same, overgrown, muddy, shadowy.

Hours seemed to pass by in a flurry of inky shadows. Finally, Victor paused, breathing heavily. His face was sweaty, and he could distinctly hear the rapid beating of his heart. He surveyed his surroundings. The path was just the same as always, only gloomier in the darkness that was creeping over the forest. And along with it also came a mist that stretched its clammy fingers around him, muffling all sound like an enormous blanket. The trees loomed ominously over him like ravenous beasts eager for a feast. The vines dangling from the branches were huge pythons preparing for a feeding frenzy. He shivered. Where was he?

At that moment, Victor felt a heavy sense of dread. Something was wrong. Something was lurking in the darkness, just out of sight. It was creeping silently towards him like a wall of darkness, slowly and menacingly pressing in on him. Despite the impenetrable mist that tried to deprive him of his hearing, he thought he caught a low growl. As the first rays of burning-cold moonlight peeked over the horizon, he was certain he glimpsed something sharp glinting in the weak twilight. Could that have been... No, that was impossible, nothing could have teeth that big. He shuddered. What could it be?

Instinctively, Victor ducked behind the slimy moss-covered trunk of an ancient oak tree. His feet sank into the foul-smelling mud with a sickening squelch. A stray strand of spiderweb stuck to his face. He shuddered. Horrible! The world was silent for a few seconds. He was safe. From what?

Peering cautiously the tree trunk, Victor caught sight of something he would never forget. As the mist parted, a gigantic body emerged from the trees opposite him. massive legs rippling with muscles slammed the creature’s feet heavily against the muddy ground, splattering stinking mud in every direction. Vicious claws glinted in the dim moonlight. His heart was now attacking his chest with a sledgehammer.

Victor raised his head higher. More claws. As skinny as those arms were, he did NOT want them anywhere near him. And then there was that tail. At its base, it was three times as thick as his arm. He bet it could knock down a tree without even trying. What was going on? What was this creature? Could it – No.

Victor raised his head even higher. The creature’s head was turned so that he could only see on of its baleful emerald eyes. Its mouth was open wide, showing two rows of razor-sharp slavering teeth. He could vividly imagine blood, his blood, dripping off those massive fangs. It could probably swallow him in one bite. His body was shaking with fear. It was a dinosaur!

Without warning, the dinosaur snapped its head around and stared straight at Victor. He’d been noticed! He stifled a whimper of fear and pressed himself tightly against the tree. The monstrous creature roared triumphantly. It was a sound straight from hell, like an avalanche that can’t be avoided tumbling towards him. Then it started making

its way towards him. He had mere seconds before he was reduced to a human carcass. What should he do?

Victor waited. The seconds stretched out, making each feel like a painful hour. He waited. It was all too overwhelming. The dinosaur was so close! He waited. He could almost feel the pain as his internal organs were ripped out. He had to move. But to where? Not that it mattered. There was no escape. But he didn't care. At least he wouldn't die as a piece of meat waiting to be eaten. He erupted from the shelter of the tree and bolted through the thick bushes that clawed hungrily at his legs. A deafening roar. Crash! A tree toppled, barely missing him. He instantly knew that he wouldn't last even ten seconds.

Everything was reduced to chaos. Crashing of trees. Furious roars of the dinosaur. Victor's pounding feet. Then something else joined the turmoil. Loud cracks filled the air. Flashes of light. Someone was shouting, but Victor couldn't hear clearly over the blood roaring in his ears. All of a sudden, a new hope entered his mind. Was someone helping him? Would he – A sharp pain, like a dagger in his shoulder, then darkness.

Victor woke in a soft bed. His shoulder ached but didn't hurt as much. He caught snatches of a conversation that was happening somewhere nearby.

“...impossible.”

“Totally different...”

“...research...”

“...blood tests show...”

“But how...”

He opened his eyes and found himself in what looked like a hospital room. Before him stood two women, one dressed like a nurse, the other like a secret agent from a movie.

Victor sat up in bed. Both women turned to him. The second woman said in a commanding voice, “You will not mention the creature to anyone.”

# The Winged Dinosaurs

*Dulwich College Beijing, Luan, Alina – 8*

After a whole 10 years after, when Megan was hunting for lizards for her babies, she saw Brownny trying to escape from being devoured by Addie. Addie was triumphantly pinning Brownny down with one foot on her neck. As quick as a flash, Megan forgot about hunting food and she quickly routed a secret passage in her mind. Weaving in and out, Megan began heading towards Brownny. Soon, Megan reached Brownny and she began to bite at Addie's leg. "Ouch!" Addie said but he still didn't release Brownny. That made Megan think about what an Alectrosaurus is afraid of. Suddenly, a thought spun up in her mind like a flash of whirlwind whizzing past her. Megan realized that Alectrosauruses like to steal the babies of a Gigantoraptor so maybe she should drag Brownny's babies near Addie and when Addie release Brownny to get the babies, Brownny can now defend herself and her babies.

Quickly and quietly, Megan swerved around and put her beak around the hay nest of the wailing little Brownies. "Shhh!" She said with desperation in her voice "If you want to have your momma back, then you have to be quiet. Immediately, the babies stopped quietly and obediently, they got off the nest, allowing Megan to have less weight when she was dragging the nest. When they finally reached the nest, Megan instructed the little Brownies to squeak as loud as they can. Addie heard it and Megan quickly jumped out of the way as Addie released Brownie and started towards the little brownies. This gave Brownie time to stand up and with a furious squawk, she stepped on Addie and Addie learned his lesson, to never touch the feathered dinosaurs again!!! "Thank you Megan, for saving me!" Brownie cried out. "Your welcome!" said Megan grinning broadly. Now that Addie had learned his dreadful lesson, they can have a celebrating feast! First to join was Addie then Tommy the triceratops, then Maddie which was the cousin of Addie and she is a T.rex and she invited Linda, who is an Ankylosaurus, and Danny the Titanosaurus. All of them arrived just in time for fruit bowl salad. Even the carnivores tried some and liked it!!! "I should start to eat plants because they are too delicious!!!" Maddie mumbled through a mouthful of salad, and the others quickly agreed as quickly. The feast ended eventually after every dinosaur ate every scrap of salad then they slumbered off to their homes to sleep off the weariness. Brownie and Megan watched them go then turned to each other, did a High five and they, too went back to their homes for a life giving sleep.

There once was a dinosaur named Megan and she was known as the T.rex with feathers and she was the first feathered dinosaur discovered that wasn't related directly to birds. Megan's relative is another small bird called a Compsognathus. Megan only eats lizards, insects and small mammals. One day, when she was making a nest for her eggs, Megan saw an Alectrosaurus plodding around for food to eat. A Gigantoraptor, named Brownny stepped forward and dared to crush Addie, the Alectrosaurus before he can get Megan's eggs. "Sorry!!" Called Addie grumpily and he plodded off the other direction in search for other food to eat. "Thank you, Brownny!" Megan said happily "You're welcome." Brownny said "we are all in the feathered family so we should care about each other and protect each other properly. Maybe I can help brownny some day, Megan thought because she is small so she is the master of stealth.

# The Tale of the Half–Blood Dinosaur

*Dulwich College Beijing, Sun, Jasper – 9*

A huge rain poured on the lush lands of XiShuangBanNa, Yunnan into the dense greenish rainforest. Paleontologists Suki and Robert Kith sauntered along the muddy floors of the peaceful woods for a 3 weeklong vacation. Just as they were arriving at their cabin, Suki peered across a golden, shimmering block, lying in the mud.

“Robert, come here, look at this glimmering piece of gold stuck on the ground! We *have* to investigate deeper!” Suki called out. Robert sprang to join Suki with a box of tools for paleontology, which they took with them just in case something randomly pops out during their vacation. As time went by, a full–size golden mask appeared in front of their eyes, which was somehow familiar to the scientists, a flash of inspiration popped through their minds, Ah! Hah! It was the SanXingDui masks they saw on the news! “Oh My Gosh, what in the world could this be?” Robert questioned surrounded by curiosity. His guts told him this must be a major discovery for humankind!!!

After the heavy rain stopped, Suki and Robert sprang back to their digging site but found a ginormous skeleton poking out from the wet, soggy soil. “What? A golden mask and now an unknown skeleton of a dinosaur, strange! But it is headless, that is the problem, we do not know what type the dinosaur is, is it undiscovered, is it different to the normal species, UGH! I just want to have a good vacation!” Suki bellowed impatiently “Okay, calm down, let’s dig deep into the ground and find its head!” Robert replied, looking worried. Subsequently after the skeleton was discovered, a strange looking skull like an imaginary alien’s head was found deep inside the forest’s core, which the two paleontologists immediately brought back to their Yunnan discovery sight, a lab that was created by the USCIOIP, the United States–China Institute of Paleontology back on May the 13<sup>th</sup> 2001. The committee has created a potion extracted from sea salts, Lakes, Canoes, and the Sea to test if the 2 DNAs will have a connection between each other. If they have, well they will have a chemical reaction. If they don’t, they will just stay the same, no Kabooms, and no POW’s.

After an anxious, puzzled 13 minutes, the test results came out and unbelievable news popped out Suki’s mouth, “Guys, the results on our test are POSITIVE! Check out the papers, you see they belong with each other! What could the skull be?” Suki walked out of the tiny lab, looking baffled. “Suki, me, and Clara here figured out that the skull’s gene is undiscovered, we have never seen a gene like this on Earth, we should think out the box? Outer space? ...” Litao, the Yunnan paleontologist commented. The results shocked the entire world which led Suki and Robert to Create a committee of scientists involving paleontologists, historians, chemists and biologists from all over the world who were dying to devote themselves to the project.

“Hello guys! I have gathered you to this meeting because we want you to split in two groups to test the mask and the skeleton quicker in order to solve the mystery.” Robert reported. “How about us, historians go and discover the golden mask? It shares similarities to the SanXingDui masks in Sichuan, it is only a 2–hour plane ride to Deyang, Sanxingdui's home! “The historians suggested. Robert and Suki both agreed to their points and the real discovery began...

After the other team went to research on more about the gene, the history team arrived at Deyang after a 2–hour plane ride with a determined heart in what the mask was. The lead historian, Angelina Zheng assumed that there are two possibilities on what SanXingDui and the rest of the skeleton’s connection is: First, aliens, possibly SanXingDui people came to Earth then put a golden mask with a hollow square in the center of the dinosaur’s faces; second, the dinosaurs invaded the aliens who were settling down on Earth and stole the SanXingDui masks from them, again the Sanxingdui's could possibly be unknown people from outer space. About 60 minutes later, the results came out and unbelievably shocking news came out: The material of this mask is from the Golden Age, with a whopping 252–

million-year history, the so-called “Dino Mask” has the exactly identical elements compared to the SanXingDui masks with the pyrite element and the iron element. Combining with the results they had, the scientists had an unexpected result, Sanxingdui's are aliens!

After the discovery, the world was in chaos. They want to know why and how!!! The path is still long, scientists all over the world are trying to figure out the next step of this humongous project, will they succeed? Who knows one day, we will be aliens going to outer space and explore new things...

# The Geek and the Dino

*ESF Beacon Hill School, Chan, Alycia – 10*

1996

My nickname was the Ugly Duckling.

My parents were sophisticated and regal, and my siblings inherited massive wealth effortlessly. I was disowned and worked on the farm. HOW UNFAIR! I hit the ground furiously with my shovel, my thoughts getting ahead of me. Shockingly, whatever I hit made a deafening clanging noise. What could that be...?

I started digging, sweat dripping down my forehead like dewdrops onto my ragged clothing. A rock-like item popped out from the ground. Could it be? Now, digging forcefully, I was NEVER giving up. Whatever it was could be a game-changer for me, it could be a fossil! If it was, I could be rich! Once again, my thoughts got ahead of me. Efficiently, as swift as a cunning fox, I removed all the soil, revealing the full fossil. I can't believe I've discovered this fossil all by myself! It had thin feathers over its body and was all together quite tiny. I grabbed my hand bell from inside the pungent barn and ran down the hill to the village. I rang my bell rapidly while chanting "A DINOSAUR, I'VE FOUND A DINOSAUR'S FOSSIL!" People came running behind me, following me up the hill to the barn to see the fossil. But up there something was wrong.

"Gather round, gather round," It was my evil father. "Yes, I found this fossil all by myself!" He exclaimed, everyone gasped in shock. I. Was. Furious. My father just arrives and steals all the credit! "I shall name it the *Sinosauropteryx*." He announced powerfully.

How wicked.

\*\*\*

2024

The bell rang. Li-Wei's eyes were glued to the clock. As the hour hand hit 3, he flew across the classroom like a speeding cheetah. As the bell continued to blare deafeningly, Li-Wei ran straight for the school gates. The busy streets of Liaoning bustled with noise and the streetlights blinded his eyes, but he didn't let that distract him. Li-Wei was panting crazily. Finally, after running a million miles, he reached his destination.

Li-Wei looked up, his eyes twinkling, holding curiosity and joy within. *Liaoning History Museum*. His favourite place in the universe. He strolled around the museum when a new exhibit caught his eyes. The *Sinosauropteryx*. Li-Wei began to note this down in his notebook, but he soon lost track of time.

Over the speakers, a grumpy, tired voice echoed across the museum "The museum is closing in 5 minutes." SCREECH! The speaker turned off with an irritating, eerie noise. "No! I'm not done with my notes yet!" Li-Wei quietly said to himself. Soon enough the lights dimmed, and everyone had left except for him, but that didn't persuade Li-Wei to leave. Suddenly, Li-Wei saw a small spotlight flashing around the dark room. Oh no! It was the security! Li-Wei had no choice but to hide inside a mouldy, dusty vent while the security guards did their last checks.

Everyone had gone home and the only person left was Li-Wei, or so he thought. He got out of the vent coughing rapidly, repeatedly as if he had caught a lump of dust in his throat. Still coughing like crazy, Li-Wei once again sat down next to the exhibit jotting down notes. He looked up, throwing back his attention to the *Sinosauropteryx*.

It had vanished.

Li-Wei heard a short, cat-like growl. He shakily stood up, eyes darting around the room, hands shaking as he spotted tiny footprints on the floor. He followed the continuous growls, leading him to... the living fossil! Li-Wei stared at it in shock, speechless. The *Sinosauropteryx* sustained a high-pitch growl of pain while more feathers started growing on its body making it look like a canine. Li-Wei knelt and gazed into the dinosaur's eyes "Wow, just astonishing!" Suddenly, a blasting sound came from behind him.

CRASH!

"THAT'S MY DINOSAUR! GIVE IT BACK!" A menacing farmer statue burst from the glass wall, shattering it into pieces. The farmer inched towards them as they slowly backpedaled. Li-Wei and the dinosaur ran. They ran like the wind. Li-Wei looked back, and the farmer was finally out of his sight. "DUCK DOWN!" They dropped down to the ground and the poor *Sinosauropteryx* had scraped his leg harshly. "Aww, you poor thing." The dinosaur bellowed out a loud roar. "Shush! He'll find us!" Li-Wei whispered calmly. He carefully put a small bandage around his wound to stop the bleeding. "Found you!" The farmer held out an ominous cackle and knocked out Li-Wei with his metal shovel in one big hit, CLANG!

\*\*\*

Li-Wei woke up in his bed at home feeling lightheaded. Had that just happened? Had he encountered a dinosaur or was it just a dream? He stumbled to the bathroom, confused. His brain mumbled a thousand thoughts while he continued to brush his teeth, he splashed his face with cold water and left the bathroom. Li-Wei went back to his room, feeling rejuvenated, when he saw something that put the last piece in the puzzle.

Feathers! There were dinosaur feathers on his school bag and inside he found an opened wrapper of a bandage. "I got it!" Li-Wei ran out of his bedroom, through the corridor and into the living room. He grabbed an apple and left the house. "BYE MOM!" he called.

Li-Wei ran back to the museum, wishing that nothing had happened to the dinosaur. He got into the museum, but he couldn't see the *Sinosauropteryx* as there was a towering brick wall of people blocking his sight. Li-Wei lost his last spark of hope. He couldn't even see the dinosaur. He left the museum with a hunched back, drowning in the small, dark cloud that rained only on himself. Instinctively, Li-Wei looked from the corner of his eye into the glass window. He saw the *Sinosauropteryx*. Li-Wei pressed his hands against the cold glass and gazed into the dinosaur's eyes, desperately trying to cast some spell to revive it. Just as he was about to give up, he saw something.

A wink.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*ESF Beacon Hill School, Cheng, Sunny – 11*

It was a Friday night, and the sky was pitch black, illuminated only by shining stars and a perfectly round moon. A girl named Mei lay in her dinosaur-themed bed, wearing pink pajamas adorned with cute dinosaurs. She loved dinosaurs just as much as her family. As she turned off her dinosaur-shaped night light, her mother, Yang, a paleontologist, entered her room.

“Still awake? I’m going fossil hunting tonight. Wanna come, my little darling?” Yang asked.

Mei hesitated, glancing outside at the bright moon. “Sure, but it’s dark. Plus, you have work tomorrow,” she replied.

“It’s okay! We can have fun together. Dad’s asleep, so he won’t get mad!” Yang insisted. Mei knew her mother had a point; her father often disapproved of her staying out late.

Slowly, Mei got out of bed, changed into a beige coat and hat, and grabbed a small shovel with a Tyrannosaurus rex on it. Yang wore a matching cloak and hat. They tiptoed out of their apartment, and as they rode the elevator down, Mei felt the ground shaking, as if something enormous was stomping nearby. Shivers ran down her spine, but her mother appeared unfazed.

Once outside, they hopped into a taxi and headed to a site marked with “Keep Out” signs. After a short ride, they entered a small cabin filled with tools. Mei grabbed a shovel and a bucket, always bringing a magnifying glass to ensure what she dug up wasn’t worthless.

“Shall we head over to the Microraptor that our team hasn’t dug up yet?” Yang asked. “Of course, as long as we find something valuable!” Mei exclaimed, her excitement palpable.

They walked over stones and dirt, but as they ventured further, Mei felt an unsettling sense of danger. Mei threw herself out of the way, and when she opened her eyes, her mother was gone. Covered in wet, muddy dirt, Mei felt a tingle of fear as she turned on her flashlight and stood up.

“Mom?” she called, but there was no response. She looked around, feeling utterly alone. Then she spotted footprints in the mud. “Footprints! Maybe I can follow them back to the shelter,” she thought.

As she walked, she noticed the footprints were twice the size of her own tiny feet, with three triangle toes and a semicircle scale. “Wait, aren’t these dinosaur footprints?” she wondered, gently touching the enormous prints. Suddenly, she sensed a figure behind her.

“Hello, nice to meet you. I am Nyx Emberfall,” a dinosaur squeaked softly. Mei’s jaw dropped in shock.

“I’m Mei. Please don’t hurt me. Are you fierce or gentle?” she asked.

“Surprisingly, a bit of both. I’m looking for my brother, Glimmers Cloudwalker. He’s two years older than me and almost twice my size. Have you seen him?” Nyx replied.

“I hate to break it to you, but dinosaurs are extinct,” Mei said.

“Oh, that’s not possible! I saw him just now, right before I got here,” Nyx insisted. “Maybe try shouting his name?” Mei suggested.

“Okay. GLIMMERS! WHERE ARE YOU? SHOUT HELLO IF YOU HEAR ME!” Nyx called out. “I’m here,” came a calm voice behind Mei.

“Say hi to Glimmers, please,” Nyx instructed.

“Oh, um, hi Glimmers, or Mr. Cloudwalker. Are you an erketu?” Mei asked, looking up at the towering

dinosaur.

“Yes, I am. How’d you know?” Glimmers replied.

“My mom’s a paleontologist. She loves studying dinosaurs, and erketu is her favorite! But I have no clue where she is now. She wore a camel-colored cloak. Seen her anywhere?” Mei asked.

“You mean the one with long black hair?” Nyx questioned.

“Yes! So you saw her?” Mei raised an eyebrow.

“I ate her up, I’m afraid. I know I’m a herbivore, but there’s only sand to eat around here,” Nyx said, licking her lips.

“Oh. Why, though? She’s innocent! But you do have a point,” Mei cried silently, feeling her heart sink.

Mei approached Nyx and gently touched her leg. “Can I ride you? You’ll need to help me up since you’re too tall. I want to see the world like you do. If another human comes, they’ll capture you and your brother for tests about how you survived the Chicxulub impactor. It’ll be very uncomfortable.”

“Oh. Is the Chicxulub thing a meteorite?” Nyx asked.

“YES!” Mei exclaimed. The sun began to rise slowly in the east. “We better get going before the other ‘mean’ humans catch us,” she added.

“Okay, I guess we should go back to the forest, Glimmers,” Nyx said sadly.

“You know the nearest forest is about 54,000,000 km away? We can’t walk that far!” Mei scolded.

“I know, that’s why we can teleport! Just hop on and wait for the portal. Close your eyes, everyone!” Nyx smiled.

Suddenly, a group of paleontologists appeared and spotted Nyx and Glimmers. “Dinos! Chase, y’all!” one shouted.

“Don’t move,” Nyx whispered.

Mei felt a gust of wind rush past her. When she opened her eyes, she found herself in a different world—a world where dinosaurs belonged.

As she looked around in awe, she realized that her adventure was just beginning, and she was determined to find her mother and explore this incredible new land alongside her new dinosaur friends.

# Earthquake Dinosaur

*ESF Beacon Hill School, Lee, Jun Yuan Lucas – 10*

BOOM! The sky was roaring with barbarous thunder. Lucas Lee and Colton Wu were walking along the scenic streets of Shen Zhen. Lucas was a famous discoverer. He was famous because of his super dinosaur discoveries and was super adventurous. Colton on the other hand was a crazily successful scientist famous for discovering dangerous germs, and had a great sense of humor.

The two good friends were finally going to the long-awaited lecture about their favorite dinosaurs. “Do you think we’ll learn about more discoveries?” Lucas asked enthusiastically. “Probably, I hope this will be interesting.” laughed Colton. The National Museum of China was just a few short minutes away and the keen men could not wait!

As fast as a bolt of lightning, the sky started blackening. The vibe just started to change from excited to worried. For a second, everything stopped. Suddenly, the ground started shaking and vibrating like a troll’s stomach growling. Then, it stopped just for a second. Lucas thought it was over, but it was far from that.

The floor started violently shaking and Colton’s eyes widened, and Lucas’s heart lurched forward, and he felt like he had butterflies flying in his nauseous stomach. It stopped again. Colton blew a sigh of relief and saw a window had shattered and loads of people, young and old, had fallen over.

Faster than a cheetah running, the ground once again started shaking more and more than the other minor ones. The tree that they were taking cover under glared at them and started to fall. “Take cover!” Lucas cried louder than a lion as he pushed Colton out from under the tree.

The extremely hard ground was still shaking violently after the shocking tree incident. The two men heard a creak coming from the tall building just 5 blocks away. The ground was shaking and roaring as loud as a drum. Lucas stressfully pointed in the opposite direction. Just a few moments after they ran another five blocks away, the building started falling and falling onto the stone-cold ground.

The building had landed near a small park on the side of the once beautiful, now destroyed, rubble covered street. Lucas squinted to look at the park and saw something sticking out of the ground. His heart lunged forward as soon as he saw it was in the shape of a mysterious animal. Colton saw the pieces sticking out, “What’s that?” he asked curiously with an excited expression on his face, “Let’s get closer to it and find out!” Lucas replied already starting to climb over the rubble into the park.

“Man, that earthquake was just like my stomach rumbling over and over again begging for food!” laughed Colton as he too started climbing over the dirty piles of the rubble of Shen Zhen. Lucas sternly said, “No jokes Colton this is very serious.” Colton rolled his eyes and let out a sigh and said to Lucas as they started approaching the park, “Oh, come on have some fun it’s not every single day this happens!” he protested.

They were slowly walking towards the park. It was only a few steps away from them now. What lay in front of them was a wondrous sight. It was a body and the head of a gigantic creature! It had four horns in its gigantic skull and amazingly three eye sockets! It had four arms with spikes on them but the rest was sadly buried.

Unexpectedly, someone came stumbling out from the rubble and introduced himself as Klaus Ng, the scientist of the National Museum. “I can take it from here!” he told Lucas and Colton. “No way, we discovered these artifacts so we will definitely help!” Lucas stubbornly replied. “I am a professional scientist. I can handle this.” Klaus shot back ferociously. Colton gave a glare of dislike “Well so are we!” Lucas shouted.

Klaus finally agreed to take them back to the science laboratory to research, where they met the other scientists, Tyler Wong, Anthony Xu, Hubert Wong, and Charlie Yeung. Lucas and Colton went around shaking everyone’s hands and took a minute to get to know them all better. “So, I heard you found new bones of dinosaurs from the earthquake that happened today?” Tyler asked curiously. “Yeah, it all happened super quick so we’re not sure

what species it is.” replied Lucas, happy to answer the keen question.

“All right, we can take it from here now.” Klaus assured safely. Lucas tried to stall and said, “Sure, just a few questions first. When will you finish the excavation?” Klaus thought for a few seconds and assured the two men that it would be at least 3 months or four months because it takes a large quantity of time to clean up all the bones too; but he would try to message them as fast as he could.

Exactly 3 months later the men got a call from Klaus “We have dug up the bones and would like you to name it!” The friends started rushing to the Museum because they had awaited this day for a long time.

What appeared in front of their eyes was an astonishing sight. Lying before the men was the BIGGEST dinosaur they had ever seen! It looked better than new due to the cleaning. The men said at the same time to Klaus, “We want to name him the Lucaswusaurus!” They shouted.

“NO!” Klaus said denying the name. Colton suggested a vote and everyone voted for the name. (Except Klaus) “Oh fine!” Klaus said. He told them there would be a naming ceremony to make it official.

3 days later the Colton and Lucas finally walked to the ceremony. “It feels nice to name a dinosaur, and today it’s official!” Lucas smiled and said, “Everything is normal now.” As he finished speaking the ground once again started shaking!

# The Boy Who Lived and the Hongkongvenator Yuenopteryx

*ESF Bradbury School, Sage, Edgar Lang-De – 10*

The news in September 2023 about the fossil discovery in Fujian of '*Fujianvenator prodigiosus*', a bizarre long-legged bird-like dinosaur, was where it all started. Then came the mindblowing headlines in October 2024: potential *vertebrate fossils* found on Port Island in Hong Kong! I desperately wanted to see them but was absolutely dismayed that it was closed to the public. Still, a bold plan began to hatch...

The next afternoon, I packed a head-lamp, archaeologist's hammer, sleeping bag and snacks in a waterproof bag. Before leaving home, I scribbled a note to my parents lying, 'Going to a friend's home for a sleepover! Don't worry!'.

On arrival at Ma On Shan pier, I swiftly crept down the uneven stone steps and snuck onto a small motorboat attached to a luxury yacht. The owner had 'generously' left the keys for me to 'borrow' it, so I untied the mooring and sped out of the harbour. Shortly, Port Island loomed into view.

I managed to slow the vessel while trying to land on the rocky island. But suddenly, bang! The hull of this tiny, frail boat was punched by a fist of stone and water gushed in like blood out of an open wound. Panicking, I jumped straight into the water and waves threw me onto unforgiving rocks that painfully cut my limbs as I scrambled ashore. Soaked to the skin, I felt as cold as an anteater in Antarctica, with no dry change of clothes!

Taking out my head-lamp, I headed deeper into the island. Before long, I realized I couldn't see! My head-lamp battery had died as I struggled, hiking up the hill to find a safe spot to spend the night.

My body shivering and legs aching, the ground seemed to disappear beneath my feet with a woosh. My stomach lurched into my chest as I plummeted down into a deep crevice, landing with a sickening thump. Excruciating agony ripped through my brain as my splintered left leg seared in pain! I started feeling delirious horror and my mind passed into a deep dark unconsciousness.

I lay motionless, knowing in my heart that miraculously I was alive. Daylight painted my eyelids red, a small ray of hope was in my head of getting rescued. Opening my eyes, I saw the noon day sun peeking through a crack far above me. But nobody was there, my rucksack nowhere to be seen.

Foggy and delirious with pain, I crawled on all fours like a newborn foal, exploring the narrow prison I found myself in for a way out, but found only cold red-stone walls all around. Groping, my trembling hands felt a rock with some odd patterns on it – a fossil! It looked remarkably like *Fujianvenator prodigiosus*!

Then my jaw dropped in amazement. I wasn't sure if I was just hallucinating, but it seemed like the fossil resurrected and jumped out of the living rock! It arose, mighty and majestic, but bizarre looking, a bird-like rainbow dinosaur with two claws in the middle of each wing. I remembered the *Fujianvenator* had three! Was this a new species?

With a beak that looked like a dolphin's full of threatening pointy teeth, "P-please don't hurt me!" I pleaded, my head spinning, slowly edging away. It looked at me in a rather queer and peculiar way, head cocked to one side, as if offering help. I felt brave enough to ask as I was parched as the Sahara. "Please, I'm very thirsty, is there any water?" To my surprise, the creature half-lept, half-flew upwards, using its two claws to clamber out of the crevice.

Soon, it returned and poured a trickle of life-giving water into my mouth from its beak. That night, it slept next to me, using its soft feathers to warm me. The kind beast sustained me by feeding me food scraps and water every day!

One day, it rocked up with a lunchbox that had a sandwich in it. Ravenously, I wolfed down the sandwich. The lid of the box was labelled 'Professor M.Chan, Archaeologist'. Someone had to be near! My throat was too hoarse to shout, but I had an idea.

Using a sharp stone shard, I scraped on the lid: HELP! TRAPPED IN CREVICE. PORT ISLAND. 20 OCT 2024. (The date I left home.) Trembling, I handed it to my guardian angel and exclaimed weakly, “Find help!” Obediently, it set off in a flurry of feathers. Dizzily, I collapsed back onto the ground, my still black and swollen leg throbbing. I passed out, as a feeling of hopelessness came over me.

Drifting in a dark dream, suddenly yelling voices echoed faintly in my ear, “We found him! There’s a pulse but it’s weak!!” I felt my body swaying and heaving upwards.

When I next opened my eyes, I was in a hospital bed. Two police inspectors sat with notebooks. “Where’s the dinosaur!” I cried, jerking upright. The inspectors exchanged raised eyebrows. They asked, “Yuen, you were missing for ten days. How did you survive with no food or water? How did you get that lunchbox lid with your location to Professor Chan?”

I told them the whole story but they looked at each other, heads shaking and whispering softly, “Poor kid...” Well, of course they didn’t believe me and I felt disheartened. “The fossil is there right now! Go find it!” I raged hopelessly in bed. They left, and I suppose they found it because that night, it was reported on the TV news along with my rescue!

-----

A week later, I visited the Hong Kong Science Museum. Wobbling on my crutches up to the ‘Newly Discovered Dinosaurs’ display, I gazed upon *my* fossil – neatly labelled as ‘*Hongkongvenator Yuenopteryx*’. They had named it after me! Even setting out my survival story, but with no mention of my true saviour. A tender tear dropped onto the glass case as I softly murmured gratefully, “Thank you for everything...”

# Discovery of Adventure

*ESF Glenealy School, Bajaj, Avni – 10*

The gold streetlights of Jiangxi, a small province in China, flickered dimly in the calm night. Rexanne was on a work trip, determined to make a new discovery. Rexanne is currently 29, but she has multiple awards and years of experience. It was a chilly November evening. The pale crescent moon shone like a silvery claw in the night sky, a blanket of shining stars made the sky bright and beautiful. She was on an undisturbed and restful stroll with her associate and friend Ruri. 'I don't think we're going to find any fossils here.' Rexanne mumbled. 'Of course you are Rex, you're an expert palaeontologist!' Ruri said exasperated. She had hair as black as ink and vivid emerald streaks running down her face like a waterfall.

She always had a light pink lip balm on and minimal makeup. Meanwhile, Rexanne had fiery red hair like the flames in a dragon's lair. Her sapphire eyes lit up a room better than a thousand candles. 'I'm tired from the flight, let's go back to our Airbnb.' Rexanne announced. 'Sure.' Ruri replied, looking equally weary and exhausted as her friend. Their current living situation wasn't the best, but they made do with what they had. A small dining table right next to the kitchen (which wasn't that big either).

There were no doors to separate anything except the bathroom and the bedrooms. Their luggage took up one of the rooms, so Rex and Ruri had to share a bed. 'Night Ruri.' Rex murmured. She had changed into a sweatshirt and sweatpants which were both gray with a beachy design. 'Night' replied Ruri. She had changed into the exact same thing, but it was Christmas themed. The next morning they rose early, rushing to get to the first day of work. 'We're going to the bottom of this rocky cliffside' Ruri said, as they caught a taxi to go to the site. '你想去哪里?' asked the driver in a deep guttural voice (It means where do you want to go?).

'Wǒ—men xi—ang qù tǎn kǒu zh—èn' replied Rex in a horrible chinese accent (That means we want to go to Tankou town). 'Ah, Tankou town. I speak english— ah, you no need to worry.' He told the girls reassuringly. 'Oh thank goodness, yes we would like to go to Tankou town,' Ruri said with a satisfied smile. There was a stunning view of the mountainside landscape. Breathtaking autumn scenery of majestic and towering peaks adorned with vibrant yellows, oranges, reds and greens blanketing the emerald grass, with wispy clouds drifting across the serene sky.

The driver asked them another question halfway through the ride 'You are —um— a tu—rist?' 'Oh yes I'm a paleontologist and she's my accompanying associate!' said Rex. You could see the utter confusion on his face trying to process what this passenger had just said. 'She's a dinosaur detective and I'm her friend' Ruri explained, trying to simplify it. 'Ah... now I understand,' he replied. At the site there were around 15 to 20 people working away in the blazing sun. 'Get to work!' commented the manager. 'Hey boss' Rex replied sarcastically. Her hair was in a messy bun, the loose hair flying crazily.

She started walking around trying to find a change in the land. 'I think I found one!' she announced boldly. Everyone rushed over and people started digging. 'Stop!' Rex hollered. 'Go back to your own work, I found it so I will dig it up!' She missed screaming at the top of her lungs. Everyone went back, they knew Rex was not one to mess with. 'How do you do tha— you know what, I'm not going to bother' Ruri tried to ask but surrendered. The skillful movements of the paleontologist's chisel and hammer amazed her. Slowly chipping away pieces of rock and debris bit by bit to reveal a miniscule and curved surface. 'That looks like an egg,' Ruri said, peering over Rex's shoulder.

‘No.. It looks like a cluster,’ Rex announced, looking proudly at the three tiny eggs embedded in the rock. ‘Come here!’ she roared. ‘Well well Ms. Ashworth... I didn’t think you knew how to find a fossil!’ exclaimed her boss, Mr. Jenkins, walking over. “Take it to the lab” Rexanne crowed. Two men rushed up to her both wearing gloves and one holding a delicate glass box. The man gently placed the discovery in the box, locked the little door and rushed to put it in the truck. Throughout the day all of the workers persisted to find another fossil but none of them prevailed. By the end of the day everyone was drained of all energy and ready to go home. ‘Hey Ruri, what time do we have to go to the lab tomorrow?’ asked Rexanne. ‘Ummm.... Let me check," Ruri said, pulling out her phone ‘The travel time by car is 20 minutes but we have to reach at 11 o’clock, and if we want to catch a quick bite we have to leave home at 10’.

‘Okay that's great,’ replied Rexanne. ‘I really want to try this Xiao Long Bao place. People say it's the best in the area!’. Ruri nodded her head gently.

The next morning they headed to the lab to examine the fossil. They ate Xiao Long Bao and it was truly the best in the area. The lab was all white and around twenty people were using a microscope. ‘Wow...’ said Ruri. ‘Alright let’s get to work’ said Rexanne, ignoring Ruri and cracking her knuckles. Ruri put on gloves and put the fossil under the microscope. Rexanne grasped her hand and looked in the microscope. A whirlwind of light took Ruri and Rexanne into a different world. They woke up rubbing their heads in confusion. They were in some sort of jungle type forest. They heard a roar, a ferocious roar. ‘Where are we?’ Rexanne asked in pure fear. ‘I have no idea but we better run before we get eaten," replied Ruri, terrified.

# Finding Home

*ESF Glenealy School, Cappellini, Adele – 10*

“Ling Ling? Where are you?” My mama said in a sing-songy voice. She was obsessing over me, just because it was my first day of school! I don't think anyone else's mama was being so annoying. I needed to fit in, plus it would be harder because my name is Ling Ling! Like what were my parents thinking?! It's fair though because I was born in ShenZhen, China. But I think the best thing about this new school so far is my BFF, Betsy!

While I was on the school bus, Betsy was chatting about her summer holiday, while I was just sitting down staring outside the window. Suddenly, she stopped talking “What?” I asked Betsy “You're not listening to me!” She yelled, a few people peeked over from their seats. “Seriously Betsy, stop making a big deal out of this! I'm literally your best friend, and—” “WHY DON'T YOU JUST LISTEN LING?!” I stared at her in silence while she burst into tears, Betsy is so sensitive, I don't know why we are friends. I have a secret that I will never tell Betsy, I secretly don't want to be friends, this is the perfect opportunity for that. She finally stopped crying and whispered “I don't want to be friends with you anymore, Ling Ling. I'm sorry.” We sat in silence, and I regretted what I have said before about her. I started out the window again. “What a perfect way to start the first day of school.” I murmured to myself.

As I approached my first class, thoughts filled my head about everything here, since Betsy was gone, I don't think she'd ever become BFFs with me ever again. When I entered, I saw people that I saw on the bus sitting in the back row, I silently dashed over.

“Your name's Ling Ling right? I'm Marcus, I'm on the same bus as you.” I nodded my head and whispered “Nice name.” “Thanks! By the way, I feel bad for you, you.” He noticed that I looked confused. “I mean with you and the other girl on the bus, I heard her screaming really loudly.” “You mean Betsy?”. Just as I said that name, guess who came through the classroom door? Betsy! “You're late!” Mr Smith screamed he was looking down his register when he stopped on a name “Ah that's your name, Betsy Miller. Are you related to Jacob Miller by any chance?” Betsy nodded as she sat down. “Had him last year, pain in the back, I certainly hope you're not like him.” She shook her head, Betsy wasn't in her bouncy, jolly mood but I understood why.

After class ended, Marcus came up to me and asked “After next period, do you wanna have lunch together by any chance?” “Sure! I'd love that! Especially because I really don't have anyone to sit next to anyway.” “See you later, Ling Ling!” And he left. Ugh! My only friend, GONE! After the next period, I saw him in the cafeteria

“Hey Marcus!” “Hey Ling Ling! How was the last period? But most importantly, who did you get for the last period?” He asked as we walked towards the table “I had to do math, and I got Ms. Nordbury, she's so nice!” “Right? She's one of the best teachers at school!” “Don't bump into their table, Marcus!” “Oh oops! Didn't see that! I'm really clumsy. And here we are at my table.” “THE JOCKS?!” I stared at him in shock while he and the other people on the table stared at me. “Is there a problem, Ling Ling?” “You're friends with the Jocks?!” He shrugged his shoulders and sat down, I sat down next to him. During the whole snack break I couldn't even talk to him. Instead I was finding Betsy, she was with the smart, nerdy girls on the table just beside. I told Marcus I was getting more food but I was actually going over to Betsy, but then one of the jocks threw a tennis ball at me, so as my natural instinct was to catch it. So when I caught it everyone cheered and clapped and I suddenly became a cool kid!

In a flash, it was already lunch, all of those periods I had with Marcus, and if you have ever heard the quote: time flies when you're having fun! At lunch, I felt so tired, so I fell asleep on our table.

When I woke up, I found myself in Jurassic time! I may seem happy but I'm not. I'm so scared. I stood up shivering, it was freezing. I kept walking while looking around when I accidentally bumped into a dinosaur! He roared and I screamed. I need to run as fast as I can! But then I bumped into another dinosaur, but this dinosaur didn't growl so I jumped on top of him. He was weirdly soft. She growled at the dinosaur and swished her tail. I fell off and hit something hard. "OW!" I yelled and someone heard me! "HELLO?" I yelled again. "HELLO? WHO ARE YOU?" They yelled back. "I'M LING LING, AND I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A DINOSAUR FIGHT!" "COMING NOW!" I could hear footsteps getting closer but I didn't know where. "Hello, I'm Gracie!" She said when I could finally see her. "Hello!" "So... Why are you in the middle of a dinosaur fight? And why are you here?" "I think I basically fell asleep in the real world, and now I'm here. Wherever this is." "You're in the Jurassic times!" "It's very fun here! Me and my brother got stuck here and we have the same problem as you! We can't go home..." "Oh. I'm sorry." "It's not your fault, it's fine! If you want, stay with us and stay here, I guess." "It's my best option, Gracie. I'll come with you." "Yes! My brother will be delighted!" "Great! But where are the dinosaurs? They're gone. This is bad.

# Fossil Thieves

*ESF Glenealy School, Chan, Cali – 10*

10 year old Sarah strolled down the wet market, the aromas of herbs and spices flowing in and out. Alley cats were laid around the busy stalls, wrapping around posts and sitting on boxes. Sarah began to stroll home. Puddles lapped against her feet when suddenly, a light buzz came from her bag. Sarah picked up her phone. “Ba ba ?” she asked, “What is it?” A deep, crackly voice filled the speaker. “Big news!” ba ba answered in chinese, “My colleagues have reported a big fossil sighting in GuangZhou! We will excavate it next week.” Sarah could feel her father beaming through the phone. That made her smile too. “Wait till we tell Ma ma. She will be so shocked!”

Sarah arrived back home at the apartment building. “Jo sun, Chen sin sang! ” she greeted the security guard. He smiled, creases forming beneath his eyes like crumpled paper. “Jo sun!” Sarah clicked the lift button. Up she went. Soon, she was at home, chatting away with Ba ba. “Can I go on the trip? ” she asked. Ba ba chuckled. “No. Maybe when you're older.” Sarah pouted in frustration.

Six days passed. This was the day dad would leave. For a month. On an adventure. An adventure Sarah won’t ever witness. Ever. Ba ba gave Sarah a big hug. “Be a good girl, take care of mom for me.” He whispered. He slipped his socks on, his jacket on, and tied his tie. Sarah drifted off into daydream. How could she tag along in a way that both her parents are okay with? She thought of detailed scenes of her and Ba ba on a plane, laughing, then digging up MASSIVE fossils. Then it hit her. Could she be a stowaway? She grinned, rushing to her room. She packed 12 snickers bars, a bag of bread, a bag of chips and a water bottle. Then, she stole a knife from the kitchen. Pok! Pok! Pok! Three air holes for safety in a suitcase. In she went. Assuming Sarah was asleep, her parents didn’t suspect anything.

It was hot and cramped in the suitcase, and very uncomfortable too. Sarah had arranged everything to be around her, so she would be safe at security. The luggage wheels grinded against the gravel pavement, then clashed ever so lightly against the luggage carrier. Sarah peeked out the air holes. “On the plane we go.” she thought to herself, “The adventure I always wanted.” The luggage was lifted into the overhead compartment.

It was heaven to get out of the suitcase, and Sarah was grateful for the shelter in the overhead compartment. It was just enough for her to sit back, relax, and possibly watch some videos. Sarah thought about all the fossils she would see, and closed her eyes in relaxation. Below her, she could hear people chatting away, and even her Dad humming a song. She waited hour after hour, until the flight attendants and passengers were asleep, then went to the bathroom. It was much bigger in there, and Sarah could finally hear herself think. Sarah even nabbed a few cotton swabs and tissue for later. Fresh air filled her lungs, and she stayed there for a few minutes, before climbing back to the suitcase.

After landing , Sarah and her dad arrived at the fossil site. Sarah had to resist the urge to get out, and look around. Finally, at lunch break, she snuck out of the suitcase, and into the site. A bunch of bony fossils were being dug up, and Sarah knew to keep her distance. Suddenly, a flash of black caught her eye, before disappearing into the dark. There couldn’t possibly be thieves in this area, she thought. Racing towards where she thought she saw the thief , Sarah took out her phone, and waited for a picture. Finally, Sarah had the opportunity to take the shot. Blurry, but still good for evidence. Sarah decided that it was now her mission to catch the thief.

The sun peeked beyond the mountains, staining Sarah's face golden. She stretched and yawned, arms reaching to the sky. She had slept in the bushes that night, in hope to get another photo. Sarah reached inside her pocket. A—ha. A Snickers bar. It wasn't proper food, but it was all she had. Sarah climbed up a tree, hoping to find the culprit. Suddenly, she spied a notebook. She opened it, and it read: "Today me and my brother Wei are going to steal fossils for our boss. We will leave soon. I think someone's watching." Sarah's phone snapped a photo, setting up a snare she learned at HK girl scouts and waited. The snare pulled the thief by the ankle, off the ground and into the air. Sarah took a photo, snagging the fossils out of the thieves' hands. "Give that back !" reaching for his now gone walkie-talkie. " Sarah grinned, and hit send.

Ba ba was in his office, when he saw the pictures. His first reaction was spitting out his coffee and screaming: "Sarah?! Why are you here and not at home?!!!!" Then, he called the police department, sweating with anxiety. The police promised to arrive at the site.

The police were here. Sarah's work was done. The two thieves got handcuffed. One of the police officers pet Sarah's head and said thank you in Mandarin. Then she saw him. "Ba ba!" Sarah cried, "I missed you!" Ba ba lifted Sarah up, and told her to never ever sneak on board again. He also told her that she would definitely be able to go on trips next time. And with that, they both returned home.

# A Discovery's Best Friend

*ESF Glenealy School, Chen, Dorelle – 10*

It's been a few weeks since a poor innocent bird had crashed into a plane's windshield and fell to death. To be particular, the bird was a young sparrow named Aspen, who just left his nest.

Aspen was lucky that he fell on an island where ancient birds would protect the island. The sparrow's spirit had been lingering around trees, bushes, leaves, flowers... Suddenly, Aspen's spirit had bumped into a pile of bones. There were a few thuds and rumbles and a few more bones popped out of the ground randomly. "Who shall bother your ruler of the island!" There was a booming voice that knocked Aspen off his feet. "Oh! Oh! Your majesty, I am deeply sorry, your highness...majesty...lord." Aspen looked down at the yellowish dirt, terrified.

Sudden silence until a faint clattering sound broke it. Aspen looked up, there standing before him was the bones of a bird like a lizard just a bit larger than himself. "First, I'm not a lord, majesty, or highness. I am an old spirit who has been undiscovered. I am a bossy, unforgiving guardian, if you make a mistake you're off the island." the boney bird snapped as Aspen shivered, "Now, I shall make you return from the dead, only if you complete my quest, if you don't, it's off the island you go!" she howled with laughter.

A few minutes of whispering and muttering passed, "It's a museum, not a music-yum! -And stop calling me guardian raptor! Raptor is perfectly fine!" snapped the Raptor the dinosaur guardian, as he scooped Aspen onto her back and set off in the sky.

Aspen who was uncomfortably sitting on one of the dinosaur's ribs thought of his quest to rebirth, "In order to be me again, I have to find the spot for dear Duchess Raptor the bossy microraptor an obvious but not too obvious spot for humans to dig and put her display in a place they call a moo-see-yum." Aspen rolled his eyes, "Look, I see a city, you can-"

"No, that's too obvious!" Raptor moaned.

"Alright, then there's the woods over there!" Aspen murmured impatiently.

"No!" she said

"Yes!" he screamed

"No!" Screeched the grand microraptor immaturity.

"Fine, I give up! No one will be able to help you if you're so rude and ignorant!" Aspen started to peck Raptor's skull crossly.

The microraptor did a sudden loop, catching Aspen off guard. Raptor spotted a small clearing in the woods and landed on an oak tree nearby. Aspen was a bit stiff from the loop Raptor did. "I'm sorry, I just wanted to find a really comfortable spot to be buried and discovered. When I get discovered I feel so happy and proud of myself, I want to talk to the dinosaur folk besides the ones on my island." Raptor settled down on the oak tree.

Aspen smiled, he watched the sunset. He frowned, a few grey clouds had covered the sun, Aspen looked up. "That's it! I know a fossil site back where I live! People dig out things all the time! We can set off tomorrow, then we'll be there in about a week." Aspen hopped up and down making Raptor smirk.

The sun showered onto the bare bones of the microraptor. Aspen fluttered happily in the air waiting for a few worms to squirm out of the mud. Raptor yawned in her screechy voice after Aspen was stuffed with worms. "Let's get on the road!" she yawned as Raptor scooped up Aspen.

Two days passed while one would sleep in day and the other would sleep at night, sometimes Aspen would be shaken awake for directions or shortcuts. Four days passed, Aspen would ask Raptor to stop by so he could catch some treats for the trip. The last day was here, Raptor circled around the grey stones and pebbles, she saw a few people rushing here, a few people dusting there, and a few people holding rocks up and down. "So this is the Wu Da Fossil Site you were talking about?" Raptor exclaimed. "Yes!" Aspen continued, "I know there's a spot where people love to dig. Yes it's over there, if we sneak behind them and put you in that dug up pit!"

Aspen flew onto a small tree watching his new friend Raptor and the people curiously holding up one of her bones. "I'll miss you Raptor..." He thought as Aspen watched Raptor wave at him.

Half an hour later, Aspen's ancient friend had been fully discovered, the people were slowly scraping and dusting off the dirt on Raptor's head.

Aspen gave a strong push in the air, he felt heavier but in a lively way. He circled above Raptor and chirped as loud as he could, "Thanks Raptor! I promise I'll come and visit! I'll never forget you!"

These days Aspen visits his best friend on a daily basis, he's also been wondering how he's been living for quite a few centuries...

# A Fossil Find

*ESF Glenealy School, Miles, Nuala – 10*

There were once two boys. They were best friends but very different. The taller one was named Royce (Roy for short). He had messy brown hair and eyes that were like two pools of chocolate. Roy was shy, and didn't like drawing attention to himself. Meanwhile, Kai, who had almost black eyes and had coal colored hair, was highly confident and loved speaking out to large crowds. But one thing Roy and Kai both loved was fossils.

It was a hot day, like it usually was in Hong Kong. "Kai." His mum called "Your friend is here." Kai rushed out of his room, snatched his bag from the armchair, and greeted his friend. Then they walked through the door and sped down in the rickety lift, away from the fourth floor. "Are you excited for the last day of school?" Roy asked. "As always!" Kai replied, then the doors opened and they raced to school together.

The next day, Roy went downstairs, picked up a newspaper and got back in the lift. He kept reading as he got out of the lift, and reading as he made toast, until something caught his eye. He just couldn't believe what he saw! It read: People wanted to look for fossils.

Finding one would make your day.

Start searching now!

Kai finished his toast and scribbled on a post-it note. "Mum. I have found what I want to do this holiday, finding fossils! Love you"

He grabbed everything he thought he would need. A chisel and hammer, a small brush and walkie talkies.

Meanwhile, Roy was playing with his little sister Mia. She was almost four years old and wore her brown hair in pigtails. "Woy. Come over Woy." Mia called, picking up her favourite toy, a bear named Teddy. "Come on Woy. Tebby wanna pway wiv you." Roy groaned. He wished he could be doing something better than this. "Woy!" Mia's voice again "Woy come on. I wanna make a ship out of paper." Roy went over to her. He spent the next half an hour folding and glueing.

Then he noticed on the last page of the newspaper a great thing.

People wanted to look for fossils.

Finding one would make your day.

Start searching now!

Right at that moment the doorbell rang. "Coming!" Roy yelled. He strode to the door and opened. There was Kai. He was red faced and puffing, so Roy guessed he ran here. Mia ran out of her bedroom "Kai!" She said excitedly, jumping up and down. "Why are you here?" Roy asked, pushing Mia out of the way. Kai replied breathlessly "I found something... in the... newspaper!" Roy gasped "Is it the fossil advert!?" Kai nodded. He took a deep breath and replied "You just need to bring a torch, some snacks, your laptop and plenty of water." They told Roy's dad about their idea and he bet them a hundred dollars they couldn't find a fossil!

Ten minutes later they were ready to go. They got a taxi and it took them 3 hours to get there! Once they arrived they had a small argument about who had to pay. "Fine, I'll pay. But *you* have to on the way back." Complained Roy. "Fine." Kai said "Now let's start fossil searching!"

Clink, clink, clink went the chisel as Roy banged it down. Sweep, sweep, sweep, that was the sound as Kai gently swept of the dust from some supposed fossils, only to find out they were plain rocks! “We should head back now.” Roy said. Kai nodded, too exhausted to speak. They slowly walked back to the taxi stand, defeated, when Kai noticed something. There was a sign outside a cave that read ‘Do not enter’. Kai crept passed the sign and into the dark. “We’ll get another chance. Kai?” Roy turned around, only to find himself talking to thin air. “KAI!” He yelled. Roy glanced at the cave just in time to see Kai disappear. He bolted after Kai, through the cave entrance, turning on his head torch just in time to stop himself from hurtling over the edge...

“Roy, can you hear me?” Kai was waving his hand in front of Roy’s face. “Yeah. Just...” He looked over the side. Kai grabbed his arm and dragged him away from the brink. Roy glanced back one more time before walking at a similar pace to Kai. “So where are we going?” He asked. Kai smiled that adventurous grin that annoyed Roy so much “Over there.”

Clink. Clink. Clink. Crack. Crunch. “Kai come over.” Roy called from the entrance. Roy could hear the faint pattering of footsteps followed by Kai’s voice “Give me a sec” Roy tapped his foot impatiently. After what seemed like forever, he could spot Kai’s torch in the dark. “What is it?” Kai asked. Roy replied “I think I found one.” Kai looked confused “Found what?” Roy rolled his eyes “What do you think?” A smile was spreading across Kai’s face “A fossil?!” Roy nodded “Seriously?” Kai obviously thought Roy was joking. Roy picked up his chisel and banged in the rock a bit more. A grey piece about the size of his fist fell out into Roy’s hand. “See. Fossil.” Roy brushed the piece and showed it to Kai. “You can see the markings.” Kai stared at it in amazement. Then he cried “Those hundred dollars are ours!!”

The taxi arrived sooner than expected. They drove, and drove. It was into the night by the time they arrived back at Kai’s home. Kai said “See you tomorrow when we collect our money. Bye Roy!” Then he clambered out of the taxi. The taxi drove on a bit further to where Roy’s apartment was. He paid up then got ready for bed. Mia was already sleeping.

As Roy was about to fall asleep he remembered something.

Did you?

Kai was supposed to pay for the taxi. Not Roy.

Kai chuckled to himself.

They both fell asleep...

Eventually.

# Enigmatic Explorers of Qilian

*ESF Glenealy School, Mithaiwala, Mariya – 9*

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH The heavy sound of the explorers echoed through the mountains.

"This is so exciting!" Monisha exclaimed, her dark brown hair swaying and her hazelnut eyes shining with lots of different emotions as she jogged to catch up with the others. "Professor Christopher finally let us go on a mission alone" she quipped.

"We can now find all the ingredients that professor wants to finish his experiment – cow skin, Piper's bellflower petals, a bud from a mountain laurel flower" listed Sonris.

"Looks like we are here"!! announced Prosper in his booming confident voice. He has always been the navigator and an expert on maps.

All 5 friends looked up, their mouths dropped open. They were surprised to see an abandoned old tree house with tattered windows and a door cracked and having millions of holes in them. It looked like an old ancient Chinese lab with thin walls.

The house looked like it would topple over as it was imbalanced on a huge tree beside a long crystal clear calm and serene lake on Qilian mountain in northern China.

"I'll go first," said Raptor in a big deafening voice. His heavy foot banging loudly on the ground every time he took a step.

All the explorers held their breath as Raptor slowly and steadily opened the door which made a huge creaking sound. Raptor peaked inside. "All clear" he said, relieved, everyone tiptoed inside the lab.

"LOOK WHAT I FOUND" shouted Gilmore the strongest amongst the five. He had lifted a bunch of books and found something underneath them. Everybody gathered around him. He had a little chinese jar[hu] in his hand with shiny colourful liquid in it.

"I am going to try it," he said. "I rather you not" warned Prosper "You don't know what it's going to do".

But Gilmore and everyone else had ignored him and had taken a sip. They waited for something to happen but nothing did which gave Prosper the confidence to take a sip.

Out of the corners of his eyes Raptor suddenly saw a paper floating in the air. He bent to pick it up and was confused on reading what was written on it. Just as he was about to drop the paper the ground started to rumble. He turned around and was horrified to see Monisha turning into a Mononykus – a meat eating dinosaur with feathers growing around her body, legs turning thinner, hands shortened, neck growing longer and tail showing.

He noticed that everyone had turned into a dinosaur. Gilmour became Gilmoreosaurus with a mass of about 300 kgs and length of around 6 m.

Sornis turned into a Confuciusornis, the earliest-known toothless dinosaur with a mass of 1.2kg, scientists believe the Confuciusornis evolved from a carnivorous dinosaur.

Prosper turned into a Protoceratops with weight of 60 kgs and length of 1.8m long. Lastly, he saw his body enchanting into Sinraptor with a mass of 1,200 kg and length of 3m.

“This is catastrophic”, yelled Sornis.

“We are dinosaurs,” frowned Monisha.

“I told you not to do it,” gasped Prosper. It looks like the poison turned our looks into dinosaurs and kept our personality and brain the same.

What was written on the paper now started making sense to Raptor, they had to make a potion from the items listed to turn humans again.

“We need to get a feather of a Fujianvenator Prodigiosus from Nanping, a Chungkingosaurus spike from Chongqing, tooth of a Bellusaurus found in Junggar Basin, one egg of Gasosaurus found in Dashanpu, granite stone guarded by Omeisaurus found in Sichuan” said Raptor hurriedly trying not to crumble the paper with his big hands.

“But that sounds really hard”, Monisha moaned.

“How about we divide the jobs and each one of us gets one ingredient?” said Sornis. “Monisha, you go to Dashanpu and get the egg of Gasosaurus as you are fast and can chase this fast moving dinosaur easily. Also, being small you can easily disguise as a pet”.

Raptor then assigned everyone else remaining ingredients.

Gilmore was going to Junggar Basin to find a tooth of a Bellusaurus. On the way, he found lots of precious stones and collected some of them. On reaching Junggar Basin, he came across a mother and baby Bellusaurus talking, and overheard that the baby was waiting for the tooth dino. An awesome idea struck him, he told the mother that in exchange for the baby’s premolar teeth he would trade her some precious stones to which the mother happily agreed.

On the other hand, Sornis, who was stuck being the small Confuciusornis, was catching the other bird, the Fujianvenator prodigiosus. She had to get a whole feather. On arriving at Nanping park she spotted Fujianvenators passing by the big grassy mountains. Sornis approached them but Fujianvenator started flying in the other direction. However, a Confuciusornis could beat them anyway, she easily caught up and pulled out the feather.

When they all had finished and returned back to the shabby lab, Raptor started to tell his tale. He had gone after the Chungkingosaurus spike found in Chongqing where there is a turquoise blue lake in the middle of the city.

He arrived just as a Chungkingosaurus was about to cross a lake and he noticed the dinosaur lost his balance and slipped. Raptor ran as fast as he could to save the dinosaur from drowning. Fortunately his life was saved it asked “what can I repay you with” Raptor simply asked for its pointy spike and went on his way.

Then pushy Prosper who was bummed out being a Protoceratops started his story with a commanding voice. He had chased the granite stone guarded by Omeisaurus in Sichuan. When he arrived he observed that the Omeisaurus were puffing trying to carry heavy wood logs on their back to build a bridge. Prosper asked if he could help and the Omeisaurus said if he carried the logs they would give him granite. Prosper merrily agreed and did the work to earn his granite.

After Prosper was finished, Raptor gathered the ingredients and put it in a old pot, mashed all the ingredients using a broken stick and added a spoon of water. Everyone drank a sip and immediately recrudescence to their normal form. From then on the five explorers told their thrilling chronicle to their lineage.

Signed, Professor Christofer ,

## References

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fujianvenator-prodigiosus-dinosaur-fossil-bird/#:~:text=Fujianvenator%20prodigiosus%20was%20pheasant%20sized,or%20a%20long%20legged%20wader.>

<https://jurassicapparel.com/blogs/dinosaur-facts/gilmoreosaurus#:~:text=Gilmoreosaurus%20had%20a%20stunning%20appearance,it%20moved%20through%20prehistoric%20landscapes.>

# Rollercoaster to the Past

*ESF Glenealy School, Svirina, Evie – 10*

It was a spectacular morning, as the sun rose. A little girl called Juliette was already out of bed and in the glossy kitchen eating her favorite cereal MINI SQUARES which she adored. Juliette stuffed her mouth with them as the tiny crumbs fell back into her colorful milk. Juliette always wondered what they were made out of, but she really didn't care.

Juliette was excited because today she was going to the Past Or Future Carnival, which was only Nine Plus and she turned Ten three months ago. Juliette wanted to go on a roller coaster called ROLLERCOASTER TO THE PAST. When Juliette would grow up she would want to be a Paleontologist. Her dream was to travel back into the dinosaur age and research about them.

Twenty minutes passed, and she was in the taxi. They stopped to pick up her Best friend Julia. Julia leaped into the colorful taxi and slowly stopped shivering.

After a second, they both started squealing at each other, as if they won the Nobel Prize."Today will be so much fun," screamed Juliette.

"I know , It will be so amazing," Julia agreed with Juliette. After a ten minute conversation, they finally arrived at the magnificent carnival, filled with happiness.

They both stepped out of the taxi and saw fascinating toys, games,rides and much more. They could smell the delicious popcorn burning in the air. Juliette and Julia both could hear screaming, laughing and happiness just around the corner. Juliette pointed out one thing which was the Roller coaster but Julia said that they should save the best for last.

Julia ran to the game booth and Juliette followed her. They both won fluffy toys from each game booth . Juliette became bored and tried convincing Julia to go on the roller coaster and finally said yes.

They both checked if they were tall enough to ride the rollercoaster and they were just about right. they lined up breathing heavily and their heart pumping crazy.

After a few minutes, they were on the ride with their feet dangling in the air, their hands sweating and their heart skipping beats. As the ride started they were already wanting to come off, but they didn't because they needed to face their fear of heights. They were going to hold each other's hands ,and suddenly they dropped down screaming with fear.

They went swimming towards the stars, even if it wasn't night time. They didn't know it was going around three times so by the time they slowed down, they were ready to come off but it went raging into the ground and suddenly they were flying in the air. They looked at the ground and started screaming out loud, yelling "help!",people stared at them until they reached the cotton candy taste clouds.

A blue and purple portal opens and starts sucking them inside , making a weird noise. Juliet and Julia were screaming with fear. POOF! they were gone. They were going through a mysterious scary time. There were beautiful

butterflies which had amazing patterns and colours. A scorching hour passed, and their car crashed into a dirty tree. A screeching roar came ahead and frightened them.

After they both got up, they scratched their heads and looked around. A few seconds later a ear splitting roar traveled past them again they realized that they travelled back in time into Jurassic Park.

They both ran with all the might screaming with their heart skipping beats. Julia and Juliet found a dark creepy cave that had bats screaming out but they had no choice. They both stepped into it squeezing each other's hand trying to find a little space for them to stay. A few minutes passed and they found a little fire and two beds made out of stone. They felt like someone was watching them, but at least they had a warm place to stay.

Suddenly a scary person popped up behind them, which gave them a fright. "Hi," he said. His name was Elijah. Elijah said that he came here a few years ago.

He also said that he knew where the portal was but before he showed them he said they would have to do him a favour. "Anything to get out of this place" Juliet said. Elijah said that when he and them would get out, they would have to find him a home.

Before they went to the portal, Julia asked him where they were. Elijah said they were in China in the dinosaur time, they both shrugged and started walking. They were one minute away from the portal and suddenly a creepy gigantic dinosaur came out of nowhere. Juliet came behind the wall and a dinosaur followed her.

She was screaming out in pain. The scary lumpy dinosaur was about to scratch her when Elijah got a tall stick and hit the scary dinosaur. After he stopped poking it, he screamed at it and then started dancing like a crazy monkey trying to get a banana out of the human being's hand, which actually seems just scared away. Maybe in that time dinosaurs were scared of monkeys.

After all that scariness happened, they arrived at the portal and it appeared suddenly around them. Juliet and Julia both held each other's hands and plucked in the gigantic mysterious portal. They landed at the past or future carnival. Juliet and Juliet's dad both rushed to them and kept on patting them and hugging them and looking at them saying where have you been?

They told them it was a long story and they would tell them on the way back home, but first they explained to their dad that Elijah had saved Juliet from being captured by a dinosaur.

They also explained how he has been there for a few years and he really needed a home so they asked them if they would allow him to stay with one of them. Juliet's dad said "Okay, he saved my daughter so this is his present." Juliet told Elijah that he could stay with them for three months, but after that, he would have to find a home to stay in. Elijah was super happy.

# Goldfish Tales

*ESF Glenealy School, Yin, Emily – 10*

You might own one of these marvelous creatures. I do. They are known to bring luck and fortune into your home. I think they are all special in every way. If you don't know what I am talking about, here are some clues: They have shiny golden scales, and come in all sorts of patterns and colours. They bear a long flowy tail. Have you guessed it yet? It's a goldfish! And as a matter of fact, that's pretty much what this story is about.

"Please can you tell another, Mama?" Wheedled Star. Rose, named after her rose gold—orange scales nodded alongside him. "The one about Li Yumin! And the Sino—s—petrycaus." Her tail swished as she tried to pronounce the word. Mama sighed, although her mismatched eyes shone with amusement at her only remaining guppies. "Oh, all right. But remember, listen closely because each story might be my last." The two guppies nodded solemnly as Mama spoke the words that she said before every one of her stories.

*"Once upon a time,*

In a land not so far away, was a beautiful girl with big brown eyes and long sleek black hair named Li Yumin. She worked hard for her farm, harvesting crops, even working as a part time fossil finder. One day, whilst out digging, she uncovered the remains of a dinosaur. Her heart pounded with excitement, *Dragon bones!* She thought. "GUYS! I FOUND A DRAGON!" She cried in excitement. Some of the other farmers looked up at her in curiosity, others with irritation. "What do you mean?" called back one. "Are you sure?" Asked another. "Hey, this isn't some sort of sick joke, is it? We should be working right now." Li sighed impatiently and rolled her eyes. "It's not a joke, I promise. Come see for yourself!" She snapped at the others. Still looking uncertain, they shuffled to where Li was standing. The one closest bent down and his eyes stretched wide. "I don't believe it!" He cried. "There really IS a dragon!" Now everyone's curiosity was officially piqued. They pushed and shoved to get to see this miraculous discovery. A jealous lady raised her voice above everyone else's. "Don't be daft! That's not a dragon, it's a DINOSAUR!"

If she wanted to direct the attention away from the fossil, it did quite the opposite. More and more people began to gather around, bustling to get a good spot. Li slowly and carefully began to uncover the fossil with a mystified look as the crowd watched on eagerly. "I'll get the papers! And the experts!" A person jumped up with excitement and dashed off." Mama sighed. "Maybe that's enough for tonight." Star shook his head eagerly. "No no! PLEASE continue!" he wheedled, stretching his eyes for maximum effect. Next to him, Rose nodded her pinky gold—orange head in agreement. "Pretty please? With algae on top?" She begged. Mama chuckled, amused. "All right. Soon after, the archaeologists rushed over to the scene.

"I don't believe it!" They all cried. "A new species! My my, this will be the discovery of the *century*, an actual new dinosaur! The whole *century!*" his voice trailed off, mystified by the newest discovery. But another was more businesslike. "Now, we should put this in the museum immediately, soon as possible. With your permission, of course." He shot a dirty look at Li. "But this is a very good offer, and I hope you will consider it. Think of all the money we'll make together." Li didn't know what to do. On one hand, this was a good opportunity. On the other hand, did she really want to give it up?" Star's face fell. He knew this meant that the story was over. The current had washed out before Mama could have interpreted the situation further. *I hope Li didn't give up.* He thought as he drifted off to sleep, muttering good night to his mother.

When he woke up again, something seemed different about the water. It felt slimy, and dirty. “Mama? Star?” He called out uncertainly. But only a wail from Rose replied. “Mama! Mama! Please wake up!” She pleaded. Star’s heart sank. The rank smell in the tank was the unmistakable sensation of death. Mama was gone. “No.” He whispered. Memories crowded his brain, all the stories she had told them. *But what about us? We still need her.* But he had to stay strong. For Rose.

He swam up to his four-and a half minute younger sister and tried to keep the sadness out of his voice. “It’ll be fine. The jade palace needed her.” He reassured her as best as he could. “But why now? We are still small, we still need our Mama.” her last words were interrupted by a sob. Star felt like he was drowning in grief. Rose had just spoken the exact same words he had thought. Without knowing it, heartbreakingly familiar words flowed out of his mouth:

*“Once upon a time...”*

In ShenZhen, there is a spectacular exhibition containing over ten thousand goldfish, illuminated by bedazzling lights. Take your chance and go before Febuary 23.

# China's dinosaurs—The Secrets of the Island

*ESF Kennedy School, Chan, Matthew – 10*

A long time ago, a young boy named Timmy embarked on a fascinating journey to find the secrets of the strange island, and he faced the dark truth about the world.

Timmy's mind was filled with curiosity. Every night he would look out his window and see a giant full moon peeking out the mountains. Timmy remembered the stories that Timmy's dad told him before he disappeared into the woods, never to be seen again. Timmy's dad had left to go and find the lore of the island and had disappeared a year ago.

"Oh, I wish I could explore the foreign lands," he told himself, but he knew that not in a million years would the King let him go for once. He would always be enclosing him and the people in this "safe haven" of a kingdom. The king had sworn to protect him and the people because his dad, the former king, disappeared into the woods by not letting them leave the kingdom. Then Timmy got an idea, how about he sneak out in the middle of the night? It was a perfect plan! So in the middle of the night Timmy put on his hat and coat and bag of equipment and tugged and laced his shoes and even combed his hair. Timmy nearly went out the window before he realised that he forgot to grab his Diary stealth as a ninja, he jumped out the window like he was as light as a feather and climbed over the fence. Timmy slowly opened the gates that seemed to always be guarded, but not today. He strolled down a path that he had seen, but never did he see people walk on. Wind whispered in his ear and his mind kept saying "go back!" "It's dangerous!"

"SHUT UP!" he yelled to his mind, and the voices eventually died down.

Timmy was fascinated with the lush flowers and the giant canopy covering his head. "Why does the king not allow people to enter here? It's beautiful!" he grinned, staring at the flowers on the ground. Diary entry number one: he wrote "This is the super common flower, I think it's called *Montsechia vidalii*, it grows in Freshwater lakes. He surprised himself. How did he know that much stuff? But he kept on writing and writing. The neighbouring scientists called it a "scientific discovery" or "the ancient flower" but it is so common here that it might as well grow on trees" and then ended his entry. Timmy turned his head to his side and looked at a thick amount of vines, he plucked out the *Montsechia vidalii* and then took a look at the vines he pushed them aside to reveal a hidden cave entrance "sweet!" he whooped and switched on his flashlight to take a look "Brrrr" Timmy shivered, it was unusually cold and the air was damp. He felt the walls and to his surprise, they were smooth as if it aged like fine wine. Also, the stones in the cave were so cracked that it would fall apart once he touched it. A bunch of Ancient Chinese characters are also written on the walls. Timmy remembered that this island had some kind of ancient connection with China but that makes no sense as we were in France. A strange coincidence was that he was half French and half Chinese from his dad's side, quarter English and Chinese on his mom's side which makes him quarter English, and a quarter French, and half Chinese.

"let's get back to exploring" he said but when he scrambled to find his flashlight he put in his pack a roar echoed through the cave that's when Timmy's legs froze like a ice cube and his mind went blank, he felt a tingle on his back and he was scared out of his wits he slowly approached the roar with shaky hands and grabbed his flashlight. Well, if it was a flashlight, because in a single moment the flashlight was spinning and suddenly, it materialised into a sword.

Ancient tomes were burrowed deep in its surface and gems adorned the hilt. He grabbed it as if it was as light as a feather and swung it. It made a metallic whine and the air seemed to change. The cave was glowing from the silver shine dancing along the walls. He slowly walked towards the noise to see.... A giant sleeping giganotosaurus but Timmy approached it without fear and the giganotosaurus roared at him. It charged and Timmy dodged; he pushed the sword deep into its hide and twisted. Blood squirted out the wound and the giganotosaurus roared in fury. Suddenly, Timmy charged now with power surging through his veins and landed the fatal blow to its head he had slain the giganotosaurus. Suddenly, the letter fell out of his pack and as if by coincidence, the paper inside fell out from it. It read: "Dear Timmy, I know That by now you should be mature enough to comprehend reading this message. I'm not a normal person. I explored the woods to find the story of this island and you know that already, but it seemed that I have angered the divine beings of this island. I have awoken the terror of these lands and they will try to destroy the world but luckily, I have you. You are the reincarnation of the god of everything: Lauros. And you will awaken your powers soon. I hope that you will protect the island and the world that I love, Love, Dad" Timmy's mind now has a new goal in his mind. Locate and save his dad, find out his powers, and save not only his island, but also the world he loves. He took one step outside to the ambient hues of red and pink from the sunset of the near horizon and prepared himself for the adventure that awaits him.

# The Sinosauropteryx

*ESF Kennedy School, Choy, Luc – 9*

“Let me present to you the world's most rare dinosaur, the sinosauropteryx!” said Mayor Bottle. The dinosaur was wheeled on the stage in the town hall in an unbreakable cage which even the world's strongest man couldn't break.

“Wow,” Luc said.

“Yeah,” said his friend Jerry. They were attending the assembly for the rarest dinosaur found by scientists Bob and Charlie Charlton. The dinosaur was the lost dinosaur of Liaoning province, the sinosauropteryx.

The mayor started a boring talk about where they found the dinosaur and in which province it was found. They were bored so they left the town hall. After dinner I was thinking about the dinosaur me and Jerry saw in the afternoon. I was tired so I went to sleep.

The next morning I went down for breakfast and was shocked at what was the title of the newspaper. It read “Most Rare Dinosaur The Sinosauropteryx Goes Missing At Town Hall Last Night!” I wolfed down my breakfast and ran to Jerry's house. He was shocked when I said the dinosaur was stolen from the unbreakable cage. We walked to school and talked about what to do about finding the dinosaur.

The bell was just ringing when we arrived at school, and we agreed on going to the town hall to investigate and look for clues or facts. We walked to our classrooms quickly because we were late.

The school day ended and I waited for Jerry at the playground. When he arrived we headed to the town hall to investigate. The security guards were looking at the broken cage and shattered glass with a flabbergasted look on their faces. We started asking the mayor questions and he answered very quickly because he was in a hurry to report the matter to the police.

On our way out we investigated the broken cell. There were some eggs in it, I found a piece of metal which was broken with some green stuff that we assumed was acid. When we went out the door there were a few specs of white and grey hair. Just then a gust of wind blew into our face and something was caught in my hair, it was a piece of fabric used in lab coats.

From the facts, we pieced together that the thief had a liquid acid that would make metal and glass melt, and also that he had white and grey hair and that he was wearing a lab coat. Me and Jerry were thinking the same thing “Head To The Town Lab!”.

We ran to the town lab up the front stairs, and pushed open the big doors, and ran to the experiment lab and found a few scientists working on experiments. At row ten we found a scientist with madly streaked grey and white hair, his lab coat was torn on one edge and he was holding some green acid that was bubbling. We knew that this was the person we were looking for. I said “Hi!” and asked him what his name was, he pointed to his badge, it read Mr. Mad Scientist. We asked him what was he doing with the acid, and he suddenly said in a eerie voice “How did you know it was acid ?” I didn't know what to say, but luckily Jerry came to my rescue and said “ We learned in school that acid is always bubbling. ”

Then Mr. Scientist finally started to calm down and asked what we were here for. We said that we were to investigate the incident at the town hall and the scientist's face turned grey. He said he was busy and told us to go away. When we got out of the lab I looked at Jerry and said in a stern voice,

“We need to catch that scientist in act,”

“When?” Jerry asked.

“Tonight,” I answered.

"When you get home tell your mom you will go to my house to play after dinner and then we will head to the town hall immediately and catch that scientist.

“What will he get anyway, he already stole the dinosaur.” said Jerry.

“Did you forget those eggs in the cage? The mayor left it unattended because he was in a rush to report to the police right? So the scientist must be aiming for the eggs tonight!”

“You're such a genius, I totally forgot about those eggs!” replied Jerry.

So that night the plan went as they thought it would be, Jerry went home, gulped down his dinner and asked permission to go to Luc's house to play and his mom let him. Jerry raced across the street and was panting at my door when he opened it.

“We're going to the town hall to investigate,” shouted Luc. They ran to the town hall desperate to find a hiding place behind the cage.

“How are we going to catch that scientist we have nothing!” said Jerry confused.

“That is why I got everything prepared.” I replied. We arrived at the town hall and found the mayor waiting for us.

“Everything's ready,” said the mayor.

We found our perfect hiding spots behind the curtains and the mayor and a few plain clothes policemen were standing in their positions. We closed the front door and waited for an hour. Finally the sound of a helicopter landing. The door on the ceiling of the hall opened and the Mad scientist slid down the rope he put the eggs in a bag. Just before he climbed up, Luc and Jerry sprang out from the curtains and seized the scientist. The mayor pushed open the door with the police and the police quickly handcuffed the scientist. The scientist had no choice but to confess and give up the eggs. Luc and Jerry couldn't believe themselves, they had just saved the day! The next day the news was in the newspaper, their parents were so happy. For their reward the mayor gave them free tickets to the ice-cream shop.

# Pixiu – The Winged Lion

*ESF Kennedy School, Fryer, Zeph – 10*

I'm Bo. I live in Jiangxi Province, in a small, peaceful village nestled among vast mountains, beautiful creeks, and expansive rice paddies stretching as far as the eye can see. From my kitchen window this morning, I can see breathtaking surroundings in every direction, covered in a blanket of morning mist. I take pride in calling Huangling my home, and am the son of two poor but hard working parents who love me, provide for me, and teach me new skills of Chinese pottery using the kiln in our backyard. I still remember the nostalgic times when we were not poor.

My father has devoted his life to saving for a furnace and for the past ten years, my daily routine has been boringly consistent. From the moment I learned to walk, I have followed a schedule of home chores, cooking, cleaning, and working in the pottery studio to knead, shape, and paint clay pots. While I cherish my tiled clay home at the foot of the beautiful Lushan Mountain, I can't help but long for a different life. Even each meal is the same, a simple bowl of steaming rice and bamboo shoots with fresh fish stewed with soy sauce, ginger and spices. If it's a special occasion, such as my birthday, we get spicy chicken cooked with dried chili peppers and seasonings. Or even better, crispy duck served with a sweet sauce. I can't remember when I ate duck last and this year has been the hardest, with little money coming in from my parents' pottery business. I am still wearing the same clothes from two years ago and this winter was extra cold with barely any wood for the home fire or clay kiln.

It was January, 18th 1934 and my father had asked me to travel alone to collect red clay a few miles from where we lived. He had shown me the exact spot for digging and it was this day that I was ready to go on my own. The best clay can be found along river and stream banks where water flows depositing a mush of red mud, but that winter was harsh, and it brought a thick blanket of snow. Digging would be especially hard.

I began digging through the bitterly cold ice and I felt my hands would soon be frostbitten. The gloves I wore were thin and torn, multiple cuts scratched my hands from the sharp ice. Finally, I reached the soft and dry clay underneath and I chipped away to fill my two buckets. It was then I felt a hard prick underneath the soft clay. I dug further to discover several hard bones. I remember feeling shocked and thinking at first, was it a human body? I realised that it was some type of monster as it had a huge arched spine, and as I dug the clay away, it revealed a long type of nose, almost like a short trunk, containing several teeth in its mouth. The sockets where the eyes were meant to be were the size of my head. I could see several bones that made up two wings that curved inwards. It all started to come together like a puzzle. By now I couldn't feel my hands and it was way past bedtime. I had lit a lamp to keep carving away at the dirt and clay from the mystery figure. I took my tin water bottle and splashed the water to clear away the dirt from the bones. What was revealed was about three times the size of me. It looked half lion and half eagle with a dragon's tail and horses hooves. At this moment I was scared, confused and worried. I then heard my parents' voices calling my name in the dark. I looked at the animal before me, lying with all of its bones and decided to call it Pixiu – a Winged Lion. I decided then and there it was not a monster but it is my lucky charm, my hope and my protection over any evil. I wanted it to bring me luck, safety and wealth for my family.

I felt if I took my Pixiu apart, perhaps my luck would fade away. My parents' voices were getting louder, which meant they were closer. I took one last glance at my mighty discovery and ran towards my parents to make the journey home. That night I took a chunk of clay to create the memory of my discovery and I started molding the shape of the ferocious lion with its vicious fangs, yet graced with an elegant wingspan. Although only its skeleton and fragments had remained in the dirt, I knew how beautiful this animal had been once upon a time.

As I lifted my hands from the clay that evening, I saw my wounds had healed like magic. To my surprise the next morning my father declared that we had money overnight due to an inheritance from an old Uncle who had passed away. That week, we had a flow of tourists from all over Asia visit our village who bought our family's homemade pottery in large amounts. I was confused at how our life and wealth had drastically changed, but then I remembered that the sculpture brought good luck. I placed my Pixiu winged lion on our kitchen windowsill, looking out over the rice paddies and I couldn't help but admire my craftsmanship. I couldn't help but think back to the night where I had dug up this magical creature – a discovery I would forever keep to myself. I smiled at my parents and they smiled back, as we tucked into a juicy peking duck that night, with a sweet plum sauce and steaming pancakes and vegetables!

# What Lies Beneath the Ancient Surface

*ESF Kennedy School, Henderson, Conor – 10*

I awoke to the awful sound of workers yelling and cracking sounds outside. I opened my eyes to the old, dusty room I was assigned a few years ago. There were birds chirping outside, the sun shining and the trees whistling from the wind. Meanwhile, inside our research department, there was chaos. I moaned myself out of bed and opened the cabinet next to me, I put on my white lab coat, and slipped into my black sneakers. Even though I'm gladly over the age of 30, I still wear the same old black sneakers that I've been wearing for 2 years. I open the door to the research department and greet everyone in the morning.

"Morning Jerry! Looking good today Charmaine! New haircut Oswald?"

I walk past everybody and head into my office. Sit down in the same old smelly chair, and open my computer. There are bills, taxes and fines we need to pay for the damage our research has done, not mentally but physically. Here at FossilsX, we study the fossils of old dinosaurs and try to bring them back to life. We study this and hope our new technology will bring these wonderful creatures back to life.

"Hey Frank! You got those taxes done yet?" He knocked at the door, it was Oswald. He's been on my tail for the past few weeks trying to make me lose my job, simply because I reported him for doing things on his computer. "No Frank, In fact, I am doing them right now."

I look at him with a smirk, then he looks behind him and walks up to me, and he whispers something in my ear, "Hey, If you ever rat me out again. Then you'll find out what happened to the dinosaurs, and it'll happen to you."

Then he walked away, and acted like nothing had happened, then Charmaine walked by, "Hey Frank, You alright? I saw Oswald walking away with a dirty smile on his face."

"Yea, I'm fine, just the same old Oswald trippin me up again, heh."

"Well, you shouldn't let him annoy you, you have a good thing going, you're smart, and I think that you could save our research!"

Then she walked away. I guess I really could save our research, but I need to focus on what's going on right now. I get up from my chair and walk down the hallway, even though I haven't actually done anything, I'm still tired so I just walked into my dorm, and went to sleep.

## Chapter 2: Outbreak

I awoke again to the sound of glass shattering outside, I opened the door and walked out, suddenly, I got slammed into the wall by something large! I black out, and my vision disappears into a black abyss.

"Frank! Frank! Oh great He's awake, you took quite the hit.",

It was Charmaine, she had bandages across her fingers and a small patch of blood on her face. "Are you alright Frank?" She asked,

"You were slammed quite hard, you were unconscious for a few hours!",

I looked around the room, we weren't in the office, it was a white room filled with posters saying things like *Get Well!* Or *Believe in yourself!* And literally any other positive message.

"Why aren't we in the lab? What happened?" I asked,

"Oh, well, while you were resting, our crew discovered a new fossil in Jiangxi, we put it in the restoration chamber, and turned the machine on, and..., well, you can guess what happened next."

She said it like I would understand, and after a quick second of thinking, I knew what happened. It worked. "You're telling me that we did it!? We actually restored a dinosaur!?" I yelled, I then realised what I've just said, then a nurse came around the corner, "Sorry," Charmaine says, "He is a little bit loopy."

*Charmaine, what are you doing?* I asked myself, then I realised that people aren't supposed to know our research, or what we are doing with it. So she is trying to not attract any attention and keep our research safe. "If it's alright with you, we'd like to get going now."

"Alright," The nurse finally answered,

"That's fine, just make sure not to get injured any more," Then she walked away, like nothing had happened.

I groaned, I slid out of bed and shrunk my feet into my sneakers. I grabbed my lab coat and swung it on, I then opened the doors, and headed straight to the lab, where I belong.

### Chapter 3: The End.

I took my card out and put it against the wall, scanned the card and opened the doors,

I looked back at Charmaine, "You said it was a dinosaur, it's not even here., plus, if it wasn't a dinosaur, what did I get injured by?",

Then Charmaine was in shock, was she in shock of my words? "Charmaine, are you alright?" I asked, "duh, d-DINOSAUR!" She yelled, I turned around and looked behind me, there it was. The dinosaur. It looked like the new species of dinosaur that was found, the titanosaur. It was bigger than the entire lab, there was a hole in the ceiling, and chains around the dinosaur's legs. I was shivering, then I realised the dinosaur was frozen in place, not even moving. *Is this a joke? I came all this way for nothing?* "Yea, like this is real, watch, If I hit it nothing will happen." say with confidence. I then pick a shard of glass off the floor, and slash it across the dinosaur's chest. "RadArGhGhGh!" the dinosaur screams, it then moves and puts its head down, I scream, and try to run, its mouth catches my legs, "Charmaine! Help!" I scream, she ignores, she runs away in fear, turns around at last, and looks me in the eye, as I enter the dark abyss of the titanosaur.

# Dinosaurs in China

*ESF Kennedy School, Kikutake, Rikiya – 9*

Bob and Charlie in China were very good friends, they always didn't participate in class discussion except things that relate to dinosaurs. All they do is shout out all the answers. One day they plan to find rare fossils. They went to many open spaces in the countryside and started to dig. After one day of working they got into trouble. An old man shouted, "You go back to your house and tell your mama that you dug my farm you stinky dumb children!" The boys shivered. They ran as fast as a flash. Suddenly a big hole appeared in front of them! Their legs could not stop and they fell!

They landed with a big thump. Then Charlie cried, "Bob, where are you?!" Charlie heard a familiar voice, he screamed but it was Bob. Bob was behind Charlie the whole time. They both started laughing out loud. Not after long the boys heard a voice that they had never heard. They looked backwards. There was a dinosaur! It looked fierce, strong and very mean. After a while when Bob looked closely it was a predator Bob screamed in fear and ran away Charlie also followed him but the dinosaur was still following the two boys with a big bad grin on his face. When Charlie looked back he saw the dinosaur's face he thought to himself this is my worst nightmare but soon the dinosaur was no longer on the boy's back. And then the boys were surrounded by the holes they saw earlier the holes came closer and closer then suddenly inside Bob and Charlie's mind there was a thing that said jump! So they jumped but they still fell into the great big hole.

The boys landed on top of each other Bob was on top Charlie was on the bottom. but they both caught a smell that smelled like Charlie's and Bob's mom's chocolate brownies they looked around it was Charlie's house. Charlie sprinted to the kitchen, and Bob quickly chased back to Charlie's kitchen. Charlie shouted to Bob whoever is last is a rotten egg! Bob sprinted even faster so he doesn't lose they both slammed the door open at the same time and argued who got to the house first. Then when Bob and Charlie's mom realised that the boys were back the parents face looked mad, very mad. "where did you boys go?" Bob's mom asked, "just at the park near the pond." explained Bob with sweat running down his head. Bob's mom luckily believed Bob. then after Brownies they went to a land with nothing except one bump that looked a lot like a feathered dinosaur bone. When they went close Bob and Charlie shouted "Sinosauropteryx bone". The boys shouted in excitement. Bob and Charlie had never touched a Sinosauropteryx it felt a bit weird and funny. The boys excitedly put the small bone in a case and admired it and bragged to their friends for hours. The next day they did the same. A after about five days when Bob and Charlie were fast asleep a evil man tiptoed into Bob's room robs the Sinosauropteryx bone and ran in time but Bob woke up and saw the robber but didn't see his face. Bob shouted "come back" but of course the robber never came back but the robber said "no"! Luckily Bob knows the voice of the evil robber. Then Charlie came rushing into Bob's house and screamed at the top of his voice "I saw someone steal the bone we found before"! Bob asked Charlie did you see the robber's face? "Yes", replied Charlie, "he looked kind of chubby". "Did you hear his voice"? asked Charlie "yes" responded Bob, it was something like a squeaky voice. The two boys went finding a chubby man with a squeaky voice, they spent minutes finding the man. When Bob tried to give up, Charlie sprinted to a random man and asked "have you seen a chubby man with a squeaky voice?" the man said "there was a man that was chubby and had a squeaky voice running to the wet market." "Thank you" thanked Charlie but he was already running to the market with Bob. They looked around the market two times without noticing and found the exact man robber but the robber was already heading away. Charlie and Bob lost their energy and headed home with their heads down. Bob couldn't sleep the whole night because he was crying but Charlie forgot all about it and was snoring all night. Bob eventually slept when it was 5 O, clock in the morning. He slept for 30 minutes and then woke up and fell back to bed with tears. Charlie was already awake and was shouting in Bob's ears. Bob slowly started to wake up but he slept back again. but at 12 o clock he woke up with lots of energy. Him and Charlie went back from start and started looking for the robber they asked people and the tenth person they ask answered them a woman said kindly "oh I saw a man that was chubby rushing into a house that has a star shaped chimney". Again Charlie shouted "thanks" and rushed to find a star shaped

chimney with bob. They found one at 8 o'clock at night and saw the chubby robber sleeping. Charlie has jumping up and down when bob shushed bob Charlie settled down they both agreed to sneak through the windows so bob sneaked through a unlocked window and took the bone out of the robbers bed. Then they raced to the police and the police immediately captured the robber. The next night bob was able to sleep the whole night. The next day they gave it to the musium so no one is able to steal the bone ever again and if that happens we would ask Bob and Charlie to help

# The Great Loss Of The Sinosauropteryx

*ESF Kennedy School, Kwon, Seol – 10*

Let me introduce you to the Fantastic Five! (Known as FF)

The members are: Linda, Scarlett, Hellen, Chris, Max !

They are in Ms Cat's class.

Now, let's start the story!

Today, Ms Cat's class is going on a trip to The Great Wall Of China. The whole class was very excited, especially the FF.

When the class landed, they went straight to The Great Wall Of China.

It was blazing hot in China, and everyone was in beads of sweat.

As soon as the class stepped on the rocks of The Great Wall Of China, a tour guide rushed up to them and handed them each a strawberry-flavoured ice-cream.

He introduced himself. " Hello, hello, and hi! My name is Ricky. But you can call me Rick! " Ms Cat was extremely pleased to have such a bright and cheery person to guide her and her class.

First, Ricky took the class to see the great view in China. It was a wonderful sight.

Everyone was oohing and aahing! Ricky and Ms Cat chatted continuously, talking about random things for school, while leading the group/class, and counting if the kids were all following at the same time.

Andrea was doing cartwheels all over the place, and Ethan was sulking madly.

The FF were taking pictures all over the place and having the time of their life, and Scarlett was telling funny jokes. " This is the best day ever in the whole world!" shouted Andrea, backflipping.

While FF were laughing hard at Scarlett's funny joke, it made them tug behind the other tourists. Ethan glared at them from the front of the line. Then, he grabbed the poor FF by the ear and threw them down... down... and down The Great Wall Of China!

The FF were hurt badly. There was no internet or network, there was blood everywhere, and worse, they could not climb up the wall of the Great Wall Of China and go home. As soon as Andrea saw the whole thing/drama end, she ran to Ms Cat and told her about Ethan's misbehaved actions.

Meanwhile, the FF was worried sick. Scarlett tried her funny joke again, but no one laughed. Without a sound, a dinosaur loomed over them, only to make FF more scared. The FF screamed like crazy, but the dinosaur just simply said in a calm voice: " Hi. My name is Leaster and I am a Sinoauroptryx! Nice to see you!"

The FF was stunned silent and no one spoke for a while until Hellen spoke:

“Um, hi? You can talk?! Well, My name is Hellen and these are my fellow friends. Chris, Max, Scarlett and Linda. We are a group called The Fantastic Five. We are also called FF for short. Nice to meet you!” Linda asked in a shivery voice:

“ Ummmmmm, aren’t you supposed to be extinct? My teacher once said that all dinosaurs are all gone because they have been hit by a meteor.” asked Chris.

“ Yeah, well. My friends were all dead because of the meteor. But! I managed to survive since I was hiding in another country when the meteor came! Lucky me! Hahaha! ” FF was surprised by seeing a real-life dinosaur, which is normal for kids to be scared about meeting a dinosaur.

However surprisingly, Lester stayed nice and calm with a huge grin on his face. After discussing and trying to survive in the woods beneath the Great Wall Of China, The Fantastic Five were tired and fell asleep on soft leaves with gigantic banana leaves for a blanket. All except for Linda. She was writing a letter to her family for some reason. Hellen was obsessed with gymnastics and was doing backflips and round-offs all over the place until she finally collapsed onto the bed and fell asleep. In the morning, FF and Lester ate some savory pineapple and drank fresh water from a nearby river. Hellen started up her gymnastics show again while Max was playing catch with Lester. FF and Lester were having the best time of their lives.

Back at home, poor FF’s parents were the exact opposite of having fun. They were all worried sick and were saying

“ Oh dear, oh dear!” over and over again. They must have cried oh dear oh dear at least a thousand times a day. Parents have called the police, fire stations, and even ambulances that didn’t have any connections to it. After a few days of living in the forest with Lester, FF finally decided that they should help Lester and of course themselves to climb up the side of The Great Wall Of China to reach their homes. But the only two things they had to think about was: One, how to climb up the side of The Great Wall Of China, and two, where Lester would live in the outdoor world outside his usual home here. One of the FF would have to invite Lester into his or her house to live in, and nobody had said yes to that yet.

The FF and Lester decided they will leave the forest at 12:00 pm sharp. They planned on climbing with thick ropes they have braided with leaves.

“ We will have a leader. I will be the leader. Nobody gets left behind. We arrive around 3:00 am in the morning, climb into our beds, and sleep. Let’s go!” whispered Scarlett. They set off, clinching the rope in their hands. FF and Lester climbed up the wall, nice and steady.

They climbed to the top and quickly, silently made their way to the pavement and looked for the hotel their class used to sleep in. The hotel was right in front of them and they went in, found a spare room and stayed for the night. In the morning, FF, Lester were brought back to their homes! Max now shared a room with Lester, and FF finally were back to their own lives.

# We're Going Hunting

*ESF Kennedy School, Lau, Kandace – 9*

At bedtime Crystal read a book about dinosaurs to Sara and Cassie, then the next day Sara and Cassie called their older brother Sammy to sneak in Crystal's room to get the book for the two girls. When Sammy got it back for them, they read it again and they read the important ones they wrote it down. It was in China and the name was Sinosauropteryx.

Tommy drove them to a field where there were lots of dinosaur bones, which are easy to find. They spent hours finding that bone, and found nothing until they found a bone, But it was all dirty and sandy so they brought it back home to clean it a little bit. When they got home, Cassie needed the toilet so she rushed to the toilet. After she finished Sara and Cassie washed the bone inside the toilet but when they were washing it, Cassie was playing around and accidentally flush the bone in the toilet. Then they lost it and the toilet was clogged, it was it, they had to find another bone and call someone to fix the toilet. Sara was so mad because she spent hours looking for it. Now they both need to find another bone. Cassie felt so sorry for what she had done to the bone.

When Tommy was driving Cassie and Sara to the field again, Cassie found a pizza shop. Cassie suddenly wanted to eat some pizza, so Tommy stopped and parked in the parking space. Then Tommy, Cassie and Sara ate a giant mushroom pizza together. After they finished eating, they set off again. When they arrived Cassie needed the toilet but there was no toilet, so Cassie had to go to the toilet somewhere else. After Cassie was done with the toilet. Sara, Tommy and Cassie felt the ground trembling. Suddenly an undersized strong dinosaur came up. When Sara read the book, she saw it and matched it to the picture on the book and noticed it was a Sinosauropteryx dinosaur. Surprisingly the Sinosauropteryx dinosaur helped them to find a Sinosauropteryx bone. The Sinosauropteryx dinosaur was used to smelling his relatives. When the Sinosauropteryx dinosaur found a Sinosauropteryx bone he handed it to Sara. Then when they got home they washed the bone. This time Crystal suggested washing the bone in the sink so it would not flush into the toilet.

Cassie found an ice cream shop at the field that was made by the Sinosauropteryx dinosaur. She really wanted to eat some ice cream but Tommy said no because they won't know if they added some Sinosauropteryx food. Then they got teleported into a secret place, Cassie was so excited but Sara was very scared that something bad would happen. Tommy said quietly "We need to stay together so we don't get lost ok guys?" Cassie and Sara both said "ok"

Then in the secret place it was full of Sinosauropteryx dinosaurs. This time they bravely touched the dinosaurs because they knew they were friendly. Suddenly a mommy Sinosauropteryx dinosaur appeared and it looked hungry. They saw a whole family of Sinosauropteryx dinosaurs that looked like they were all hungry. Crystal was so worried about Cassie, Sara and Tommy she had not seen them for five hours. Finally they came back home Sara, Cassie and Tommy were super tired and was ready for bed.

The next day, Cassie and Sara wanted to find another Sinosauropteryx bone! Tommy Said maybe it would be a better idea to do it in the wild because maybe there would not be any more Sinosauropteryx bone in that field any more. So when they're getting ready to go to the wild, Cassie brought a brush and a bucket of water. Sara brought the book about Sinosauropteryx, so they could learn even more about it.

When they arrived in the wild they started hunting until Cassie's best friend Lizzy came over to her. Ask "what are you guys doing?" Cassie said "we are hunting for a Sinosauropteryx bone. Do you want to try?" Lizzy said "sure as long as it won't ruin my new T-shirt." So instead of doing it as a family they decided to make a group called Sinosauropteryx hunting group.

Together they work super hard to try to find a Sinosauropteryx bone until Clarie comes over to say, "Hi Sara what you're doing here?"

Sara said. "I'm trying to find a Sinosauropteryx bone, but did you know I already found one? It's super cool. Next time you come to my house I am going to show it to you! Do you want to join our Sinosauropteryx hunting group?"

Clarie said "Ok only when my mom calls me to go home i will go home.let's get hunting!" One hour later... We found a bone! Yay we can make Sinosauropteryx soup with this last one or we should put it in a museum.

Tommy said "Girls this is the last choice what you chose?" Clarie said "Maybe the museum, we could make some money !" But on the other hand Cassie wants to make soup with it. The two girls fight until Sara had enough of the fighting she wanted to follow her friend but Sara knew that she would get all the money to herself so Sara followed her little sister Cassie. They're going to go home and make soup!!! YUM!!! When they got home they started to make soup. They first boiled the water then put the bone in. When they finished cooking the soup they tried it. Cassie shouted "How was it?" Sara replied "It is not good at all, it tastes so bad it tastes like dirt ! Oh we should have put it in a museum." Cassie said "We should be done with finding bones, I do not want to do it anymore I'm tired."

# My Amazing Fossil Adventure in China!

*ESF Kennedy School, Leaver, Ethan – 10*

Last summer was the most incredible summer ever because my mom, who's a science teacher, took me to China to look for fossils! I've been obsessed with dinosaurs since I was five, and when Mum told me we were going on a real fossil hunt, I nearly exploded with excitement! I read every book I could find about Chinese fossils before we left, and I even learned how to say "dinosaur" in Chinese – it's "konglong"!

We flew for what felt like forever to Liaoning Province. Our guide, Dr. Wu, told us this area is famous for amazing fossils, especially dinosaurs with feathers. She explained that millions of years ago, this whole place was covered in forests and lakes, kind of like a prehistoric paradise. Many animals got fossilized here because they would die and sink to the bottom of the lakes, where mud quickly covered them.

On our first day, we had to go through "fossil hunting training." We learned to use cool tools like brushes, hammers, and magnifying glasses that you wear on your head. Dr. Wu taught us that finding fossils is like being a detective; you have to look for clues and be super patient. She also explained the rules, like how we couldn't keep any fossils because they belong to China and need to be studied by scientists.

We wore big hats to protect us from the heat, and the rocks were tough to break. For the first two days, all I found were some boring rocks, and my back was sore from bending over. Then, on the third day, something amazing happened!

I was working on a grey rock layer that Dr. Wu said was promising when my tool hit something different. Instead of the usual dull sound, it made a weird scraping noise. Dr. Wu came over to help, and we spent two hours carefully brushing and scraping away the rock. Slowly, something incredible began to appear—it was a fossil of a small feathered dinosaur! Dr. Wu got super excited and said it might be a microraptor, a cool dinosaur that had feathers on its arms AND legs!

Everyone stopped to look at my find. They took pictures and marked the spot with GPS. Dr. Wu said it would go to the local museum for research, and they would record my name as the discoverer.

The next day, we visited the Liaoning Paleontological Museum, which had tons of amazing fossils on display. One dinosaur skeleton was so perfectly preserved that you could see the impression of its feathers in the rock!

That night, something extraordinary happened. While cleaning my lucky fossil brush—the one Grandpa gave me before he passed away last year—it started to pulse with an ethereal amber glow. The bristles sparkled like they were made of tiny stars, and my room filled with swirling particles that looked like golden dust mixed with floating fossils. The brush lifted from my hands, drawing a glowing doorway in the air. Through it, I could see a world that existed millions of years ago! Before I could think, I stepped through.

The transformation was breathtaking! The air tasted fresher but somehow ancient. Towering dawn redwoods reached toward a primordial sky, their branches draped with vines I'd never seen in any book. The ground felt springy with layers of prehistoric moss, and the humidity wrapped around me like a warm blanket.

That's when I heard it—a sound between a chirp and a song. A flock of microraptors glided overhead, their feathers shimmering with colors that don't exist in our time—deep iridescent blues that changed with every movement,

streaked with patterns of gold and violet. One landed nearby, tilting its head to study me with intelligent eyes. To my amazement, it didn't seem afraid.

"We've been expecting you," came a voice that seemed to emerge from the earth itself. A shimmering figure materialized; it looked like a woman made of amber and starlight, wearing robes that shifted between rock layers and flowing water. "I am the Spirit of the Fossils," she said, "You have been chosen."

She explained that every few generations, a young fossil hunter is selected to see the truth behind the stones. "Your grandfather had the gift too," she revealed, making my heart skip a beat. "That's why he gave you that brush. He knew you would follow the path."

The Spirit waved her hand, and suddenly we were floating above an ancient lake. Below us, the process of fossilization played out like a time-lapse film. I watched in wonder as layers of sediment gently covered fallen creatures, while the Spirit explained how minerals replaced their bones over time.

"But why me?" I whispered.

"Because you don't just see with your eyes," she smiled. "You see with your heart. Every fossil tells a story of life, of survival, of Earth's great adventure. Some people simply collect them, but you—you hear their whispers."

She touched my forehead gently, and suddenly I could see everything differently. The rock layers became transparent, revealing the treasures within. Ancient creatures moved through the stone like fish in water, their stories unfolding before my eyes.

"This gift will stay with you," she said. "Use it wisely. Help others understand that fossils aren't just stones—they're messages from a world long past, waiting to share their wisdom."

The vision began to fade, the prehistoric world dissolving like morning mist.

I found myself back in my hotel room, still holding Grandpa's brush. It looked normal now but felt warm to the touch. Mom knocked on my door: "Everything okay? I thought I saw lights under your door."

"Just cleaning my tools," I replied, smiling at our secret. From that moment on, fossil hunting became more than just science—it became magic. Every time I touch a rock face, I can feel the stories waiting within. Sometimes, when I'm very quiet, I can even hear them singing.

# The Hidden Treasures of the Earth

*ESF Kennedy School, Leaver, Jenson – 10*

In the heart of China's vast landscapes, where mountains kissed the sky and rivers whispered ancient secrets, lay a small village known as Shijiazhuang. Nestled between the towering peaks of the Taihang Mountains, this village was not just a spot with a good vision, it was a treasure trove for paleontologists and fossil hunters. Liu Wei, a passionate young paleontologist, had always been fascinated by dinosaurs. From a young age, he would spend hours reading about the great beasts that once roamed the Earth, imagining what life must have been like during the Mesozoic era. Now, as a graduate student, he had the opportunity to join a research team on an expedition to discover fossils in the areas surrounding Shijiazhuang. The team consisted of: Dr. Zhang, the lead paleontologist, Mei, an enthusiastic geology student, Chen, an experienced fossil hunter, and Liu, a local guide who knew the area like the back of his hand.

They set out early one morning, the sun barely peeking over the horizon, casting a golden hue over the rugged terrain. As they drove deeper into the mountains, the air grew crisp, filled with the scent of pine and earth. Liu felt a rush of excitement; this was a chance to uncover history, to touch the remains of a world long gone. Their destination was a site known for its rich deposits of Jurassic fossils, a place where ancient seas had once thrived. Upon arrival, the team unloaded their gear and began to set up camp. Dr. Zhang gathered everyone around for a briefing. "Today, we will explore the cliffs along the riverbank. The sediment layers here are promising, and we might find some well-preserved specimens," he explained, his voice filled with authority and enthusiasm. With tools in hand—hammers, chisels, and brushes—the team set off on their adventure. The cliffs towered above them, majestic and imposing. Liu could feel the thrill of discovery coursing through his veins as he began to chip away at the rock face, carefully searching for signs of ancient life. Hours passed, and the sun climbed higher in the sky. Mei called out excitedly, "I think I've found something!" The team rushed over to her, gathering around as she gently brushed away the dirt to reveal a small fossilized shell. It was a beautiful specimen, glimmering in the sunlight.

As the day wore on, Liu's hands grew sore from the labor, but he was undeterred. He moved to a different section of the cliff, where the rock seemed to have a different texture. As he chipped away, he felt a satisfying crunch beneath his hammer. With careful precision, he cleared the surrounding area and gasped as the outline of a bone emerged. "Dr. Zhang! Over here!" Liu shouted, his heart racing. The team quickly gathered around. Dr. Zhang knelt beside him, examining the fossil. "This is remarkable! It appears to be a vertebra from a large dinosaur," he said, his eyes sparkling with excitement. The discovery fueled their determination, and they worked tirelessly, documenting their finds and carefully extracting each fossil. By the end of the day, they had collected several specimens, each one telling a story of life millions of years ago.

As night fell, they gathered around a campfire, sharing stories and laughter. The stars twinkled above them, a vast canvas of light. Liu felt a sense of friendship with his team, united by their shared passion for uncovering the past.

The following days were filled with more discoveries. They found fossilized footprints, a partial skull, and even a well-preserved egg. Each find was a piece of the puzzle, revealing insights into the behavior and environment of the creatures that once roamed the land. One afternoon, while exploring a particularly steep section of the cliff, Li spotted something unusual. "Look there!" he called, pointing to a dark crevice. The team approached cautiously, their hearts pounding with anticipation. As they peered into the shadowy opening, they could see the faint outline of a large fossil embedded in the rock. With careful teamwork, they began to excavate the area, removing debris and rock. As they worked, the shape of a massive dinosaur began to emerge—a theropod, perhaps a relative of the famous

Velociraptor. The excitement was unmistakable, this was a significant find that could contribute to the understanding of dinosaur evolution in Asia. After hours of work, they finally freed the fossil from its rocky prison. Dr. Zhang examined it closely, his expression a mix of awe and disbelief. “This is extraordinary! We must document this thoroughly before we move it,” he instructed, and the team sprang into action, taking photographs and notes.

As the expedition drew to a close, Liu reflected on the incredible journey they had undertaken. They had not only uncovered fossils but had also forged lasting friendships and shared unforgettable experiences. Each member of the team had contributed their unique skills and they had achieved something remarkable.

On their final night in the mountains, they gathered around the campfire, the crackling flames illuminating their faces. Dr. Zhang raised his cup in a toast. “To discovery, to friendship, and to the stories of the past that continue to inspire us!” Everyone cheered, their spirits high. As they packed up their campsite the next morning, Liu felt a sense of fulfillment. The fossils they had unearthed would go on to educate others, sparking curiosity about the ancient world. He knew this was just the beginning of his journey as a paleontologist, and he couldn’t wait for the next adventure. Driving back through the winding roads, Liu gazed out at the breathtaking scenery, the mountains standing tall against the horizon. He realized that the Earth held countless stories waiting to be uncovered, and he was determined to be part of that narrative. And so, with a heart full of passion and a mind brimming with questions, Liu Wei looked forward to the future—a future where he would tell everyone the wonders the world held.

# Unearthing: A Fossil Quest

*ESF Kennedy School, Luna, Moon – 10*

“Ring Ring! Ring Ring!” The alarm clock blared through Averil Luxurious’ room. “Uhhh,” She groaned, as she grumpily got out from her queen-sized bed.

Averil sauntered to her dressing room where she changes her outfit. Her dressing room is big, but there wasn't any space to put all her clothes in there, as she has a lot of clothes.

Basically, this 12-year old kid Averil Elsher was wealthy. She had her own maid, own therapist, everything a kid could want. But the main thing was that she LOVED dinosaur fossils, as her father was a famous palaeontologist, and he always told her all about the amazing fossils he discovered from Liaoning.

Since he was a famous palaeontologist, he spent more time outside of his house than inside. He was a very busy man, having at least 3 meetings every day. Yes, he earned tons of money, but sometimes, he had to sacrifice a lot of family time.

Usually, Averil and her dad contacted each other even if he is away by using Wechat. Her dad would always find a way to text her, no matter how busy he was. But this day was different. She didn't hear from him for over 4 days. Even if her dad was busy, she would hear from him after a day or so; but this time, it seemed like he completely forgot about her. She decided to try to contact him through the living room's telephone. Averil ran downstairs and quickly dialed her dad's phone number, but strangely, it went straight to voicemail.

By now, Averil's heart was racing quicker than the speed of light. She knew something was wrong, so she immediately took off to find her maid, and tell her the situation. “I will contact the police right away, but I'm afraid that there is nothing we can do after that to try and find your dad, Averil.” Her maid said. Averil was fuming as she heard the news. “Well, can I at least get the location of where he went?” She asked, gritting her teeth menacingly. Her maid reluctantly agreed, and told her that her father went to Liaoning, China, to do fossil hunting.

She thanked her and walked away to her room. As soon as the door shut, Averil, being the adventurous, brave girl she is, called her private jet flier to fly her to Liaoning. She already knew that she was going to get in a lot of trouble for doing this, but she knew that if she was ever in danger, her dad would do anything to get her back.

About an hour later, the jet arrived in front of her mansion. Averil quickly put on the bag that she had packed before the trip, (clothes, water, phone, dinosaur research kit, etc.) and jumped onto the jet, just as the maids realized that she was gone. Averil heard them screaming her name with their faces red below. She felt guilty, but now she had to focus on finding, and possibly saving her dad.

After what seemed like 7 hours later, she arrived in Liaoning, Sihetun province. She knew that Liaoning was a fascinating place with a lot of fossils, like Sinosauropteryx and feathered dinosaurs. Averil would've loved to examine Liaoning's most precious fossils if she had the time, but she knew that she came here to find her dad.

*Maybe next time, she thought.* She quickly rushed down the narrow streets to catch a Taxi.

When the taxi arrived in Liaoning province, she sprinted towards the museum as quickly as her little feet could take her. In the museum, Averil found a familiar looking keychain laying under her feet. It looked just like her T-rex toy back at home. She gasped. “That's the keyring I gave to dad before he left!” Averil exclaimed. Her heartbeat seemed to increase more and more as she thought about her dad. *He has to be near here*, she thought. She decided to look around for more hints as she wandered around the colossal fossil site. In the fossil sight, Averil saw tons of

palaeontologists scattered around looking for fossils. She knew that none of them were her dad, but she looked anyway, just to make sure. That's when she heard random voices suddenly saying her dad's name. "He must really need the money if he kidnapped the famous James Elsher" The shabby looking guy muttered.

"I don't blame him. James did find one of the rarest fossils, which is worth about 100, 000 pounds." Answered the other guy.

Averil was suspicious these guys knew where her dad was, so she acted like an innocent girl who just heard that the famous palaeontologist has gone missing and said,

"Excuse me, I'm just wondering if you know anything about the missing palaeontologist. I heard he's gone missing, and I really want him to come back. Please tell me who kidnapped him, I promise to find him!" Averil exclaimed, in her most babyish voice. It seemed to have worked, since they told her exactly where he was and who kidnapped him cluelessly.

When Averil heard who kidnapped her father, she gasped in shock. It was his best friend! Out of all the people in the world, she never thought that it would be his best friend. She didn't waste any time. She thanked them and rushed to the fossil site's men's bathroom, where they said her dad was taken hostage in.

As she cautiously walked in the bathroom, she could hear rustling from one of the stalls, so she crawled under the stall, and sure enough, she found her dad squirming in pain.

"Dad? Is that you?" Averil asked.

A muffled voice came through the mask. At once, she knew it was her dad's voice. She slowly untied the rope that seemed to be choking her dad, and hugged him tight, tears dripping from her cheeks. She felt like she never wanted to let go.

"I finally found you." Averil whispered.

# The Tunnel Through Time

*ESF Kennedy School, Ng, Gabriella – 10*

Cuo Yu squatted down in the backyard of her family's modern home in Liaoning, China, her fingers covered with dirt and her face streaked with mud. The sun shone over the yard, lighting up the scattered dinosaur toys and fossil tools. She was drawn into her work, digging tiny holes with a shovel and brushing the earth with a small paintbrush like the paleontologist she dreamed of becoming. Her father, Yumin, was a famous fossil hunter, recognized for discovering the first *Sinosauropteryx* fossil in 1996. Whenever he told her the story of finding the small, feathered dinosaur, Cuo Yu's imagination sparkled.

Today, Cuo Yu was pretending to search for fossils in the exact spot where her father had made his discovery years ago. As her shovel hit something hard, a thrill shot through her. Was it a fossil? Brushing away the dirt carefully, she uncovered a dark, narrow tunnel. Cool air brushed across her cheek. Curiosity took over, and she grabbed her flashlight, squeezed into the tunnel, and began crawling.

The tunnel seemed to stretch on forever, its walls damp and cool. After what felt like hours, Cuo Yu saw a faint light ahead. Crawling faster, she came out into daylight, but something was different. The trees were taller, their leaves bigger, greener, and unfamiliar. The air buzzed with sounds: birds chirped in strange, high-pitched tones, and in the distance, she heard a low, raspy roar that sent shivers down her spine. It hit her – she had traveled back in time.

She stood frozen for a moment. This was the Early Cretaceous period – the age of dinosaurs! A rustling in the bushes snapped her out of her daze, and a small dinosaur crept out. No larger than a chicken, with a long, striped tail and delicate feathers that shimmered in the sunlight. Cuo Yu gasped. It was the *Sinosauropteryx*! More of them appeared, popping out of the bushes, chirping and clicking, inching closer to Cuo Yu. She crouched low and reached out a hand. One sniffed her fingers, its feathers soft to the touch. Cuo Yu smiled in wonder, marveling at the creatures her father had discovered.

For hours, she followed the flock, observing their behavior. She watched them hunt insects with lightning-fast strikes and communicate with chirps and tail flicks. Cuo Yu laughed as the smallest one tried to steal a shiny button from her shirt. But the magical moment was cut short by a bone-chilling roar.

The *Sinosauropteryx* froze, feathers standing up in alarm. and they scattered into the bushes. Cuo Yu's heart pounded as the ground began to shake and an enormous predator appeared– a *Yutyrannus*. Its feathery body towering over her, yellow eyes staring into hers. She had read them – a cousin of the *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, but covered in feathers and just as deadly. The dinosaur began to run towards her, its powerful legs closing the distance between them with terrifying speed. Frozen in terror, her legs froze.

Just as the *Yutyrannus* lunged, the *Sinosauropteryx* sprang into action. Chirping and screeching, they ran around the predator in a chaotic dance, nipping at its legs and flicking their tails in its face. The distraction gave Cuo Yu time to recover and run. The flock guided her through the dense forest, and the chase continued until the *Yutyrannus* finally gave up. It let out an angry roar and retreated.

Cuo Yu collapsed, gasping for air. The *Sinosauropteryx* surrounded her, chirping softly as if to comfort her. She looked at them with gratitude, realizing they had saved her life. These creatures weren't just fossils – they were intelligent, social creatures with personalities of their own!

As the sun began to set, Cuo Yu knew it was time to go. She said goodbye to the flock, who chirped and clicked as if they were saying goodbye. Crawling back through the tunnel, she came out in her backyard.

Bursting into the house, she told her parents everything. Her words tumbled out in excitement.

“That’s quite the imagination you have, Cuo Yu. Maybe one day you’ll write a book about it!” Her father smiled.

“But it’s true!” she insisted. “I really saw them! The Sinosauropteryx saved me from a Yutyrannus!”

Her parents laughed and sent her to wash up for dinner. Frustrated, Cuo Yu went to bed, clutching her flashlight and promised herself to prove the truth.

The next morning, Yumin went out to clean up the backyard. He noticed the hole his daughter had been talking about, but now it was just a shallow pit in the dirt. Shaking his head, he decided to fill it in with soil and concrete. As he was packing up the tools, something caught his eye – a small feather at the edge of the pit, shimmering in the sunlight. It was soft and striped with a pattern he had seen before but couldn’t quite remember where he saw it. Picking it up, he turned it over in his hands and gasped.

It was a Sinosauropteryx feather.

He looked back at the filled-in hole, a shiver running down his spine. Could Cuo Yu have been telling the truth? Some mysteries, he thought, were better left buried.

# Saving the Dinosaurs

*ESF Kennedy School, Shi, Florence – 9*

Today my teacher Ms. Carter is taking our class on a hike in the mountains to “bond with nature”. The thing is, they didn’t seem to realise that unless they got to meet a giant cobra or something, nobody cared. As Ms. Carter was giving us a speech about kinds of moss, I noticed a strange wisp of light that was telling us to follow it. When Ms. Carter wasn’t looking, I snuck down the path with Seol.

As the light led us to a patch of leaves, a note appeared in front of us. I picked it up. The note was sealed with a dinosaur print. “But dinosaurs aren’t real!” Seol exclaimed as she tore open the note. The more she read, the paler she became. Finally, she held the note out.

Dear whomever is reading this,  
You have been chosen to save the dinosaurs.  
Go to the purple bush and knock three times to unlock the first key.  
This task may require great sacrifice.  
XOXO — censored

“This isn’t easy,” a voice said behind them. They both spun around to see Summer with her arms crossed, grinning. “Don’t think I would let you guys run off without me. Can I see it?” she asked. Seol reluctantly gave her the note. Summer looked just as surprised as us.

It took them ages to find the purple bush. Inside was a egg about the size of a baseball and a note saying:

Do not fail this test. You must hatch this flareadon and help it until it’s ready to help you. This will prove your worthiness and earn you a protector. The rest you will know shortly.

“What is a flareadon?” Summer asked.

“I think it’s a kind of fire bird,” Seol replied. I rolled my eyes.

“Let’s start working on hatching it.” I handed it to Summer for keepsake.

“So, what do we do?” she asked “Hatch it, duh,” Seol said.

“How?” I said.

“It probably needs to be around fire, hence the name,” Seol answered. Summer sighed.

“Then let’s start a fire. Gather sticks everybody.”

By the time they’d gathered enough sticks and lit a fire, the sun was setting. “How are we going to live?” Seol asked.

“We have almost no food and water.” She made a valid point. How were they supposed to survive?

“Let’s gather some soft leaves or hay to lie on and find some branches to build shelter.” I said. “We can use my picnic mat for cover.” and so they built a really wonky shelter and found some leaves to sleep on. Then, we got ready for bed and drifted off to sleep.

They were woken the next day by the cracking of an egg shell. “The flareadon is hatching!” Summer screamed. We crawled out of bed to find a cute red and orange bird peeking its head out of the now half destroyed egg shell.

“Follow me to the next clue,” the tiny flareadon chirped, and so we did.

Spark led them to a note attached to a box. They had decided to name him Spark for some reason. Summer snatched the note and opened it.

“What's that?” a voice asked.

“Natalie?” Seol asked, confused. I’ll explain, "Natalie said. She then told us how she had also followed a wisp of light but it led here instead of the place we were led to.

“Let's read the note,” I said.

Here is a dinosaur egg.

The other one is locked up in a dungeon guarded by dragons.

Good luck.

here are the things you need:

Stone nest

Shade

Water

“Did you forget about me?” A familiar voice asked. We all jumped.

“Sorry,” Seol said. “You've grown so much!” Spark was a foot taller now, about the same as a baby tiger. “Now, let's open the box,” I said. Inside was an egg with a greyish hue.

“Someone has to empty their bag to fit the dinosaur egg in,” Summer said.

“I’ll do it with you,” Natalie volunteered.

“Okay, but you carry the egg,” Summer said. Natalie sighed. Seol laughed. I handed the note to Natalie. Then, we separated and went on our mission.

A few weeks later, we found the hideout where the dragons were holding the baby dinosaur hostage. “Let's build a shelter here so we don't lose it,” Seol said.

“We don't need to.” I replied. “I have a tracker that we can hide outside the hideout so we can always find it.”

“Okay, let's place it somewhere and go find a place to set up camp,” Seol said. We ventured out into the woods and found a clearing pretty far from the hideout and put our bags down.

“I should check on Summer and Natalie,” I said, opening my watch.

“Okay,” Seol replied. “While you're doing that, I’ll set up camp.”

The next morning, we woke up and prepared to storm the hideout. Suddenly, Summer came through by call and announced the dinosaur egg had hatched. We all celebrated and quickly got ready for our important mission.

We arrived at the hideout and engaged in our plan. I threw a bag of stones and all the guards came storming out to check. We took the opportunity to sneak into the hideout and crawled under a table for cover. Seol quickly pointed in the direction of the cage holding the dinosaur and we crawled over to it. As I started working on the lock, Seol stopped me. “The cage has no bottom, just lift it up.” She tried, but the cage was too heavy. I reached out to help her. Together, we lifted up the cage and saved the dinosaur. Suddenly, I heard footsteps approaching. We bolted out of the hideout just as angry dragons marched out of the camp, searching for the baby dinosaur. Then, we ran to the meeting spot Summer and Natalie arranged.

We met and let the two baby dinosaurs play together. Soon, the two dinosaurs became friends and then ran off into the wild together.

# Dinosaur Time Travel

*ESF Kennedy School, Sit, William – 9*

Once upon a time there was a boy named Nico, who wanted to become a palaeontologist. Studying very hard and learning everything he could under the moon about fossils, his dream finally came true when he received a secret invitation to go work for The SinoDino Lab!

Nico's first mission was to claim the last remaining Sinosauropteryx dinosaur bone in China. He needed to ship the dinosaur bones back to the lab while remaining under the radar from other fossil hunters. While he was carrying the dinosaur bones back to the big boat he suddenly heard his briefcase rattle! He quickly opened the briefcase, and a dinosaur bone levitated to form a portal.

In the blink of an eye all the buildings in the distance disappeared. Nico was afraid. He heard a loud stomp that shook the ground. From his studies, he recognized that it was the Sinosauropteryx. It roared with its rancid breath, towering over Nico like a skyscraper. Luckily, Nico carried a piece of meat just for this unlikely situation. He tossed it over the Sinosauropteryx's head with all his might, and watched the dinosaur run after it. Nico thought, *am I in a video game?* He then realized that the dinosaur was bound to come back. He spotted a tree nearby and nimbly scaled it. Just then, he heard two dinosaurs roar. With shaky hands, Nico raised his camera. He took a video of the two dinosaurs fighting. *It was so amazing*, Nico thought. Then, another thought hit him. *How would he return to the modern world?*

When the dinosaurs left, he jumped down and started looking for herbs and vegetables. Since he knew how to make a treehouse, he made one to shelter him from any dangers. He added some poisonous plants to deter other animals, sharp tree bark to stop dinosaurs from attacking, and an alarm to wake him up if his treehouse was in danger. With the herbs and vegetables he gathered, he made "prehistoric" soup. For his bed, he used moss because it was very soft. Then, he ventured out to find a way back to the modern world.

First, he tried calling home. No reception. Then out of nowhere, the Sinosauropteryx he had obtained in the modern world appeared beside him. Before Nico

could scream, the Sinosauropteryx growled: “Look for another Sinosauropteryx. It will bring you back to the modern world. It will be hard to find another Sinosauropteryx because many dinosaur species eat us. You must go through dangerous trials, including a jungle with venomous snakes or a mountain with an avalanche from the top. Nico said “I will do anything to return to the modern world.” He expressed his gratitude, then left in search of another Sinosauropteryx.

Racking his brain for knowledge, he brainstormed where Sinosauropteryx dinosaurs lived. *It must be the forest! I know many animals live there.* So, he left for the forest. In the forest, he saw many plants that looked delicious. Nico knew not to go near them because snakes were waiting for prey to come close. He knew if he got eaten, his family would miss him very much. The sound of gurgles then drifted to Nico’s ears. Nico saw a very dirty swamp and wondered if that was the path to the Sinosauropteryx. “Peck. Peck. Peck.” He turned to see a woodpecker, and wondered if he could use the tree to get past the swamp. Just as he began cutting, Nico felt a sudden pain on his leg. A sharp rock had sliced his knee, but he refused to let a small injury discourage him. With great determination, Nico successfully used the tree to cross the swamp, then continued his search for the elusive dinosaur. After all his exertion, Nico felt famished. So, Nico looked for something to eat. He saw many berries, but was weary because he knew some were poisonous. Luckily, Nico could differentiate the edible and poisonous ones from each other.

Once Nico was done eating, he carefully examined the muddy forest floor for large footprints. Nico knew what Sinosauropteryx footprints looked like from examining the dinosaur bone’s shape. Suddenly, a dinosaur emerged from a thicket with many vines. It began chasing Nico. His heart filled with panic, Nico desperately thought of hiding in nearby bushes. Suddenly, the ground gave out and he fell down a slope, quickly losing consciousness. When he finally woke up, he found himself in a giant nest surrounded by six humongous eggs. Nico thought they were maybe bird eggs, but while he was thinking, the eggs began cracking open. Nico noticed that one of them was larger than the rest. Nico saw that it had the same build as a Sinosauropteryx hatchling. The baby Sinosauropteryx started squeaking at Nico. And for some reason, Nico understood what the baby Sinosauropteryx was saying.

“Hello! you want to go back to the present right? But first, I need to tell you three important things. First, it was your ancestors who saved our dinosaur species, meaning our connection allows us to understand each other. Second, some evil scientists from your era are trying to capture us because we are connected to an invincible dinosaur. Third, we have the superpower of bringing back dead dinosaurs. Since we are related to the invincible dinosaur, our power is even stronger.”

The hatchling’s words spurred Nico to consider who the evil scientists may be. As he was thinking, the entire Sinosauropteryx family arrived. “There are other humans here!” They exclaimed with worry. Suddenly the pieces of the puzzle clicked, and Nico realized that it was the people from The SinoDino Lab looking for the Sinosauropteryx. Without warning, in the whirl of color, grey blocks grew across the horizon, and Nico woke up in his bed drenched in filth whilst holding a small piece of fossil belonging to the baby Sinosauropteryx. Could the bone be the key to time travel?

# The Whirlwind Back In Time

*ESF Kennedy School, Wang, Allison – 10*

As the ground began to shake, Hunan grabbed the sides of the bars. Her father yelled, “Hunan! Hold on tight!” Hunan yelled back with tears in her eyes, “I can’t hold on anymore! I need to go! I’m sorry!” He screamed, “Wait! No! Hunan—

As the ground shook more and more violently, Hunan’s tears streamed down her cheeks, flowing into the air. Her black hair flew into her eyes, and she let go of the stone rails. Hunan’s screams were drowned out by the ghostly *whoosh* of wind, the clatter of stones smashing, the cracks of her heart breaking...

“Papa?” Hunan mumbled weakly. Her limbs felt like they had smashed. She saw bits and pieces of stone and gravel around. Her eyes felt like they could close and never open any second, and she had cuts and bruises all over. She was hurt, but nevertheless alive. Hunan snatched over her watch, and saw that the time had almost stopped. Her heart raced as sweat rolled off her brows. Her eyes darted quickly to the stone walls surrounding her, fog blocking her view. Ghostly voices began yelling in Chinese.

Hunan walked over weakly to the wall and peered into the distance. She saw so many workers reaping the grass, bent over seedlings, but most were yelling over a large rock. Giant. It looked flat, almost. But she saw a huge few bones stuck inside it. It was... a huge fossil. Hunan felt dizzy and sick. She almost felt like she had whizzed back into time. Maybe she had, when they had found the first ‘feathered’ dinosaur. The *Sinosauropteryx*, or Chinese Dragon bird. Although Hunan was Chinese, she barely ever learnt anything, as some girls had to stay back and work for the family. She knew only the basics. She asked, “Hello? Why are you talking like that please?” The man just shook his shoulders and kept yelling.

Hunan knew that he probably didn’t understand whatever she was saying, so she kept walking on and on. The air was misty and dark, clouds gathering steadily. Her eyelids drooped. She was sleepy.

Hunan gathered wood and stone to make a fire, then slept alongside it. The townspeople picked her up and threw her out. They didn’t need some strange new little girl on their property, thanks. Hunan slept, and saw that fossils seemed almost common nowadays. Every day, she would see a new fossil around. The townspeople also gathered each day to see the new fossils being found.

One day, an old professor walked into the huts they lived in. He said something in Mandarin, and then left swiftly. Just as his back turned, the audience of people in the hut cheered. Hunan was very confused. What was going on? She decided to follow the man, and he walked over to the cliffs. A few were also there, looking at the dirty ground below.

Then, Hunan saw it. A giant fossil, looking well over ten feet long. The professor whom she had followed peered down at it, his eyes twitching significantly. He grumbled something, then left.

Hunan looked at the fossil for hours. She sat next to the cliff and barely risked tossing stones down. But Hunan’s curiosity got the better of her. She sat down abruptly, lowered her sandal, and stepped onto the rocky bottom.

Suddenly, the rock underneath began rumbling. Looser rocks began to fall as Hunan lost her balance. Her sandal slipped off her foot, and her screams barely escaped her throat. Hunan landed on the ground. She looked round, only seeing a dark, damp cave. She was scared, but as she got up, she yelped, "Ouch!" She looked at her foot. It had a wooden sliver in her skin. She thought about her lost sandal. Carefully, Hunah yanked it out, and then cried out tears of pain. She ripped off a part of her shirt, and then wrapped it tightly around her foot as blood spurted.

She limped about, her face wet. Water dripped from all around. The old professor was there, too. He said, "Hello." Scared, Hunah muttered, "Hello." The professor motioned for her to come over. He showed her a supply of water. He then said, "I have been stuck down here for three years now. That—that *thing* above is fake. I don't know how you got here. But, looking at you, you must've come from somewhere. Maybe Australia? No... you're Chinese!"

Hunan explained, "I time travelled when I got stuck in an earthquake, sir." He looked fascinated.

"I must look to the future. Come with me, dear child."

Hunan said, baffled, "I can't! What if we mess up and die?"

The old professor put his hand on Hunan's shoulder and said, "Nothing is worth more than trying. Remember that, child."

Trembling, Hunan nodded and followed the professor deeper into the cave. Hunan was confused and terrified, but she followed reluctantly. She picked at the stones, which were loose and damp.

"This old thing is a great machine. Try it, pull that lever for me, child!" he snapped.

Hunan quickly pulled the lever on her left. The machine whirred and jolted as it glowered bright blue and jade. Hunan screamed and screamed, she heard the old professor. Dark spirits began spiraling all around her body. The professor seemed to become nothing but ash and dust, his skull still chattering. Long, ghastly wind blew across Hunan's eyes, brimming with tears. As the wind got stronger, her fingers were no longer able to grip the jagged stones of the cave.

"Hunan? *Hunan!*"

She heard eerie voices calling her name as she whirled around in the wind, feeling like she was on a massive roller coaster twirling up and down. Her hair blew into her eyes, still streaming, and she gave a last, short, sharp scream that fell out of her throat. She was sucked into the whirlpool, and she landed with a flump somewhere.

"Hunan?"

Hunan looked up.

"You're having a nightmare, dear Hunan."

# Fossil Hunting in China

*ESF Kennedy School, Wang, Cyrus – 10*

Daniel and George have been close friends since their University. They are both 23 years old but have different jobs: Daniel works for fossil hunting and George is a historian. They like to explore different places during their free time.

Last Sunday, they decided to meet at a magical cave next to Daniel's house. As Daniel and George woke up in the early morning, the adventure began. As they walked into the cave, a dinosaur came and began to attack them. Daniel was very familiar with this situation. Just need to take a bone to throw far away for the dinosaur to fetch. They quickly walked deep into the cave.

"You're lucky today because we are going back to the Cretaceous era. This cave is a time machine that connects history and now. We will see Megalosaurus, that's the biggest dinosaur that humans know." Daniel talked to George excitedly. George looked at Daniel with a surprised look and said, "I thought we were just going for a walk. Am I going to die?" Daniel laughed and said proudly "Don't worry, I have been there many times. I will protect you." "Let's get through this door to transport into the past!" Daniel pointed to a shiny door that connected to Ancient China.

They entered the door and we were in the Cretaceous. "We need to use the dinocompass to search for the megalosaurus," said Daniel. "Stay down, I just saw something a little bit weird!" "What kind of dinosaurs is it?" Daniel murmured. They walked through the branches and saw a gigantic dinosaur eating the megalosaurus. "Wow, I haven't seen this before! I need to record this moment down!" said George. George took out a camera and started recording. "Oh, no, I forgot to turn off the camera lights." The dinosaur saw us. "Run!" Daniel screamed. "Let's go back to the time transport door. We need to leave here as soon as possible." They entered the door just in time before being caught by the dinosaur. "That was too close for comfort." They looked at each other and laughed.

"I want to go back and see what happened to the megalosaurus and the mysterious gigantic massive dinosaur," George said. "Ok. Let's go to the next era – Tertiary period to see what happened".

"Jesus Christ! What happens? I thought the Tertiary period was supposed to be very calm." exclaimed George. "George chill, can't you see we are in the middle of two giants fighting." murmured Daniel "Shhh...You will die if you keep on shouting." As the boys secretly ran through the fight between two giants they went to another place where you could see those Velociraptors running through the mountain. A few minutes later they heard pieces of big stomping noises. "The Velociraptors are here!" Daniel whispered to George. As the Velociraptors ran through, the stone on the mountain peak began to fall. "Run!" George screamed to the Velociraptors "George! They don't even know human's words, what do you expect?" Daniel dragged George's shirt, started running, and shouted.

The main character always survives. They are now in the middle of nowhere, the cold beating them up. "Daniel, I hate you." George breathed hard and laughed. "That's what I do everyday life." Daniel lay down on the floor staring at the blue sky. "Can we go back to our period and play with the fossils because I've had enough." George talked like a baby when he said these words. "Fine." Daniel took out a remote control and opened a door that could take them back to where they belonged. "Wanna go or not?"

As the door was closed a new story began.

## Chapter two fossil hunting.

After returning to the current era, the boys arrived at the place in China Sichuan (四川) where they saw the dinosaurs fighting in Ancient times. They started digging around. “Look what I’ve found!” George shouted at Daniel. “Chill, don’t take it out, it can be cracked easily if you just take it out without protection. Let me see.” Daniel happily said. They applied a protection cream that could melt into the bone's body and freeze inside to make the bone structure stable. If you wash it with water, the cream will be cleaned off leaving nothing in the bone. “Three, two, one, lift!” Daniel shouted out to George while lifting the fossil. “So far, the company is gonna pay me millions of US dollars for it. That looks like the tooth of a Megalosaur which we’ve been finding for years, I can’t believe it. Let’s keep searching. Three should be more nearby!” Daniel whispered to George.

Daniel carefully dug a white piece in the mud next to George’s discovery. He was using a professional tool that would clean the mud and spread the cream for protection automatically. It increased the efficiency of digging. Another big tooth was out. They were very excited and called for help from Daniel’s colleagues. People arrived at the fossil hunting place soon. They all freaked out like a cow crashing into something. “I got it” “I got it also” Many people have discovered different parts of the dinosaur. “WOW, there are so many fossils down there, it’s a male megalosaurus.

After several months of hard work, the pieces of the dinosaur were constructed together to restore the original look. It is displayed in a big history museum and attracts many visitors from all over the world to appreciate the historical wonders.

The adventure story of Daniel and George continues.

# Every Paleontologist's Dream

*ESF Kennedy School, Wong, Alvis – 10*

Ring! Ring! Raymond woke up. He was a palaeontologist who lived by himself in the countryside in Liaoning province, where he hunted every day. He was poor, and only started hunting for fossils because he had always been very poor. He hoped that one day, he would find dinosaur fossils that were worth millions of dollars. He woke up as quickly as he could, then went to change into his only pair of beige shorts, with dirt all over them, along with his beige shirt. He got his tools for hunting, and before you knew it, he was out of the door.

It was winter, the best season for fossil hunting. He searched for the whole day, hoping that he would get fossils that were worth tons of money. He finally found a fossil bone, but it was a triceratop, and an isolated skull from it, which was the most common dinosaur fossil bone. He sighed. He had no luck for two months and was expecting some luck after two months of not finding fossils that were only worth a few hundred. He picked some berries first, then went home to eat his meat and berries. “Mmm!” He mumbled out with berries in his mouth. He took another big bite of his yummy and tasty chicken meat before it got cold.

At night, he dreamt that he was hunting for a rare fossil, Spinosaurus, and he found the cleanest fossil, with most of the bones still there. He dug and dug, and did he finally get the fossil? Well, he fell asleep before he even found out.

Ring! The alarm clock went as usual as Raymond woke up. “Ugh, I hope this is gonna be a good day.” Raymond thought. He couldn’t even afford breakfast or lunch and could only afford a good meal at night. He had no luck in finding fossils on that day as usual. He came home full of sweat and poured a bucket over him as a shower. He took the very last bits of his chicken and ate some blackberries. He ate slowly, thinking about how he could find some really rare fossils. He was just hoping for survival now. Did he have to give up his dream in palaeontology, and do something else? He questioned himself a couple of times.

For the next few days, you were right. He had no luck. Until one day, when he prayed hard at night, he finally got his dream...

In the morning, he ate nothing. He got his tools, and before you knew it, he was off. When he got into the place perfect for hunting, he found a spinosaurus complete whole toe finger sticking out. He quickly ran to see what was in it, and it was authentic! “Oh my god!” Raymond screamed. “ Oh my god!!” He screamed once again. He couldn’t believe his eyes. It was very rare. It was worth more than 365 thousand Chinese yuan! He took it back to his home and examined it carefully. After that day, he decided that he was gonna go to the city to sell it as fast as he could.

The next morning, he drove his very old and rusty truck to the city, placing his fossil in his lap, making sure that it wouldn’t be lost. It was a 2-hour drive to the famous Fossil trading centre, where everybody living in Liaoning trades fossils for money. Palaeontology was a very popular job in Liaoning. When he got there, he parked his rusty Honda truck and then ran off to the trading centre. Ring! The doorbell rang as Raymond stepped into the shop. He asked the receptionist where the trading manager was, then he approached the trading manager. “ Follow me,” the manager said. He took Raymond to a room full of examining tools, to see if the fossil was real. Raymond looked at all the steps the manager did to examine it, and the manager kept on mumbling “ Huh.” as he examined it.

At last, the manager had a shocked face. “ Wow, I have been a trading manager for years, but I have never seen this. Wait here for a second.” The manager burst out of the room, with the fossil in his hands. He was as quick as

lightning, and by the time Raymond realised what had just happened, the manager (or the thief) was already very far away. Luckily, when Raymond was young, he was his year's best and quickest runner. He has won many awards. So, in this case, that was very useful. He caught up with the thief in no time and then called the police. "Sure, we will be there in no time." The police department assured him. They were right; the police came in no time. Raymond stayed there the whole time, looking at the scene. As the thief (or the manager) went into the police car, he said these last words "I will get revenge on you!". Just when Raymond was about to get in his car and drive back to his home for a 2-hour journey, he realised that he still hadn't done the main thing he wanted to do. To trade the fossil for money! He scrolled through his phone, looking for other fossil trading centres with great trading offers for it. He didn't want to go to the famous trading centre he had just gone to, since the crime had happened there. There was only one more great trading centre near the place he is right now, so he walked there and got it examined carefully. As usual, the manager and the examiner were very surprised. Finally, after 2 whole hours of examining, they agreed on a final price: 370 thousand yuan for the spinosaurus complete whole toe finger. After 2 long and tiring months, Raymond got the money he had been hoping for and waiting for ages in his bank account. He was now more wealthy and lived a better life.

# The Lost Jurassic

*ESF Kennedy School, Yang, Mia – 10*

## Part 1: The Jurassic

Jade, David, Lisa and Daniel were all friends, they are also in the same class. They were having a boring math class as usual, Lisa sighed as she lay on the table and totally not concentrating.

“Ms. Lisa, what are you doing?” Their teacher yelled at the top of his lungs, “Do your work!” After the teacher left to go to the bathroom, something mystical happened, a time machine appeared! The friends went in curiously to take a look but they time travelled to the past. They were spinning really fast until everyone was dizzy. They finally arrived at a really dry landscape.

They saw a dinosaur in the distance. It was the Jurassic period! They had travelled through time. The time machine disappeared, they had travelled to Jiangxi, China and now they were stuck in the Jurassic Period.

They didn’t know what to do so they sat down and made a plan, “Oh dear! We can’t do anything, we will starve to death!” David exclaimed.

“Shut up or I’ll have to stick a cactus in your mouth!” Jade warned.

“Well, that’s the only thing there is here,” Daniel replied.

“Well let’s all think about going home!” Lisa ordered.

“Let’s just survive and try to time travel back, but David, your job is to listen to us and do not do anything like touching an animal cuz it might screw up the time!”

They walked through bushes, swamps, and dry landscapes until it was night, they used simple materials to make a lean-to on a cave. Daniel made a fire while David stayed in the lean-to. Lisa and Jade went to explore the cave. The cave was pitch black as the girls wandered through the deep dark, but suddenly Lisa found a round object.

“I found something,” Lisa whispered, “It feels like a dragon egg.”

“Let’s continue exploring first and keep the egg.” Jade commanded.

After a few hours, the girls finished exploring and went back to their base,

“We found a dinosaur egg,” Lisa explained. The egg was a pale blue-green colour that looked exactly like the blue river near their lean-to. Lisa set it in their base and headed to get some water. They boiled the water in a bowl made from thick, dry leaves that Daniel made and made a fishing pole out of sticks and strong sturdy leaves. It was not good, but they could always up-grade the next day.

Jade and Daniel went fishing while Lisa and David found some edible herbs, sticks and bamboo to make a pot, they used sturdy leaves to tie the sticks together to make a place to put the bamboo, and they put the herbs in the bamboo and waited for the fish to arrive. Meanwhile, the others faced a different problem, other dinosaurs started roaming for food when they only had one fish. Daniel went in the water and caught two fish with his hands. They quickly rushed back to base. “We should leave the fire so the dinosaurs won’t come near us,” David suggested. *{For once he is being smart and not thinking of dumb ideas,}* Jade thought.

## Part 2: The frozen time

When everybody woke up, the fire was out and dinosaurs were roaming around, the egg had hatched and a baby Sinosauropteryx was curled on Lisa’s lap, “I think he likes me,” Lisa said, “He is so cute!” Another weird thing happened, David was missing!

Suddenly, the time froze and nobody could move. Jade started freaking out. { *This is so annoying, when are we gonna get out of here? It was probably David, where is he? I feel so dizzy and weird, how are we gonna go home? We need a plan, I can't stand it anymore! Okay Jade, calm down, calm down, I can't move, that means no escaping, we might be affecting the world from our time!* } After a long time, everything was back to normal, but they still couldn't find David, after a while, Jade found him in their lean-to, so they were back together. They noticed that the Sinosauropteryx had grown a bit, they were desperate to go home so they spent the rest of the day finding the time machine.

The gang spent day and night looking for the time machine, they even forgot hunger! They couldn't find it so they had to risk it and search the cave again. This time, the whole group went, they came across a sleeping dinosaur in the cave, so they decided to go back and search somewhere else. The friends were about to give up but they met a wolf that lived in the Jurassic. Jade named it Winter. Finally, they found the time machine! They could go home!

### Part 3: Home sweet home

The next day, Jade sat on the couch chilling with Winter, they were having a great time watching movies. They were both glad to be back and Jade has heard that Lisa was grounded for a week! { *That was a pretty fun adventure, at least we didn't get stuck in time forever! Also I got a new pet. I'm excited for the next adventure but hopefully next time David doesn't screw up the whole thing and get us in real trouble!* } Lisa reflected. After a week, Lisa came back and they had their playdates as normal and could spend time with the gang together. Their parents scolded them but that won't stop them from going on another exciting adventure. The friends really want a new adventure soon!

# The Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*ESF Kennedy School, Yeung, Arielle – 9*

Once in Liaoning Province, China, villagers spoke of a fearsome Sinosauropteryx. Marked by red and brown colors and a tail with dark and light bands. They were curious whether it was a dinosaur or a giant bird. This creature lived in the Hideous Cave, surrounded by shimmering crystals, and possessed a Crystal of Heart believed to control the province. Despite warnings from Dr. Shorty Pants that the Sinosauropteryx would devour anyone who approached, curious siblings Mei and Johnny planned adventures to the cave, eager to discover the truth about the mysterious creature.

One sunny morning, Mei's adventurous spirit sparked a desire to find the Sinosauropteryx's lair. Hoping to discover hidden treasures and theropods that could reveal the evolutionary secrets between dinosaurs and birds, she set off.

Mei's eyes sparkled with excitement as she turned to Johnny. "Let's venture into the Sinosauropteryx's domain and uncover the mysteries within!" she suggested, her voice filled with anticipation and curiosity.

Johnny's eyes gleamed as he flung back, "I can't wait to set off on this thrilling adventure!"

With Johnny by her side, they embarked on a daring expedition to explore the legendary creature and the ancient secrets of the Hideous Cave. They quietly packed their gear and slipped out the back door of their home. They needed to pass a mythical forest in order to get to the Hideous cave. Mei looked up at the towering trees, their branches reaching for the sky.

"Why are there so many giant trees here?" she pondered. "It's tricky to navigate, one could easily bump into one!"

Johnny pointed to the lush canopy and said, "These leaves sustain creatures like the Brontosaurus and many others," highlighting the important role of the foliage in the ecosystem.

As they journeyed towards the Hideous Cave, a hidden laboratory revealed in front of Mei and Johnny, where a malevolent scientist, known as Dr. Shorty Pants, conducted his secretive experiments.

Mei and Johnny sneaked into the laboratory, hidden in a storage room, and overheard Dr. Shorty Pants greedily discussing his obsession with the Crystal of Heart in the cave. In the dim light, they spotted vials and bubbling mixtures, including a toxic stew he planned for the Sinosauropteryx.

Realizing his wicked intentions, Mei and Johnny decided to act. They quickly disposed of the toxic stew and created their own "Gi-gi-gigantic" stew, inspired by Johnny's witch friend. They worked on their recipe while Dr. Shorty Pants remained unaware at home.

After accomplishing their plan, Mei and Johnny distanced themselves from the laboratory and stumbled upon a dilapidated house nearby. They decided to spend the night there, intending to keep an eye on Dr. Shorty Pants' movements.

The next morning, he excitedly returned to the lab, grabbed the vial of toxic stew, and headed toward the Hideous Cave. Mei and Johnny watched as he cautiously made his way through the undergrowth, clutching the vial tightly.

Mei and Johnny exchanged glances and silently followed Dr. Shorty Pants, their footsteps light and alert to any sounds that might reveal their presence.

Finally, they reached the cave, its dark entrance looming before them. Dr. Shorty Pants hesitated briefly before stepping inside. Cautiously, Mei and Johnny entered the cave and saw him quietly mixing the toxic brew into a bowl of corn soup. He then offered it to the Sinosauropteryx, saying coaxingly, "Here is a special and delicious soup for you, Sinosauropteryx."

The Sinosauropteryx eagerly gulped down the concoction, the sound echoing through the cave—GLUG... GLUG... GLUG... It grew bigger and stronger until it became enormous!

"AHHHH~~~ What?! Why didn't it work? It was supposed to shrink to the size of an ant, not become gigantic!" Dr. Shorty Pants exclaimed in disbelief, his frustration reverberating through the chamber.

Defeated once again, he lamented, "Uhh~~~ ...why do I always end up with nothing?"

Meanwhile, the mayor led the villagers to the Hideous Cave, accompanied by Mei and Johnny's distraught parents, who cried out for their missing children. A collective gasp arose when the massive Sinosauropteryx appeared, prompting screams of fear and shock.

Mei and Johnny rushed to their parents amid the shocked crowd and embraced them. "We're so sorry for leaving without a word and causing you so much worry," they apologized.

The now towering Sinosauropteryx spoke boldly, "This is because you, Dr. Shorty Pants, only seek power for yourself and disregard others' feelings. Without the Crystal of Heart in the Hideous Cave, all of Liaoning Province will face big trouble. True power comes from compassion, not control." As the words echoed through the cave, the Sinosauropteryx transformed back to its original size.

In the midst of this revelation, Mei let out a jubilant squeal, "Yay! Once again, our mission is fulfilled!"

Johnny chimed in, "Assisting the Sinosauropteryx in safeguarding the Crystal of Heart has been truly exciting!"

Finally, Dr. Shorty Pants realized that his inappropriate actions had left him unloved and alone. He deeply regretted trying to forcefully extract energy from the Crystal of Heart to enhance his abilities, fully aware of the potential consequences.

Bowing his head, he said, "I deeply regret my harmful actions. I'm not asking for forgiveness out of entitlement, but from a genuine desire to make amends and earn back your trust, if you'll give me that chance." Dr. Shorty Pants sincerely apologized to the villagers.

The Mayor of Liaoning Province suggested that Dr. Shorty Pants participate in community service and projects to benefit the village, demonstrating his commitment to reform. Aware of his past, the villagers agreed to the mayor's proposal and gave Dr. Shorty Pants a chance to make amends.

The mayor announced a new tradition: 'Sinosauropteryx Day' would be celebrated every first week of the month, where villagers could offer delicious food to the Hideous Cave in honor of their guardian, the Sinosauropteryx. The Sinosauropteryx became a beloved hero of Liaoning Province for always protecting the precious Crystal of Heart, ensuring environmental harmony and peace for the villagers.

# China Dinosaur

*ESF Kennedy School, Zhu, Daniel – 10*

Do you still think that China doesn't have dinosaurs? Do you still feel all the dinosaurs have already been discovered? The answer is no! *Today, I'm going to talk about Chinese dinosaurs.*

'Caudipteryx'. It is a dinosaur like a bird. This bird-like dinosaur lived after *Archaeopteryx*. It had a fan of feathers at the end of its tail.

*Caudipteryx* has been found with gizzard stones (small stones swallowed by the dinosaur, perhaps to help digest food) and had small, weak teeth. It ate insects and plants as well. The species of the dinosaur is called *zoui*, *zoui* was a dinosaur that lived about 125 million years ago and mostly ate plants. It was covered in short downy feathers and had longer feathers on its arms and tail. But when was it discovered? Well, the dinosaur was discovered In 2000, Zhong-He Zhou and colleagues described two additional specimens of *Caudipteryx*, BPM 0001 and IVPP V 12430, referred to as *C. zoui* and *C. sp.* respectively. Both individuals preserve nearly complete skulls and have feather impressions. Further analyses of IVPP V 12430 revealed propatagium preservation on its left arm.

In 2021 Xiaoting Zheng and team described STM4-3 as representing an articulated individual lacking the skull and tail tip, including abundant integument, and gastroliths, but also a cartilage fragment that was reported to preserve chondrocyte. The specimen was collected from outcrops of the Yixian Formation at Dapingfang Town near Chaoyang City, west Liaoning. The

*Mamenchisaurus*. *Mamenchisaurus* is the biggest dinosaur that has been discovered, is a genus of sauropod dinosaurs known for their remarkably long necks which make up nearly half the total body length. Numerous species have been assigned to the genus; however, the validity of these assignments has been questioned. Fossils have been found in the Sichuan basins and Yunnan Province In China. Several species from the Upper Shaximiao Formation, whose geologic age is uncertain, have been described. However, evidence suggests this formation to be no earlier than the Oxfordian stage of the late Jurassic. *M. sinocanadorum* dates to the Oxfordian stage (158.7 to 161.2), and *AManvensis* to the Aptian stage of the early Cretaceous (around 114.4). Most species were medium-large to large sauropods, measuring roughly 15 to 26 meters (49 to 85 ft) in length—possibly up to 35 meters (115 feet), based on two undescribed vertebrae.

*Gasosaurus*, it is a tetanuran that lived approximately around 171.6 to 161.2 million years ago Only one species is currently recognized it is the *G. constructus*, which is the specific name honors the gasoline company that found the Dashanpu fossil quarry in Sichuan Province, China now named as the lower shaximiao during the middle of the Jurassic period. *Gasosaurus* lived during the mid-Jurassic period (Bathonian and/ or Callovian stages), around 164 million years ago. Two other dinosaurs were found in the lower shaximiao formation. These three taxa pertain to medium to large-bodied theropods and are known from associated postcranial skeletons. China boasts the highest diversity of Middle Jurassic theropods of all body sizes from anywhere in the world. Most Middle Jurassic theropods from China are 'medium-sized', as are the majority of Middle Jurassic thrips globally.

These similar dinosaurs show an intriguing combination of derived tetanuran synapomorphies and primitive features shared with non-tetanurans, which suggest they occupy a basal position within Tetanurae. Understanding the anatomy of Chinese Jurassic taxa may reveal further details of primitive tetanuran anatomy and help resolve the early evolution of this successful theropod clade. Future exploration of the Chinese Middle Jurassic theropod record may bring new insights into the diversification of Tetanurae, the origin of larger body sizes among more derived

theropods, and Middle Jurassic paleobiogeography. *Gasosaurus* is a carnivorous theropod with strong legs but short arms. It measured between 3.5 to 4 meters (11 to 13 ft) in length, with a weight of around 150 kilograms (330 lb). However, some estimates put its weight as high as 400 kilograms (880 lb), as very little is known about it.

Many potentially informative features of the holotype skeleton are difficult to assess based on published descriptions and images. The taxon represents a tetanuran based on the presence of a pubic peduncle of the ilium that is substantially larger than the ischial peduncle. Examination of casts reveals that the lesser trochanter does not rise above the level of the femoral head, instead, the proximal portion of the femoral head is broken and the lesser trochanter reaches an approximately mid level as in non-coelurosaurian tetanurans.

Furthermore, it is recognized by amphiplatyan cervical centra with incipient weak ventral keel, dorsals with amphiplatyan centra, low neural arches and plate-like neural spines, dorsal neural spines lacking expanded bulks at tips, five sacral centra and arches firmly fused while neural spines not fused, presence of a humeral foramen, low ilium with a less developed anterior process, and distal ends of pubis and ischium expanded but lacking foot-like processes.

The last one I'm going to talk about is *Bactrosaurus*, Bactrosaurus is a hadrosaur from the upper Cretaceous about 70 million years ago. This vegetarian dinosaur was found in the Gobi desert of China. It was about 6 meters (20 feet) long and 2 meters (6.6 feet) high when standing on all fours. It weighed 1.1 to 1.5 tonnes (2,400 to 3,300 pounds).

Research showed that this genus and its near relatives were unusually prone to cancer. Among more than 10,000 specimens x-ray, tumors were only found in these Cretaceous hadrosaurs (duck-billed dinosaurs). The reason for this is not known.

To conclude, now you know China does have lots of dinosaurs and their habitat and stuff like that, they're all different from the other countries. But remember there are always more and more dinosaurs to explore!

# The Twins' Adventure

*ESF Kowloon Junior School, Chow, Johnny – 9*

The Headline “Sinosauropteryx Bones Been Found” was blasting out on every news channel in New York City. Jack and Jimmy spent relentless hours reading the newspapers to scoop out every single detail about this ancient creature. They were fascinated with dinosaurs. After reading so much information on the new discovery, they asked their mum many questions to get detailed insight. For example: “Are you sure it is not some overgrown ostrich?” referring to the fake news last year. Coincidentally, instead of answering the twin’s intelligent questions, their mother surprised them with three first-class tickets booked to Chengdu in China. The boys could not control their excitement and started doing their famous dinosaur dance routine to celebrate.

After 9 hours in bed, the twins woke up to the exciting thought of seeing dinosaur fossils in person. The hour had come; the twins were going to China to see these Fossils. Following a stop in the HK airport and around 20 hours in the sky, they finally arrived at Chengdu! After checking in at the 5-star hotel, they took a 2-hour drive to the Zigong Dinosaur Museum.

The twins quickly scampered around the museum to discover its surprises. Without wasting any extra minutes, they queued up for the Sinosauropteryx exhibition and after two hours, they finally got inside the museum.

In a jiffy, they took out their cameras and input the correct settings for the perfect pictures. Suddenly, there was a loud siren sound screaming through the air. People started running around like mindless chickens. “PLEASE EVACUATE THE MUSEUM IMMEDIATELY; AN ACCIDENT HAS HAPPENED AT THE NEW FOSSIL STATION”. Jack and Jimmy felt lost but had to follow everyone to evacuate.

Disappointed, the twins asked their mum for the details about the evacuation. Their mum angrily expressed how a tourist tried to take a selfie with the big but fragile fossil by holding it in his hand despite the strict warning and broke it into a worthless pile of sand. Jimmy sorrowfully asked, “What’s happening now?” Their mum shouted frustratedly, “It means we have to go back home!!”

The boys felt a massive explosion in their heart with heartbrokenness. And from that moment, they thought that it should only be open to passionate dinosaur lovers that truly are fans of dinosaurs and can show respect towards fossils and not those IG posters just taking selfies all the time.

The next day, the family packed up their bags, and every minute just felt so much longer. The twins’ mum did not want her children to have disappointing and sad memories of this trip, so she suggested they go for a nice picnic at the fields nearby. After enjoying authentic Chinese buns, the twins played hide and seek. Suddenly, they heard a roar from the rocky ground, but it didn’t sound like a lion! So, the twins became quite curious about the noise, but again, out of nowhere, they heard another roar. So they started looking around to see where it was coming from. The next moment, Jack found an enormous hole in the ground! And without any extra minute, he hopped down the hole...

Then Jimmy heard a faint shout calling “Jimmy”, and quickly he went towards the direction the shout was coming from, but then he found a big hole. Suddenly, he heard a booming shout, “JIMMY!” Jimmy confidently jumped down the big hole and landed on the ground with a rough “thud”. He saw Jack playing with dinosaurs, and as soon as he looked at Jimmy, he fell to the stony ground with another “thud”; and soon enough Jack had found out he fainted from what mind-blowing thing he had just witnessed. But luckily, he rose back up in a few minutes and

shouted at Jack almost as he was lecturing him “WHAT WERE YOU DOING BACK JUST THEN?”, asked Jimmy. “Ummm....so long story short....”, Jimmy explained that dinosaurs have not gone extinct!! These dinosaurs were unique. They were not the kinds of dinosaurs from the National Geographic books you read about every day. These dinosaurs are species that are hidden from all humanity. The twins were thrilled about this discovery of the new species, but they wanted to learn more. So, Jack threw a large stone at it with all his might! But then the impossible happened. The dinosaur chewed up the rocky stone. After witnessing this unimaginable encounter, the twins were shocked because they found out these dinosaurs were **STONE EATERS**, which is why they could survive for that long! A cave is generally made from rocks and stones, so it is technically an all-you-can-eat buffet for these mesmerizing creatures. Altogether, there were seven dinosaurs in this cave. The two twins kept exploring and found out that there were tens and maybe even hundreds or thousands of dinosaurs lurking at every corner inside the cave, small or big, tall or short, they still were dinosaurs.

So, they thought about the facts and possibilities; and coincidently, both got the same idea: The Dinosaurs would eat the rocks and stones until the cave was destroyed. Jack estimated it would take 2 centuries, 8 decades, 55 years, 33 weeks, 4 days, 10 hours, 41 minutes and 42 seconds, which meant they would not be discovered any time soon. Suddenly, there was a “Beep Bop”, and it was from their mum: a message which read “Boys, the GPS shows you are exactly 10 minutes away from me, but I can’t seem to track you anywhere; reply soon that you are safe, or I will have to call the search party.” The twins panicked and rushed back to the entrance they came from. So, they both ran out of the cave, leaving the secret world of dinosaurs behind them and in a dilemma instead: Should they inform their mother about this hidden world of dinosaurs, which will eventually get handed to the infamous IG posters or let the dinosaurs live in peace.

# I Found a New Dinosaur

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Chang, Gladys – 8*

When I was 7 years old, I went to a park in China. I was playing hide and seek with my friends and family when suddenly one of us saw something that wasn't supposed to be there. We saw something that looked like a crystal in a rock. So we took a closer look. Inside the rock was a small living dinosaur! Next to the dinosaur we saw strawberry bush.

We found out that the dinosaur liked strawberries because it went to pick some strawberries from the bush and absolutely demolished them by eating them! We decided to name the dinosaur 'Therasaurus' as it is a new species. The dinosaur had stubby legs and a feathered tail. Its arms had colourful feathers too.

After that the dinosaur signalled us to follow it. We climbed over a mountain and crossed a river. On top of a little hill we reached a cave. There we met the dinosaur's family.

Suddenly, the dinosaurs started talking to us. Wow! It surprised us so much because no other dinosaur could ever talk. The dinosaur said to us "hi, how are you?" They told us they would show us a secret place where the rest of the dinosaurs were living. Wow! We were so excited so we couldn't stop jumping and shouting. I immediately did a funky chicken dance.

Then the dinosaur family led us to the secret place under the ocean. Fortunately, we all knew how to swim. We need to use a password to enter the secret place.

When we got in, we realized that dinosaurs were not really extinct but they were just hiding away from humans. In that secret place we saw lots of dinosaurs like T-Rex, triceratops, archaeopteryx, microraptor, dracorex gigantoraptor and many more. After that, the dinosaurs introduced themselves to us. I told them about my funky chicken dance and then we all did the funky chicken dance together. Then we all ate a lot of cakes until our tummies were as round as the full moon.

Before we say goodbye, the dinosaurs reminded us not to tell anyone about them. We swam and walked all the way back to our houses. I decided to travel again to China in my next vacation and visit the dinosaurs in that secretive place.

# A Mythical Truth

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Chang, Hai Yin Hailei – 9*

"And we are starting live in 3...2...1. Welcome to BBC news. Today, we have Dr. Zhang, who is a paleontologist, in the studio with us. The talk of the town is about how he and his team found a Sinosauropteryx in Liaoning," said the news reporter. "Now, Dr. Zhang, please tell us how you found the "China dragon bird." In a black suit with a red tie he replied, "So, as I heard that a farmer found one in 1990's, I immediately had to go see it for myself." Dr. Zhang took off his glasses and wiped the lenses clean before continuing, "But little did we know, we were about to discover a new revelation that would change our lives..."

The farmland was dry, barren and flat, it had dead roots and little pebbles scattered across the plain. As silent as a graveyard, the surface looked like it was the perfect place to find more fossils. After they arrived, they set up their campsite and started digging into the sedimentary rock. Not long later, they found a similar Sinosauropteryx fossil. One of the team members had struck something white and solid and when he looked down, he saw the head of the Sinosauropteryx. Immediately, he informed the boss. Dr. Zhang instructed them to mark a perimeter around the ancient rock. Breaking up the earth until the sun hid behind the mountains, the team then took a break for their dinner. Dr. Zhang stared disgustingly at his food while swooshing it around, "Eugh! This is not a proper meal... baked beans and stale bread," he muttered. After they finished eating, they dug deeper and wider until the whole fossil could be seen. While admiring the China dragon bird, one of the workers saw something in the reflection of the moonlight. He quickly informed the boss of the unusual object. With curiosity, Dr. Zhang's blue heterochromia eye lit up while the shadows of the night hid his darker brown eye.

Dr. Zhang used a monocular magnifier to inspect the object. "It's a golden ring," he announced simply. He thought to himself 'Oh my god! What could this mean? What could this represent?' while the team was freaking out. "Silence!" he yelled furiously, "Let me think." Exhausted and filthy, Dr. Zhang's team dug even further into the surrounding layers of dirt all night to expand the search around the rare find. Alongside the golden ring there were diamond earrings, a necklace and... human bones.

Back at the studio, Dr. Zhang explained to the news reporter, "So as you know we found a Sinosauropteryx, but there was something else. We are proud to announce that we have found some new, phenomenal evidence." Pausing with a deep breath, he fondly recalled "When I was a young boy my grandma used to tell me stories of men and dinosaurs roaming the earth in peace," he said as he took a trip down memory lane. "Well, this is all true," Dr. Zhang elaborated. "So, one person took care of this ancient creature and he used to put jewellery on it. They seem to have been buried together. We have reason to believe that just like the Egyptians and their cats, these people from ancient China had a relationship with the China dragon bird. The people considered these animals as symbols for power, wealth and good luck."

The people watching live were amazed and shocked. Now, they were starting to realise that's why there is a dragon zodiac sign. All the myths and stories about the past may have had some truth. It seemed now that everything was starting to piece together and starting to make sense. The origin of it all was the Sinosauropteryx.

# Four Peaks

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Hung, Hai Yan Stella – 9*

In the early 1900s in China, a rice farmer lived in a dried up valley where rivers once flowed. Huang had become increasingly pessimistic over the years. His skin was chapped and dry from hours of labor in the harsh scorching sun. He stared out at the dead crops which whispered death and sorrow. For a moment, his bushy eyebrows fell to the floor as he thought about his people who had been suffering from the drought. He clenched his fists and picked up a shovel. “I will find water,” he said with conviction.

After weeks of digging and searching for spring water, Huang was slowly losing hope. Below the riverbeds he found no sign of moisture. ‘What’s going on here?’ Huang thought to himself. ‘This land is cursed!’ He fell down in despair, and had given up. Lying in the dirt, he looked up to the sky in hope of answers. Like a sign, he heard someone cry out “Aaah!!” in the distance. He instantly recognised his son’s voice. In the blink of an eye, Huang got to his feet and raced over.

“Baba, my ball went down there!” the young boy sobbed while pointing at a rabbit hole. Huang gritted his teeth as he sternly warned his son.

“Bao Bao, find Ma Ma and I’ll get your ball, next time don’t come near here, the mountains are dangerous.” With a nod, his son dashed back home. Huang sighed.

Peering into the dark soulless void, he took a deep breath and crawled into the unknown. Loose gravel and stones tumbled down. It didn’t take him long to realise he could use the box of matches that sat in his front pocket. With a flick of his wrist, the cave sparked golden and came to life. He ran his fingertips along the walls before rubbing and observing the powdery texture between them. Wandering around the gloomy, peculiar opening, he spotted the innocent leather ball out the corner of his eye. As he approached it, chills ran up his spine. The earth started to rumble. Ba bump. Ba bump. Ba bump. Naturally looking below his feet, the matchstick’s glow revealed there were bones infused in the rock. “A fossil?” he muttered under his breath with a dropped jaw. In a heartbeat, he raced out to find a tool-box. Huang pulled out a rusted shovel and some coarse sandpaper. After hours of digging and rubbing, an angelic creature had been revealed.

Four decades before, Huang recalled his grandmother telling him the tales of the dragons that once roamed the lands before they got banished by the Jade Emperor. “Looong snakelike bodies, GIANT teeth, beady eyes, wissspy whiskers,” grandma had gestured in dramatic facial expressions and stretched out arms. Huang smiled and felt a rush of warmth at the fond memory.

Snapping back to reality, Huang was certain he was looking at the one and only Pearl Dragon. He didn’t move a muscle, paralysed with disbelief and wonder. Water began to rush out of the nearest riverbed. Splashes and trickles were like music to his ears. He scratched his chin. When he saw three more mountains on the horizon, he connected the dots ‘Hmm... Maybe the myth is true...’ he thought deeply. Days passed as Huang hiked and trekked into the different lands. One by one, he dug up the remaining fossils underneath each peak. The Pearl, Long, Yellow, and Black dragons were all reunited. All the rivers flowed back again as children splashed excitedly around the water. Parents scooped as much of it as they could. Looking up, Huang noticed...

Scarlet red, ocean blue, forest green, sunflower yellow, midnight black, and snowy white. The four dragons had ascended up into the sky. Swirling and dancing, the majestic beasts celebrated their long awaited release. Like fireworks, their vibrant and vivid scales lit up the heavens. Above the mountains, nimbostratus clouds formed, completely filling the blue skyline and restoring the balance between the seasons. When Huang looked up to thank the dragons, the clouds cried and sobbed tears of joy. Elated, the farmer and his people fell to their knees and cheered. The days of suffering and sorrow had been spent. Everyone was grateful for the good deed Huang had endured for his community.

In the decades that followed, everyone visited the statues built in honour of the dragons. Every day, crowds swarmed around them to pray. Tales of the event were passed on for generations with different myths and twists. Everyone was fed and their bellies were full.

“Huang is our savior!” people yelled while admiring the dragons’ sculptures. Eventually, Huang passed. Flowers flooded over his grave as people continued to show their gratitude and give thanks. Heads bowed down, incense smoke spiralled out.

# The Ornithischia's Fossil

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Meszaros, Hei Ching Maya – 9*

Her headlight went on with a quiet ‘click’. Light pierced the shadows, slicing through them like a knight’s sword.

It could have been the rocks, or it could have been the light, but she knew there was *something* hiding in the rubble. As if it cast a spell on her, Evelyn suddenly felt drawn to the mysterious presence. Reaching out to the pile of rocks, she felt something. Something...Unusual. Evelyn squinted at the pile of seemingly ordinary stones and saw a white object peeking out. A fossil! She pulled it out of the stones. Suddenly, the fossil began to vibrate! A wave of fear washed over Evelyn. It had come to life! A small bony shape stood in her hand and spoke.

“It is time the mortals know my story. The time has come!” Before she knew it, a pile of ashes blew strongly into her face, blinding Evelyn, sweeping her away to the floor, and a scene appeared in front of her.

Two growls sounded from the bushes nearby. The pterodactyls took off from the meadow. Nothing was around except the feathery Ornithischia. The Ornithischia pricked its ears as the velociraptors drew ever so close. The velociraptors— Scarface and Bonebiter — pounced on the Ornithischia. But he got away at the last second. The pair were astonished. No one had gotten away from them before. *No one!* So now, they knew exactly who their target was. They knew exactly who to take a life from. They had to take it from the small, swift Ornithischia by the name of Thunder.

Thunder dashed back to his family’s lodge, dug into a cliff face by his great—great—great—great grandfather. He burst through the ivy—covered entrance to find his mom with a bundle of leaves and herbs in her talons.

“Mom! Umm... Er...” Thunder stammered. *There are velociraptors chasing me? We’re all going to die?* His mind thought. Instead, the words coming out of his mouth were: “When’s dinner ready?”

“Oh, it’ll be—” His mother’s voice was cut off by an ear—splitting shriek. The velociraptors! Two dinosaurs with gleaming yellow eyes burst through the doorway, crashing into precious relics and shattering them to pieces. His mother’s eyes narrowed dangerously. *Scarface and Bonebiter better watch out!* Thunder thought with a smile. He knew his mother as a very ferocious fighter. She leaped onto Scarface and tried to tear out his flesh with her short and very blunt claws. Scarface let out a yowl of pain. The skinny velociraptor swung his sharp talons up to his back and swiped across his mother’s face, sending streams of blood pouring down the left side. Thunder’s mother wailed in agony. She pointed to the entrance.

“Run, Thunder! Run as fast as you can! I’ll find you at the Volcano!” His mother called desperately. Thunder ran, obeying his mother’s orders. In a hurry, he tripped, and tumbled violently down the hillside next to his home. He landed on a clump of bracken, which was thoroughly uncomfortable. Thunder’s leg was throbbing when he got up. The oaks in front of him swayed unsteadily, and Thunder finally realized that he was in the Forest of the Shaking Giants. He shivered. He had hated this forest ever since he took a look at the swaying trees. A rustling came from the bushes nearby. Thunder limped back, afraid that one of the twins had broken away to pursue him.

What came out surprised Thunder. It was an Archaeopteryx, one of the dinosaurs that lived in the Forest of the Shaking Giants! The small feathery creature shuffled towards him. Its eyes were gleaming with curiosity. Thunder smiled. By the way it held its body, he could tell it was female. Thunder decided to speak up. “Hi, I’m Thunder! I’m an Ornithischia, in case you didn’t know. What’s your name?” He said cheerfully.

“Hi Thunder, my name is Fern. And I’m an Archaeopteryx, in case you didn’t know. But you probably know.” Fern added. “Oh, your name is Fern, huh? Now I kind of want to eat you. Fern is my favorite plant to eat!” Thunder

replied, trying to make Fern laugh. She giggled a little, just as he had hoped. *I need to get to the Volcano... It'll be easier with Fern along, I guess.* He thought. "Er, I promised my mom to meet her at the Volcano. Do you want to come with me?" Thunder asked. "Sure, I'll come!" Fern responded. Together, they set off for the Volcano, heading towards the mountain of black rock looming a few miles away.

When they got to the Volcano, the sun was high in the sky. The pain in Thunder's leg was now nothing more than a bruise. The Volcano cast a shadow on and around them. "Hey, is that your mom?" Fern asked, angling her head at a navy blue shape. "*Yes!*" Thunder replied, getting excited. Suddenly, the ground started to shake. Fern and Thunder's eyes met, both showing pure terror. They both knew what was going to happen. It was a grim, horrible, dreadful thing. They were going to drown in lava, swept away by currents of searing hot liquid, burning to death. The rumbles grew louder, and Thunder fought his instinct to run towards the dense wood. It was pointless. Instead, he sprinted towards his mother.

"Thunder!" Gasp'd his mother. "You— you should not be here! Why didn't you follow your instincts like I taught you?" "It's useless, mother. This is the strongest and biggest volcano in the world." He replied, his tone as flat as he could make it. The next thing he knew, there was an ominous '*Boom!*' as lava spewed out of the Volcano. Thunder's talons stayed glued to the ground, unmoving. Waves of fiery liquid poured around his feet, making the already white-hot pain worse. Thunder let himself fall back, engulfing himself in the deadly magma. Thunder's life had ended. And now he was a fossil in young Evelyn's hand.

# Dinosaurs in Hong Kong

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Wang, Zitao Todd – 10*

Our tale begins in a jolly school nestled among the cliffs of Hong Kong's New Territories. Vast, emerald mountains embrace this school, their viridescent grass dancing gracefully in meadows where winds whisper secrets from ages long forgotten.

Nearby, laughter bounced off metal barriers as nature's fragrances mingled in the air. Alabaster concrete walls seemed to reach toward the sky above. As children leaped around in joy, adults sat in a corner, their voices echoing around the stone walls.

Unlike the others, three children sat in a corner of the school, mumbling to each other about what they had found. At first, it was a gentle conversation, but the situation soon devolved into chaos. Different opinions erupted as Elijah boldly claimed that it was a fossil. However, Lucas disagreed and suspected it to just be a rock. The anxious voice of Oliver also stated his opinion that it was a piece of wood. Finally, they agreed that they would ask the teacher the next day what they had found.

When morning arrived, they bombarded their teacher with questions. His answer—"It's a fossil"—echoed through the hallway, reaching unwanted ears: those of Preston Wellington III. He dashed immediately with such speed that his gold cuffs blurred, leaving a scintillating streak in the lustreless hallway.

Moments later, a deafening bang collided with the doors of the headmaster's office as they burst open. Immediately, an infuriated voice reverberated in Preston's ears. "How dare you!" However, his tone immediately softened into a silken tone. "Oh, it's Preston! Good to see you here, my boy! However, the mood darkened immediately as Preston told the Headmaster what had happened.

"Sir, it appears that we have a rather—ah, what was the word for it?" Preston snickered mockingly. "Oh, yes. We have a pleasant discovery: a fossil has been found." Suddenly, the Headmaster's eyes lit up with greed, a devious look igniting like a candle in his eyes. His pale, gaunt face immediately turned into an evil grin. That malevolent leer sent shivers down Preston's spine as he fled, struck by an obscure fear.

Swiftly, the news reached the trio's ears. Elijah spoke first, elaborating on his vision, making multiple points simultaneously. "Firstly, we have lawyers as witnesses—" "Wait! Does that mean we're going against Headmaster Hardcastle in court?" Oliver questioned dreadfully. However, Elijah soothed him, promising, "Calm down. If we gather some evidence against him, we'll be able to—" However, before he could continue, Lucas explained his role. "I'll do that! My grandfather was a lawyer, considering my dad doesn't need them, so I guess we can use his resources."

The tension was overwhelming, but that didn't stop them as the trio raced to the library, where they unearthed critical legal volumes from its shelves. Their investigation led them to Professor Chen, an associate of Elijah's father, who provided crucial documentation supporting their case. Ms. Zhang, their sympathetic history teacher, agreed to shield them from administrative retaliation. Armed with evidence and allies, they dashed home to inform their parents of the situation before heading to court.

The trio hesitatingly approached their parents, holding important documents. Lucas's grandfather thought for a moment before approving, saying, "At last, these dusty monographs shall serve their purpose." Elijah's parents looked

worried but supported him after seeing Professor Chen's attitude towards it. After a tense pause, Oliver's mother, an esteemed paleontologist, hugged him tightly and whispered dotingly, "Do what you think is right." Soon, all three families gathered their documents and headed to court.

The hall where the case took place was a colossal chamber, with pillars and chandeliers flanking the judge's table. The lawyers seemed to elevate the judge's status by surrounding him, making his already dignified posture even more magnificent. As both sides stated their cases, the judge listened intently, ensuring he captured each detail of this intense case. The headmaster spoke first in a respectful way, though there was a tone of confidence as his lawyers stated his rights to the fossil, due to it being under school administration. The lawyers finished triumphantly with calculated smiles while Hardcastle pulled his tie smugly. Next, the students spoke, delivering every blow to the headmaster with the force of justice. Lucas, drawing from his grandfather's legal documents, presented evidence of Hong Kong's antiquities preservation laws. Elijah followed with testimony from three geology professors who confirmed the fossil's scientific significance. Oliver, despite his earlier nervousness, delivered a passionate speech about the importance of preserving historical artifacts for future generations.

As the students finished, the judge made his decision. "Having analyzed all evidence presented," the judge began, his voice echoing through the chamber. Both sides were tense as they waited eagerly for the decision. "I find Victor Hardcastle guilty of attempted theft of protected antiquities and abuse of administrative power. With the authority of the Hong Kong High Court, I hereby sentence you to a fine of HKD 5 million and life imprisonment!" With that, the students cheered with joy, their faces revealing delighted grins. Justice had prevailed.

In the shadows of a mysterious room, the Obscurius Council sat upon their thrones. The Overseer had previously informed them he would be observing this meeting himself, a notion that forced ghastly sweat upon their faces. Then, the entire room erupted into conflict as leading council members argued, letting the situation devolve into chaos. Eventually, Hardcastle, who had miraculously escaped through a hidden passage below his cell, was called before the stage. "Your—your honor," he stuttered anxiously. "Silence! Let Master decide whether or not to spare your miserable life!" their voices boomed across the surrounding walls.

Then, silence fell. Dreadful silence. Next, the Overseer stepped forward, appearing from out of nowhere. All the members bowed their heads as he stepped forward. For a single moment, he seemed to have an almost pitiful face towards Hardcastle, but then he brutally disposed of him. When the cacophony of voices reached a crescendo, the Overseer raised a hand, silencing the council in an instant. As the echoes of violence faded, the Overseer's pitiless voice emerged like steel scraping stone: "Let this serve as the final warning. Failure carries but one price." The words seemed to cleave themselves into the very air, lingering long after the chamber had emptied.

# Reynard And The Chinese Fossils

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Wong, Hin Pok Andreas – 10*

Reynard looked out the window, as raindrops trickled down the windows and rain poured down onto the city.” China is known for some of the fossils they’ve found, two examples are Abrekia and Acadagnostus,” said Ms. Evans. Reynard was currently in history class, the most boring lesson ever, he thought. He just couldn’t keep his focus on what he thought was boring old creatures that were dead and will never be seen again (dinosaurs).

“Another example of a fossil found in China is Ductina,” Ms. Evans continued. Reynard had enough, and slowly fell into a world of his own. In this dream, it was beautiful and chaotic at the same time. He saw lush green leaves swaying in the wind, he heard the ocean tides crash against the rocky shore, he smelt the fresh pollen of many flowers and he felt the soft moss underneath his skin.

Suddenly it changed. Memories overwhelmed his head. What was going on? Reynard couldn’t think clearly. In front of him stood a man. Dad? He thought. Reynard knew his dad was a palaeontologist (a scientist that studies dinosaurs), but sadly he died in a car accident when Reynard was only two years old. Reynard only had two memories of his dad. The first one was a small dinosaur toy that his dad gave him and Reynard would bring that toy with him everywhere. Also he remembered that his dad had a project to find three fossils in China

“Reynard, wake up! Principal’s office now and after school detention!” Ms. Evans yelled, “Don’t you dare sleep in my class!” Reynard sprung awake, surely he wasn’t asleep for that long right? Riiiiing, the bell went. That answered his question, he was asleep for more than half of the lesson.

Reynard stared at his worksheet he got for detention in confusion. And for a good reason, the questions were impossible, for him at least. The first question read: What was the first ever fossil to be found in China? Reynard had absolutely no idea. His brain was dead and he needed a quick little nap to recharge. There’s no one around, I won’t get caught, he thought, a little nap wouldn’t hurt, would it?

Reynard rubbed his eyes as he slowly awoke. He was surprised by his surroundings as they weren’t familiar. All of a sudden he heard footsteps, getting louder and louder. He saw a man walking towards him.

This man wore a funky, old hat and a light grey robe with a tight belt. This was Reynard’s chance to ask where he was and how he could get back to his own world. “Excuse me sir,” Reynard asked. “Do you know where I am and how I could get back to my own world?” The old man stared at him for a moment, then he muttered the words “Dinosaur World” and gave him a piece of rolled up paper. It said: TO GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM, CALL BACK YOUR MEMORIES, FIND THE FOSSILS ABREKIA, ACADAGNOSTUS AND DUCTINA. THEN COMBINE THEM AS ONE.

Reynard wanted to find out more. What was this “Dinosaur World” and where were those fossils, but as he looked back at the man for answers, he disappeared. Reynard thought hard, then he realised something. He looked at the paper again, ABREKIA, ACADAGNOSTUS, DUCTINA. Weren’t those the fossils he was learning about in history class?

First Abrekia. Reynard knew most fossils were found underground, so he should start digging. He found a place near the beach and started looking for his first fossil. After hours of searching. Reynard had no luck and wanted to give up.

He found shade under a tree and decided to take a rest. Reynard didn't know how long he would be here so he scanned around, getting to know the place.

After another hour went by, Reynard decided to get back to work. There was no time to waste. Even more hours of digging went by and it was starting to get dark. Reynard was going to call it a day, when he saw something pop out of the ground. He picked it up and matched it to the picture on the paper. Yes! This was it. One out of three done!

The next day, Reynard was thinking how he could find the next fossil, Acaddagnostus. He had to be smarter this time as the first fossil took too long. Reynard decided to go deep into the forest. Soon enough, he found a place to start digging. Reynard kept digging until evening and started to get hungry. Luckily, He fished out a pack of nuts from his pockets. That will have to do for now he thought. In a short moment, Reynard felt something hard with his hands and took it out of the dirt. It was his second fossil! Two out of three done!

On the third day, the first thing Reynard did was climb to the top of a mountain because that's where he decided to dig. He found a more efficient method of digging by using a rock. In no time, he was exhausted, but he still kept going, he had to. Immediately after, Reynard felt something sharp cut his hand. He dug it up and it was his last fossil. Finally, he's done it, Abrekia, Acadagnostus and Ductina.

Reynard was too excited to sleep. He read the paper again. The last sentence said to combine all three fossils as one, so he decided to push them together. Instantaneously, a circle of light opened up just ahead of Reynard. When he peered inside all he saw was light. Well, light had to be the way right? Reynard chose to step inside; he didn't look back.

The world spun around him. His body rattled endlessly, testing his physical form. His mind hurt. His mouth was dry. His body was getting ripped apart.

After what felt like a long time, it stopped. Reynard appeared somewhere familiar. The school playground. He saw his classmates and felt a blanket of relief fall upon him. He was back. Reynard was back. There was nothing more to think about, Reynard went to join his friends and have some fun. At last.

# An Epic Encounter with Dinosaurs

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Wong, Shun Yiu Matthias – 10*

Once upon a time, there was a very poor diamond miner named Chad who was very smart and wise. Chad was in his late forties. With his spiky hair, flat belly and shabby clothes he looks like that he never had enough food. One day, he decided to go to China to mine some special diamonds with his best friend, Benjamin, who was not tall with pale skin and wore glasses.

After they arrived China and went into the mysterious mine, it slowly started collapsing! Chad and Benjamin bravely tried to run away from the upcoming danger but sadly, they weren't fast enough to escape. They fell into a very deep hole but luckily, there was a pond in the middle of it so they didn't get injured. The hole was very dark and they could hear the sounds of the chirping bats. "Where are we?" questioned Benjamin. "I don't know," confessed Chad. They kept walking and walking to the end of the long passage and they saw a portal glowing! "What is that!?" asked Chad. They stepped closer to look but the strong wind of the portal pulled them in!

When they opened their eyes, they saw that they weren't in a hole anymore. But, the scary thing was, there were dinosaurs all around them! "I think we are in the time of the dinosaurs" exclaimed Benjamin with a wavering voice. They tried to look for the portal again but it had ominously disappeared from view. "What are we going to do now!?" Shouted Chad. One of the dinosaurs heard Chad and started to run at them at top speeds. "Run!" yelled Chad at the top of his voice. They ran quickly until they found another hole like the one they fell into earlier and jumped inside with no hesitation. The dinosaur was too big to fit inside the tiny opening so it glared at Benjamin and Chad and went to find other prey. "That was close," sighed Chad. But, a baby dinosaur appeared from one of the passages. The dinosaur had an extended neck, lengthy spine and a long tail with unusually short legs. Its skin looked yellowish brown and very rough. Benjamin and Chad screamed and tried to run away but the cave was too narrow and they bumped into a wall. The baby dinosaur caught up with Ben and Chad and it roared loudly. Suddenly, after the baby dinosaur's magical roar, a gleaming portal appeared again unexpectedly. Ben and Chad were amazed. "Thank you for helping us," said Ben gratefully as they stepped into the portal. The baby dinosaurs seemed to understand what Ben was saying and nodded. Then, the little friend ran away to the centre of the cave. Chad and Ben waved to the dinosaur as they were engulfed by a blinding light.

When they opened their eyes again, Chad and Ben saw that they were once again outside the treacherous and dangerous diamond mine. "That journey was epic!" Cried Chad. But, when they looked closer, they saw the fossils of the dinosaur that helped them come back! They recognized it because the dinosaur had legs unusually short. So, they gave the fossils to the Chinese government and they became the first people to discover the species of dinosaurs called Gandititan Cavocaudatus.

# The Eyes of the Dinocephalosaurus: A Mysterious Haunting

*ESF Quarry Bay School, You, Sunny – 10*

“May I have the Lane sisters in my office, please?” Principal Mia’s voice echoed through the halls of the school. At that announcement, two students raced out of Classroom 4—H history. The girls looked very similar, with dazzling emerald eyes, silvery lavender hair, and slender bodies: Hannah and Aurora, the Lane sisters. They feared something was wrong because they never go to the principal's office unless it's bad news. Because of that, they quickly rushed to their principal’s office and went in immediately.

“Good morning, Principal Mia,” the two girls said in unison as they entered the office.

You're right on time,” Principal Mia smiled as Hannah and Aurora came rushing in. She fished out an old-looking file. The battered file was covered in dust and likely not being touched for a long time; it didn’t look pleasant at all.

Hannah and Aurora felt a chill at the sight of the file, but the contents inside were even spookier. Inside the file were a deck of student group photos, some aged and faded, but all showing sightings of a pair of mysterious eerie red eyes lurking behind shades of black, brown, blonde and ginger hair.

“These eyes have been spotted in photos and in real life. Many students believed they were hallucinating, but the evidence captured in these photos clearly tells the truth,” Principal Mia explained. “After much research, some of the staff believe this supernatural phenomenon was caused by the spirit of an ancient dinosaur. After some great efforts, we have identified the type of dinosaur to be a Dinocephalosaurus...”

She paused for a few seconds, switching to a gentler voice. “I know this is a massive favor to ask, but you two specialize in research. Could I ask you to travel to the country where the origin of the dinosaur was discovered and research on a way to guide the spirit to its rightful place?”

“Alright, Principal Mia,” Hannah replied firmly with a nod of confidence, “We will help research,” Principal Mia sighed with relief.

“Thank you, girls. You may return to class now,” she concluded, allowing them to head back. The girls left in silence, processing what they had heard and what they had agreed to do. It was not going to be easy...

Hannah and Aurora couldn’t focus in class after that. All they could think about was the mission ahead of them: red eyes, ghosts—it was overwhelming. By the end of the day, they decided to request a week off. Fortunately, their parents were out of town, so they wouldn’t hear anything about it. Their only guardian, an old and compassionate nanny who cared greatly for the girls, gracefully agreed to excuse them from school for 'family matters,' allowing them to stay home until next week.

For the rest of the day, Aurora and Hannah researched on the origin of the Dinocephalosaurus, which turned out to be in China. With this information in mind, they packed their bags and journeyed on a flight from San Francisco to China. They interviewed the founder of the Dinocephalosaurus, spending most of their pocket money. Apparently, 60 years ago, an archaeologist donated an ancient fossil to their school as a gift of kindness. This disturbed the dinosaur’s spirit that was trapped inside and caused the red eyes to appear.

“Oh I am glad that we solved this mystery,” Hannah smiled, “Now we know that the eyes that are actually trapped in our school came from the fossil, and that means it has no intentions of haunting us! Let’s try to book tickets back to San Francisco so we can enjoy the time we have left,”

“Sure! Let's go!” Aurora exclaimed, beginning to book tickets on her phone.

“C’mon, let's return to the hotel to pack!” Hannah replied, hailing down a taxi. “Taxi!”

By the time the Lane sisters returned to San Francisco, Principal Mia had already replied to their email detailing their discoveries. Sadly their week-long holiday was ending soon, and the sisters were fairly disappointed, but they knew they had a mission to complete. The sisters found themselves back in Principal Mia's office once again...

"Girls, the science teachers and engineers invented a machine that will send the spirit away, back to China," Principal Mia told the girls. "But we will need to find the spirit first though, which could be anywhere in the school," She added. The room fell eerily quiet. The sisters went silent. Firmly biting on their lips with determination, they knew that they must act, after all, they are the only ones who truly understand the dinosaur's spirit. But in a split second, their eyes widened with fear and shock; they tried to speak, but no words came out. Then, there was a scream.

"PRINCIPAL MIA, THE RED EYES ARE BEHIND YOU!" the engineer yelled, his trembling finger pointing into the space behind Principal Mia. There they were—the eerie red eyes from the photos! Without thinking, Aurora and Hannah grabbed the machine and shot in the direction where the eyes appeared. There was a powerful flash, and the red eyes were gone. Everything went quiet, and Principal Mia breathed heavily but appeared to be fine.

After a few moments, Principal Mia stood up and spoke, "Thank you, girls, from the bottom of my heart. Not only have you saved us from the spirit of an ancient dinosaur, but you have also returned peace and safety to our school. As a reward, you two may have another week of holiday to rest and take your mind off these creepy eyes. And also, there will be extra points on your report cards this year,"

"Thank you so much Principal Mia," Aurora smiled, holding Hannah's hand. Together, they happily skipped out of the room, particularly glowing with joy and happiness.

"I knew they would pass the test," Principal Mia laughed, turning off the secret projector located on top of the shelf, "I wonder which students I should test next,"

# The Journey

*ESF Renaissance College, Chui, Jani – 9*

“Jani time to sleep!”

“coming!”

My name is Jani and my favorite thing to do is to spend my time with animals.

“See you later”, I said to our dog.

I walked up the stairs and into my bedroom. I climbed in my bed and went to sleep. I twisted and turned, and I tried to go to sleep, but no matter what I couldn't fall asleep. Suddenly the thought hit me, I had been spending so much time with animals, I forgot all about my assignment that I had to hand in tomorrow! I climbed out of bed and turned the lights on, took out my paper and started writing. After an hour of what seemed like endless writing, I finished the last sentence and went back to bed.

It was nearly eleven o'clock. Wow, I thought, I didn't know that I could write for that long. I twisted and turned, and nearly fell asleep then... I heard a sound. Thump, THUMP my eyelids shot straight open, I wasn't dreaming. I actually heard something. Oh no, I thought. I climbed out of bed, and looked out the window. I saw a GINORMOUS shadow. My heart beat fast. I wanted to scream, but nothing came out of my mouth. thump, THUMP it was getting closer. I sat up and tried to scream. A potion appeared in front of me. I jumped. My heart skipped a beat. A voice echoed in my head. “Drink this potion and save the world from dinosaurs, keep it a secret. I have made the night as long as you want. Good luck.” I froze. What was that? I thought, I guess the best option is to follow what my head tells me. I turned the lights on and gulped down the potion. Eww, it tastes like garlic and dirty socks. I jumped in the air, I'm flying! I'm flying! Oh, I have to be quiet. Other people are sleeping. I closed my eyes and thought. I hope this works. I really want this superpower. I whispered. Make myself invisible. I opened my eyes. I looked down at my feet. OMG! I gasped, I couldn't believe it! I couldn't see my feet! I am really invisible! I climbed out of bed and leaped out of the window without thinking because I knew I had superpowers. I floated safely to the ground, Seeing... a dinosaur. I walked towards it and whispered, laser eyes.

Powerful lasers shot out of my eyes and hit the dinosaur's foot. BANG it exploded. the injured dinosaur. fell to the ground. I lifted a gigantic rock and smashed it onto its body. It was dead. Phew, I thought. One down, a million more to go. Ok now what. Oh I know now. Bring me to the place where there is a dinosaur hiding.

Whoosh! I felt like I was in a hurricane. I felt a slight bump and I opened my eyes. I was brought to a cave. I wonder what this place is. Suddenly; I heard a sound. Roar, I shuddered. It became louder. ROAR. I quickly looked around. I saw a box. I leaped. Most people wouldn't leap if they saw a box right? But this wasn't an ordinary box. It was a tall big box. With a clock on it. The voice echoed in my head again. Well done Jani. you have found the time machine, this is how the dinosaurs came from the past. The voice disappeared again in my head. I whispered laser eyes again and it burnt the time machine. There, I said. It's broken. Suddenly, three more dinosaurs surrounded me. I shouted, shield protection! Something like a bubble appeared around me. I thought, ugh this is harder than i thought it would be. What should I do with them? Ok, I should deal with them one at a time. I whispered, invisibility! And I turned invisible. I turned off the shield protection, and smashed a rock on one of them, pinned it to the ground, and shot lasers at it and killed it. I did the same to the other two, then teleported to a different place. This place was dark, gloomy, and mysterious. No plants, no life, just sand and darkness. Suddenly the voice echoed in my head. This is the place where all dinosaurs are. All of them are here. After you defeat them all, your job here will be done. Hissed the

voice. Then it disappeared in my head again. Thud. THUD, THUMP. Then there were footsteps coming towards my way. I looked around and hissed, shield protection. The bubble appeared around me again and I saw a dinosaur shadow. I shot lasers at it. It fell to the ground. I lifted a ginormous, heavy rock, and smashed it onto the dinosaur's body. Then it lay still. I could tell it was dead by the way it collapsed and closed its eyes. A few more dinosaurs came. I did the same to them. After a few hours of endless battling dinosaurs, I got to the last one. The biggest one, the toughest one. I shot lasers at it. Its leg exploded. I turned invisible and flew to its head. I lifted the biggest rock I could find at that time. I was terrified. My whole body was shaking with fear, I smashed the rock on the dinosaur. Bam! Liquids came flying everywhere. It flooded the whole place. Suddenly, an idea popped into my head. I blasted water out of my hands and flooded the place even more! Soon the dinosaur could no longer breathe in the water. It drowned! I told myself, you did it! The voice echoed in my head.

well done Jani, you saved the world. You may keep your powers and return to your house before dawn and pretend nothing happened. Keep your powers a secret. After that, Jani could not stop thinking about that night. She went back to sleep and suddenly, THUMP.

# The Dinosaur and the Legend

*ESF Renaissance College, Fok, Bryant – 10*

In 1907, an 8-year-old boy named Eric Chan lived humbly with his parents in Chengdu, China. His mom was a freelance data sorter and his dad was a Paleontologist at Sichuan University. Eric's childhood barely came with surprise, and his only interest was reading books about different dinosaurs.

In the past 10 years, a specialist group of Chinese researchers and paleontologists at Nanchang University has analyzed dinosaurs and found a few new species of dinosaurs, namely Brachiosaurids, Bellusaurus, and Camarasaurus. Recently, more fossils belonging to a dinosaur species called Titanosauria were found, in addition to the 40 dinosaur species found earlier in China.

A week before Eric turned 18, he was reading dinosaur books as usual and his parents were drafting a paper about the similarities of dinosaur fossils.

"Woop woop woop, woop woop woop!" suddenly went from outside the house like a distress signal.

"Ladies and Gentlemen of Nanchang, please evacuate from this province immediately. Scientists reported that a dinosaur had escaped the laboratory and doubted it was Titanosauria. Researchers in the laboratory even caught a glimpse of the dinosaur escaping." announced by host on the radio.

Looking sideways at each other, the whole family wasn't paralyzed for a minute. "Did you hear that??!! A titanosaur is coming here!" panicky shouted Eric.

"Let's start to pack and go to Nanchang, the capital city of Jiangxi," said Eric's father. He continued, "We can go to Nanchang in 10 hours and seek support from Andrew, my colleague working in a laboratory funded by Siuchan University. It is a safer place with more medical assistance and emergency facilities." The whole family immediately packed all the stuff without saying a word.

Andrew, welcomed the Chan family to stay in his house during this crucial period. Since Eric was very interested in dinosaurs, he decided to work as a scientist and studied dinosaur species in Chengdu for several years.

One day, Andrew worked overtime at night alone in the laboratory. When he went to get a mug of water from the water dispenser, a window was suddenly covered with a colossal red skin with black dots. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw it. "ROAR", screeched the tremendous dinosaur. "...Di.....nosaur..." sputtered Andrew.

With only one second, he couldn't think and drop the mug. With each drop of sweat, he ran out of the building as fast as he could. The dinosaur stomped behind Andrew as loud as thunder. Some bricks were fallen off when the dinosaur swung its spiny tail.

The dinosaur turned the wall into damaged barricades and scratched Andrew's right arm. His wound immediately turned a nasty shade of red with black dots. Andrew felt like a million red ants biting his skin then fainted in the lab. The dinosaur thought that Andrew was dead, so it limped away oddly and hurried away up the mysterious dark hills.

One of Andrew's coworkers woke him up and recommended he get treatment for the dinosaur scratch the next day.

Andrew went home and got a normal bandage covering his wound. He showed his wound to Eric. "It was in agonizing pain!" sputtered Andrew.

Eric was flabbergasted and shocked. He exclaimed, "That is a dinosaur virus! You are in a dangerous status and you need treatment immediately." Eric sprang into action and tried to find a cure for Andrew.

To save Andrew, Eric worked days and nights to find a cure but failed for a few months. As Andrew's condition was getting worse, Eric decided to create his medical treatment for Andrew.

At first, Eric made the pill containing Aspirin. After Andrew had taken it, his face turned more scaly than usual and he felt his hand as heavy as a rock in the next hour. "Every time I tried to move, the wound gave me a sharp pain." groaned Andrew. There was a huge bruise on his arm and it looked red like a ladybug.

Having evaluated the side effects of taking the pill, Eric made a medical injection mixed with antibiotics and dinosaur DNA as a second trial. After Eric injected the medicine into Andrew's body, Andrew immediately fainted. He couldn't keep his back straight up but crawled around for a week. "The wound felt like a sharp sting at first, and now there is this dull ache in my body. I am not expecting it to hurt this much." explained Andrew.

Two weeks later, Andrew's right arm still had a little shade of red with black dots. Eric explained to Andrew, "The biopsy on your wound tissues indicates that this part still has a little dinosaur DNA. Fortunately, no invasive cell movement is identified. If the shaded area isn't enlarged, you could probably resume your normal life." Andrew subsequently fully recovered and also retired.

A lot of people were reported to be attacked and died because of the Titanosaur. The Nanchang government announced the whole city had to be locked down to prevent more citizens from getting hurt. The government army patrolled around the mountainside and found the Titanosaur asleep under a Lilac tree. It was then captured the next day.

Since too many citizens were hurt by the Titanosaur, Eric shared his successful medical formula for dinosaur scratches with the Medical Authority in Jiangxi so the Authority could produce the medicine for all patients there.

Eric became very famous in China because of his medical invention. Representatives of Medical Authorities from all over the world came to Nanchang to have conferences with him and discuss the dinosaur scratch treatment. They even asked Eric for autographs. To recognize Eric's contribution, the government erected a statue next to the laboratory where Eric worked.

Now Eric had passed away, many people and medical practitioners still visited the laboratory and took photos of the statue of Eric. Everyone in Nanchang is looking up to him, the hero who saved Nanchang, and even the entire country.

# Bones!

*ESF Renaissance College, Hassan Nawaz, Zaha – 8*

Once on a mountain which overlooked a city lived Bones and his family (they are stegosauruses). Down in the city lived a selfish cruel guy who lived with his son. One day Bones went looking for wild berries when he slipped on a rock and fell! Down down down he went until he bumped into something very hard. Fortunately for him the “YehOldies” show was playing and everybody had gone to watch...

Except for Mr Big's son! He'd already watched the show twice, counted all his savings and was fed up. There was an odd shuffling sound from between garden trees and Mr. Big's son swore he had seen a pair of yellow spikes. Mr. Big's son told his friend, who's father worked for Mr. Big, as soon as Mr. Big was informed that a giant dinosaur was on the loose, he said, “Don't kill him, I have an idea!”. Mr. Big's scheme was to try and capture Bones and sell him for another million dollars. Of course, Mr. Big's schemes were very lousy but brilliant. All had to do now was to capture Bones. At first he thought why don't I send the troops, they would capture Bones in one hour. No way, Dinosaurs are too smart, they would know if the net was coming to get them.

But then Mr. Big thought how a dinosaur would even come here. Then he looked up and saw the mountain where Bones lived and saw big silhouettes. Then he saw footprints no other animal had in place where berries grew. He realized that some of the berries were picked by Bones and he thought I would just send my bravest troops up in the mountain and pick the berries down so that he could lure him to a cage. But Mr. Big did not know that his son loved the Dinosaur and would not let a dinosaur be sold or killed. Mr. Big did not know that there were two types of berries growing on that mountain, Blue and red. The troops did not know which type of berries Bones liked. Soon Mr. Big sent the troops while bones adored a new billboard. The troops picked the red berries. They brought the berries back down.

Mr Big tried once, twice, three times! Bones hated these berries. He ran all the way back up the mountain and decided he would never go hunting for berries on slippery rocks ever again! Meanwhile poor Mr. Big was speechless; he had never failed in any tasks, he fired all his troops. And his scheme had failed.

The End.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*ESF Renaissance College, Lam, Claire – 10*

The paleontologist had worked tirelessly this entire day, and she wasn't going to give up now. She was exhausted, beads of sweat trickling down her face, and she was beginning to develop a headache that was slowly clouding her focus. But she was determined to finish this day's project. Layla had finally found evidence through all her career studies, and just *needed* to break down this last layer. *This is the last layer. Layla you can do this!* She had repeated these words in her head countless times; giving yourself encouragement was the key to finishing what you started. A few hours later, Layla was so tired that her arms felt like lead. Each swing of her pickaxe required strength she could barely muster. She looked down at her wrist for her watch and realized it was already 2:24 AM. Thoughts of doubt began to wash over her like a rising tide. *what?* Layla thought, *It's this late and I haven't found anything yet?! Has this just been another year wasted?!* Blinded by frustration, Layla hurled her pickaxe down to the ground, and with a cry of frustration ran for home.

Layla woke up with a start, surprised to find herself face-flat on a patch of damp grass. As she pushed herself up, Layla tried to remember what had happened before fainting. She checked her watch: 11:54. Layla sighed. Last night, she had been too tired to think properly. Now that she had taken a break, she decided that she should've never overworked herself like that. As she stood up, she vowed she would never give up like that again, and she would not let frustration setback her journey, both mentally and physically. She headed back for her digging site, ready for a fresh start.

When she reached her workspace, she took the pickaxe firmly in her hands and started digging. It was only a few hours before her pickaxe hit something solid. Layla gasped, dropping her pickaxe. *CLANG. Could it be?* Layla set down her pickaxe and hurriedly started scanning her selection of brushes, then taking out the smallest one. Aged dinosaur bones were fragile things, and she couldn't afford to damage her first discovery. Layla carefully cleared the debris, petrified she would accidentally break something through her excitement. *Calm down, Layla, just focus on what's in front of you.* But this hardly worked. This could finally be it! The result of all her years of research! It was impossible to concentrate as feelings of exhilaration flooded over her. She took a few deep breaths, and resumed her work. As she brushed away the last clumps of dirt, the curved shape of a fossil revealed itself. Suddenly, Layla felt like a little kid again. Her heart raced as triumph filled her thoughts. In that moment of joy, she knew this was it. This was the fruit that has been borne from her tireless years of work. This was Layla's dream come true.

\*\*\*

It had been years since Layla reached her first milestone in paleontology. She hadn't found another possible fossil zone for so long, she was getting restless. She glanced at the clock. 1:30PM. Layla fidgeted as she sat down at her workbench. With a long sigh, She recalled the feeling of joy when she had discovered her first fossil. It was a feeling of confidence, a feeling of hope; something that gave her the motivation to continue her journey in her career. It was *everything*. But Layla *just knew* she would never experience it again. *Should I give up? Am I really up for this, or have I just been facing a dead end all these years?* Layla hit the desk hard and her glass mug shattered, spilling coffee all over her skirt. *Oops.* Layla realized she was in such a tense state she couldn't think. She stood up and walked toward the exit, absentmindedly fuming. As she walked past, employees gaped open-mouthed at her for *some reason*. Layla thought that was just *inexplicably rude*, but paid them no mind. She turned her head to glare at the employees, but in her distraction, she collided with a showcase of dinosaur bones. Layla hurriedly turned to look at what she had damaged, but realized something more important. *The liquid on her skirt wasn't coffee. It was acid.* Layla screamed. The acid had spread onto the bones, or rather *into* the bones, and they were slowly becoming a gruesome shade of green. The employees and cleaners around her all ran for the exit, but Layla was frozen on the spot. She couldn't move. She couldn't even scream for help. Layla was trapped.

The acid was quickening its movement through the bones, and there was nothing Layla could do to stop it. With a low rumble, the skeleton started to shift. Layla's heart raced—was it just her imagination, or were the bones coming to life? She closed her eyes tight, then opened them again, expecting to see only a clutter of bones on the floor. Instead, the next thing that she saw was the skull of a Sinosauropteryx lunging for her throat. Layla screamed again. As soon as she realized she was no longer frozen in place, she made a run for it, knocking down displays as she went. It was a while before Layla realized she had to rest. But the exit was blocked. There was no way out. Layla collapsed down, gasping for breath. The skeleton—dinosaur thing was now towering over her, and she found that she was once again unable to move. *Is there even a chance I can get out of this alive?* Layla put her hand over her face, bracing herself for the worst.

Layla found herself face—flat sweating on her desk. *Was that just a dream?* Layla looked up at the clock, and was surprised to see it was only 1:40PM. She stood up as she remembered her vow she made years ago, and was now determined to carry it on.

# Avvaanosaus our Baby Dinosaur

*ESF Renaissance College, Lo, Ellie – 9*

This all began when Ava and her Mom Ann went to the local cafe to have breakfast. When Ava and Ann sat down they looked out the window and saw somebody walking his dog, he looked pretty weird. The dog started to run really fast and the man had a leash on the dog so he chased the dog. His backpack dropped on the ground. After that, Ava and Ann quickly ran outside and picked up his bag then Ava shouted: Come back! But it was too late, they were already too far to hear. Ava and Ann saw that they ran all too far to even see. Luckily his backpack had a device that was connected to his dog's collar. The tracker led into the deep dark jungle where lots of secrets were hidden.

Ava and Ann quickly ran back to the cafe to get their geared backpack and went into the deep dark jungle. There stood a very long ravine, Ann asked: How are we supposed to get across? Suddenly Ava saw two ropes that were thick which were attached to both sides. She used her imagination and made a cart. First Ava made the cart out of wood, stones, leaves and also sticks. Then she wrapped a thick rope to the cart which was also attached to one of the thick and strong ropes. The second rope was for them to pull themselves to the other side. After all the hard work they finally made it to the other side.

"Is that a digging sound from the bush?" Ava thought. Ava and Ann went through the bushes. They saw something moving so they peeked in to have a look, the person they saw was very muddy and looked like they were digging. Ann was very concerned and said: I feel like we should just leave and go back home because it might be dangerous. Then Ava quickly told Ann: I'm going to go in there no matter what because we have gone this far already there is no reason to turn back now. Right away Ava ran in and asked that person what he was doing. The man said: "Can you help me and my dog Finn dig? Finn smelled something here. By the way, I am Peter." Ava called Ann to come and help digging, Peter gave Ava and Ann a shovel to dig. After a while Ava saw two things that were round in a shape just like a ball. Ava tried to take both things out. "Stop! Be Careful" Peter shouted. Peter came and took out the duster to clean the round ball without moving it. "Wow! Eggs! Is that really the egg?" Peter jumped up in happiness. One of them was turquoise and had dots that were bright white and black. The other was fully black but had polka dots which were green as the fresh grass. Peter took out a detector that detects heart beats around them. While one of the egg's heartbeats was normal, the other one's heartbeat suddenly got faster and faster. Ann was shaking her feet and she said: "Oh no, if that is an egg, is this animal going to die, I am terrified". Peter said: "Hurry we need to go back to my lab right now, hurry everyone!" They all hurried to gather their stuff and they left. After a while of running Ava said: "I don't think we can make it to your lab on time, we should just go to the river and use the boat". Peter said: "Great idea, let's go ahead and walk along the river, then we can go on the boat ride." They made it to the river bank and walked along the river. Finally they got to the dock where they got on the boat.

Eventually, they were in the lab, Peter placed the two eggs on a soft and fluffy towel then took out a large bowl with water in it. Peter put egg by egg in the water, Peter said: "If the egg sinks into the water that means that it is still fresh/alive." Both of the eggs were sinking. Hooray! So then, they made the eggs dry and put them on a weighing scale for measurement. After everything was done, he placed the eggs in the incubator so it could hatch. After waiting for a while Ava said: I am scared, are they still alive? Then suddenly, one of the eggs hatched! Inside this egg was a baby Titanosaurus! Ava jumped in surprise so she gently gave the little dinosaur a stroke. But the other egg still hadn't hatched, "Can you check again if it still has a heartbeat? Please", Ava begged. Peter kindly said, "okay, let's double check." Afterwards, it still has a tiny sound of heartbeat... Suddenly the egg hatched! "What is that?", Ava and Peter said. "It's a skinny chicken.", Ann replied. "No it's not true, is it Peter?" Ava wondered. Peter said: "According to my research it should be a new species!" They all were very amazed to see a new kind of creature. "Ava, how about you name it, you found it.", Peter finally said. Ava shouted with joy and said: "Um... She shall name after me. How about Ava-annosaurs!" Both Peter and Ann laughed and nodded their heads.

Ava started to take care of the dinosaurs day after day. Then one day Ava thought: "Someday someone may ask me where this egg was from or where we found it... But I will not let that stop me from taking care of them, I just want them to live a happy life with me. Even if anybody thinks I am weird, I am who I am, nothing will stop me or affect my future!"

# The Mysteries of China's Dinosaurs

*ESF Renaissance College, Siu, Chloris – 8*

Once upon a time, there was a village in Sichuan, China. Inside the village, there were 2 teenagers Tom and Harry.

One day, they went to a nearby forest and wanted to take some photos, suddenly they heard a weird sound WOOOOOO!

‘What was that?’ said Harry.

‘Hey Harry, do you remember the myth? I think it’s a... a... DINOSAUR!’ said Tom.

‘Oh NO!’ both Harry and Tom screamed.

They quickly ran back to the village. A few hours passed, it was nighttime, Harry still thought about the sound, so he went to find Tom.

‘Tom, I think we need to go to the forest again to check it out.’ said Harry.

‘Ah... well, let me get my camera and you better take a stick to protect ourselves.’ said Tom.

Then they went to the forest and started their adventure. They walked around for almost one and a half hours but found nothing. Suddenly they saw some big footprints, they followed the direction of the footprints. Suddenly a huge sound ‘WOOO! WOOO!’ from the trees, Tom used the flashlight to look around.

‘See there, Tom! There is a shadow, it looks like a giant creature.’ said Harry.

‘Oh my god! It’s the dinosaur’s tail!’ said Tom, while pressing the camera button.

Then they heard the WOOO’ sound again and kept louder and louder.

‘I think the dinosaur knows we are there and feel angry, what should we do, Harry?’ said Tom.

‘We have to run!’ said Harry.

One month later, they watched TV and suddenly saw the news mentioned that there are 2 pandas from forest in Sichuan are going to send to Hong Kong Ocean Park!

‘Tom, from Sichuan’s Forest? We should have a look.’ asked Harry.

They went to the forest again, and they saw some big and small footprints and followed the footprints. Suddenly Tom stopped.

‘Harry, look over there!’ said Tom and pointed to a tree.

They saw four pandas, two adult pandas and two little pandas.

‘What if the night we saw was not a dinosaur, but panda?’ questioned Harry.

They went back to the village and headed to Tom’s home, Tom took out the camera and they both had a look. They finally figured out what’s happening, the real answer was that when they saw the dinosaur’s tail, it was actually one of the pandas pulling the bamboo down to the tree and it looked like a tail. The sound of the ‘WOOOO’ was the female panda was having birth of twin baby pandas!

Two weeks later, Tom and Harry saw a truck driving to the forest, the truck’s body had the words ‘Welcome baby pandas to Hong Kong Ocean Park!’. They knew it’s going to pick up the twins’ pandas to Hong Kong Ocean Park for new journey. ‘Shall we plan a trip to Hong Kong?’ asked Harry.

‘Definitely! This time only with camera, but no stick.’ said Tom. Both laughed and look forward to their trip.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*ESF Renaissance College, Tang, Neriah – 10*

30 years later, AI technology will enter to another page. At that time, robots do really have their own thinking. But don't worry, human has already built in a program to every single AI system to protect AI to attack human, in that case, a self-destroy function will be activated.

However, at that time, AI do learnt that human do much harm to the earth, greedy and wars are everywhere. A huge connected AI system which is helping human to provide genetic enhancement have a plan to make some change to save the earth. The plan is going to remove human being on the earth. Perhaps they could not do any direct attack to human. So they plan to let dinosaurs continued to live in the world so that human won't be able to appear in the earth.

Since the scientist in 30 years later confirmed that the true reason of the extinction of dinosaurs was the earth enter Ice Age for 500000 years suddenly. To save the dinosaurs, this AI system has developed some drugs which help the dinosaurs and some plants to survive under an extreme cold weather. The drugs had been successfully developed eventually, it's effect even would be able to pass to their descendants by genetic modification. Then this AI system send 10,000 robots to carry these drugs and travel back to the Cretaceous Periods, the latest dinosaurs age, by time machine.

These 10,000 robots landed in Jiangxi of China and they execute their mission, inject 100,000 dosage of drugs to different kind of dinosaurs and plants. These robots finished their mission in 3 months and traveled back to their place and no one know what they have done.

But why human is still here?!

It's because something messed up the perfect plan from the AI system. 1 of the robots, named "Hope", being sent to execute the mission who learn love from human. He was assigned to study human being at different area, he witness how parent taking care their kids, know a lot of friendship among human, met some human loving their pet very much and some human still care about the planet. So he has a totally different judge which is "still have hope from human". Therefore he secretly dilute the formula of the drugs so that the drugs are still work but could not last for long. That's why, dinosaurs lived in Jiangxi which had been injected the drugs had lived further years than the others. But they died eventually after the drugs effect is over.

Anyway, those dinosaurs with the drug injected which had their descendants being lived far longer than the other and some of them even had been evolved to some new specious, i.e. evolved titanosaur, found in Jiangxi.

It is very exciting and interesting whenever dinosaurs' fossils have been hunted indeed. But human us may bare in mind that the real excitement should be our survival. Thanks robot "Hope", and what should we human response to "Hope" for his trust on us?!

# The Myserious Case of the Missing Bone

*ESF Renaissance College, Tsang, Gia – 10*

In the hot blazing sun in South Africa there was a paleontologist called Yumiko who was working. She was wearing a T-shirt with a pocket and boxer shorts. She had beautiful blue eyes and was digging for dinosaur bones.(She was the best at it!)Nearby, the Captain of the team of 4 was helping Omar lift a heavy stone. Suddenly there was a shout “OMG!” They all ran over to see what had happened. Jane was wearing a green plaid uniform and was crouched down holding a small dinosaur bone. “Yes!” their captain cried.”We got this!”But maybe he said it too loudly because the other team working near them winced.They called it a night and went to bed. Omar was assigned to put the bone in the box in the captain's tent. Yumiko congratulated her friend,although she wished she’d found it. The next day when she woke up she heard a commotion outside the door.

“What’s wrong?” She asked Omar, who was wearing a blue plaid uniform and was digging.”The bone’s missing! He answered “Captain had the paperwork finished already ,we’ve got ten days to find it! “OMAR!” The captain who was wearing a T-shirt with a pocket and boxer pants suddenly shouted. “You were in charge of putting the bone in the box!” “I did!” said Omar. The captain took him inside and spoke to him, when he came out he said he wanted to go to his room with tears brimming in his eyes. They all worked very hard the next day and the day after that. It was the same for the next three days, until Yumiko decided to go into the tool shed to get more tools.

When she opened the door and looked around, she spotted something unusual there. She decided to go for a closer look. It was then she realized it was the bone. She shouted ”OMG!” The captain was the first to be there. Yumiko told him how she’d found it. He told her that they had to get it to the officials straight away and she took off. Omar offered to take her in his car and she agreed. Jane came as well as Captain of course. They rode on but soon came to a traffic jam and they realized they would have to abandon the car if they wanted to get there in time. Omar told a taxi driver near him to watch his car and he,Captain and the girls tore down the street to the officials. When they arrived the guard sitting in the guard cabin said “The meeting had begun and he wasn’t allowed to let anyone in”.

The Captain persuaded him and they went in. The judge was about to close the admissions when Captain shouted “One more!” The judge smiled. The captain began to tell everyone about how they’d come across the bone with Jane’s help. They all watched with a smile. It’s still a Mystery how the bone got in the toolshed.

The End

# Lost in a Spell

*ESF Renaissance College, Wiseby, Anya – 10*

The portal was all shiny and majestic. How could I possibly resist it! Still exhausted, I packed my bag and walked through the portal not knowing how long I would be gone or what could possibly go wrong. When I turned around the portal was gone, it had disappeared. All I could hear were the insects buzzing, the birds chirping, mammals scuttle, and frogs croak. As I walked through the forest I got surrounded by humongous trees towering over my head. I felt lost, lonely, and worn out. Suddenly, I heard something moving in the bush next to me. I try to move but my feet are stuck to the ground, I look down and my legs are slowly sinking into the dirt. OH NO! I was standing on top of a pile of quicksand! Frantically I tried to get my legs out of the quicksand but it seemed like nothing was working. I knew that I couldn't do much because if I put my hands anywhere near the quicksand I would have an even bigger chance of completely getting stuck under the quicksand. Out of nowhere from the very back of my memory I just needed to slowly move and eventually my feet slowly started to rise from the quicksand. The moment I was free from the quicksand I sprint towards the way I came from desperately trying to find my way home. But the portal was nowhere to be seen.

After what felt like an hour of walking I stumbled upon a little hut. What was special about this hut was that its door was on the trunk of a ginormous tree. As my eyes reached the door I realised it looked rather weird. It seemed like it was a dream and this could never exist in real life. I felt dizzy as my world turned upside down. All I could see was plain black until I couldn't see anything. I fainted.

“WAKE UP! WAKE UP!”

My eyes burst open. There was an old lady that looked somewhat like a witch standing on top of me. She was waving her hand in shapes that looked like circles, pentagons, hexagons, and rectangles. Not only was her hand moving in shapes she was also chanting some sort of spell.

It sounded something like

“Ummmmmmmm liliha abra co nada trago”

That's all I could think of, from the way she said it I could barely understand. I tried to stand up, as soon as the witch saw me start to move she dropped her potion and ran. After using all my energy I finally stood up. I started walking towards the door still shaking.

“ Wow the view ” I whispered.

All sorts of creatures I've never seen before there were stegosaurus and apatosaurus and even ornithopods! I mean u learned about these in school but I thought they were extinct? It was picturesque and even more beautiful than anything that has been in my line of sight before, it was insane!

I set off on my way through the forest once again. This time turning in different directions. I felt lost but kept going no matter what. While on my journey I saw all sorts of species Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Pterodactyl, Brontosaurus, Diplodocus, Stegosaurus, Parasaurolophus, Ankylosaurus, Spinosaurus, Velociraptor and Brachiosaurus and even more. Every time I took a new turn I felt more lost and felt that I had gone too deep into the forest.

It's been what feels like forever. I am lost. I have gone in every direction I've encountered.

I sense danger and need to find somewhere to hide. The dinosaurs do not sound friendly at all. In this area of the forest dinosaurs are fighting. I am hiding in a bush. I want to scream but they will find me and I may never be seen again.

As I make my hopefully last turn I see a village that looks ever so familiar. As I see my ma walking out the door of our small village house

I realize that I am standing in my own village!

I scream “ Mama I'm home! ”

My mum turns around shocked to see me.

“ 你到底去了哪裡啊 ？ ”

It means “ Where were you? ”

As my ma runs towards me I stretch my arms widely expecting her to give me a hug but instead she stops and starts screaming at me in mandarin

“ 你去了哪裡啊！你在想什麼？ ”

She screams. It means Where have you been? What were you thinking?

“ I don't know, I was lost, mum! ” I replied,

heartbroken at the way she said her first words to me. According to the whole village I had been gone for nearly a whole month!

As I carried my tiny but very heavy bag into my room I noticed frames, flowers and boxes stacked and covering my entire bed. Curious, I started reading some colorful sticky notes on the boxes. The frames had pictures of me in them.

When I read the first few notes they said things really similar. For instance,

“ Hope you have a peaceful time in heaven ”

or things like

“ You deserved a long life but this was God's plan for you ”.

I thought the notes were ridiculous. So I left my room to take a walk in the village hoping for some fresh air but instead I got the absolute opposite. Every single person in the village ran like cheetah's to me and started asking me where in the world I went and how worried they were about me and stuff. I looked at the schools, shops, and homes. As I saw the children playing, I knew I was finally home. The sight of my village just made me feel amazing and safe.

# A Dino Adventure

*ESF Renaissance College, Wong, Alton – 8*

On one uneventful night, Ian, a cool and tough boy and dino lover, was watching TV. He saw Michael Pittman from School of Science at Chinese University saying that Hong Kong might have a very bright future to fossils. “The discovery of these bones is super exciting because we have rocks of the right age and the right environment, but having looked for many years, different people, including myself, have not been able to find dinosaur bones.” Michael continued.

Ian was super shocked, and his eyes twinkled with surprise. He went on the phone immediately and called his best friend Max. When Max heard the news, he rushed to Ian’s house to see. Once Michael finished his speech on TV, something weird happened. The light went off, then on again. Suddenly, a bright flash flashed and sucked them both in. Ian shouted, “HELP!”

They landed safely in a tree. “Where are we?” Max wondered, They looked around and saw mountains of sedimentary rocks and volcanic rocks. Rocks were everywhere. Some were smooth, and some were rough. Some were big, and some were tiny. The most fantastic rocks were the sedimentary rocks, red like ketchup. The volcanic rocks covered over half of the island, like hell and heaven.

“OMG! We are on an ancient China port island. I have read a book about this area. I suppose we should find shelter.” Ian yelled.

Max felt astonished. “How can we get back?” Max muttered. They wandered around the deep forest and found a river.

“We can set camp near the river.” said Ian.

“Good idea! I set a fire and you make shelter.” Max said. Ian nodded. Max found some steel and flint on the ground and rubbed them together to get fire. Meanwhile, Ian found sticks and leaves to make shelter. Once they were done, they went to explore.

When they were adventuring, they saw a dinosaur. “Will it eat us?” Max trembled.

Ian whispered calmly, “This is a sauropod. Here are some fun facts: the largest sauropods could weight up to 50 tonnes, about the same as a herd of 15 elephants! Sauropods had long necks and were always on the move to find enough plants to keep them going. They were walking and eating for 12 hours a day or more. They had simple teeth and they would grab any plants they could, bite them off and swallow down. They didn’t chew. They had huge and squishy poos as the poos were made up of twigs and leaves.”

“WOW!” Max exclaimed. They tiptoed their way out. As they were going back to the camp, they encountered many different dinosaur species like triceratops. They hunted for food by making spears for hunting fish. That night, they ate like wolves.

They went to bed. When Max went to sleep, “I miss home, I wish we could go back home.” thought Ian.

The next morning, something weird happened. A bright light flashed, it was actually a dream. “That was an unforgettable dream.” Ian smiled.

THE END

# The Adventure

*ESF Renaissance College, Wong, Arthur – 10*

Jiang Yi hesitated as he continues racking the hard dry soil that felt like rocks. He sighed as he stumbles upon a something that looks like a rock. He grabbed a shovel thinking it was useful at first but turned out to be nothing. As strong as an elephant he pulls tries to pull it out, but he seems like an ant. He gave up and simply dumped it in a large dark pit. Without realizing his six-year-old brother Jiang Li reached out and grabbed what appeared to look like a rock.

Jiang Li ran up to his mum with his cute smile sticked to his face and showed mum what he found in the pit. Their mum Jiang Nu said

“Come On!” “Don’t play with rocks!”

Both Jiang Yi and his brother left and continued racking the soil. Jiang Nu inspected what her younger son gave her; it was as hard as a diamond but was as light as a feather. Suddenly it slipped out of Jiang Nu’s hand and ends up hitting the ground with gold shattered everywhere! It felt like a paradise!

“Oh my!” “This is the Bone of the Magic Bird!” She said with laughter “It must be it!”

Legends claim it might reveal the past with the gold.

Suddenly the whole ground became shaking, and cracks appeared everywhere.

“Aaghh!” Jiang Yi and Jiang Li fell into the massive cave. Finally, both reached the bottom. It was a trillion miles deep beneath the earth. Giant stalactites hung above and dripping water echoes through the cave.

Jiang Yi said

“Are you ok?”

“Wait where is our mum?” Shouted Jiang Li

“I don’t know is dark in here!” He shouted. The echo guided them to a massive waterfall!

“Gosh!” “This is the biggest waterfall I have seen in my live!” Jiang Yi shouted. The waterfall made a crackling sound.

They both trespassed the waterfall to the unknown. Surprising enough they found a desert, there were catis everywhere. It was so dry they could feel their skin coming off.

“Hey, what’s that blurry movement over there?”

“All I know there is a lot of them!” Said Jiang Yi. As they came closer to them, they saw a small dinosaur coming fast as lightning, charging like a rhino towards them! Jiang Li

“Quick run!” They both sprinted so fast their legs can’t even hold them up!

They Climbed a tree and hoping for the best. Suddenly some kind of dinosaur used its mighty tail that was like a whip but was way larger and knocked the tree! The tree begins tilting to the right and to the left.

“I don’t know if we are going to survive this?” Said Jiang Yi panicking!

“But they are cute!” Said Jiang Li.

“No!” They are going to gobble us up!” Shouted Jinag Yi! The tree fell with a massive “Thump!” Jiang Yi carried his brother and sprinted so fast it was faster than lightning!

“No!” Jiang Yi screamed. There was a stampede in front of them; to make things worse it was all dinosaurs! The dinosaur suddenly roared and ran so fast they was faster than Jiang Yi! He stopped and noticed there was a volcano that was a trillion feet tall erupting! Hot lava begins to flow everywhere! He tried to run away but then,

“Ouch, ouch, ouch!” The lava reached Jiang Yi’s foot; his shoe was melting already! But to his surprise Jiang Li disappeared without Jiang Yi even noticing! Far away he saw Jiang Li riding a dinosaur!

“Oh no!” “I better catch up to ride a dinosaur!” Jiang Yi thoughted, just than a mighty million-foot-tall T-rex came rushing to Jiang Yi! He quickly grabbed the T-rex foot, and he was saved from the hottest lava he ever seen.

He was catching up to his brother.

“Hey!” Can I ride on the T-rex too?” Jiang Li leaped so high he barely reached space, surprisingly he landed on both feet! “Boom!” The volcano shoots lava towards them, the T-rex can’t catch up anymore!

“Aghhh!” They both screamed. After hearing this the T-rex tossed them into the thin air where it was quiet, peaceful but cold. Suddenly they came crashing down and smashing into a hard solid rock! “Ouch!” They both screamed, Jiang Yi even had an elephant size bruise on his forehead. Then after all the painful screaming they discovered a note left behind. It was worn and teary, like Jiang Li’s pair of pants and it smelled awfully bad.

“What is this?” It says, “find the three marked stone and put them in the holy river.” Said Jiang Li out loud.

“I wonder what the three marked stone and the holy river are?” Jiang Yi said curiously. Just before they even speak a rock fell and hit Jiang Li forehead! Now they both have a bruise. The rock had a strange marking on them, it has a swirly pattern, and that matches what the paper said! So, all they must do is to find two more.

They scrambled and even climbed millions of high rising mountains and found nothing, just then Jiang Li saw another rock that had the same marking!

“Two more to go!” They said. The sun slowly set off to a nearby mountain then it was night and it was pitch black.

“Ouch!” Jiang Yi slipped onto the rock with the markings again! Just then they saw a river behind them.

“Could it be the holy river?”

“There’s one way to find out!” Jiang Yi tossed all three stones into the river, then they were dragged by strong winds and crashed into their house!

“Oh, my sweethearts where have you been?” Both were unsure what to say.

The End

# Secret of the Titanosaur

*ESF Renaissance College, Wong, Hillary – 10*

1990. This year was a magical one. As the golden hour started, the sun started to melt into the ocean. At the depths of the mountain of the heart of China, the first feathered dinosaur fossil was found. “Here it is.” The farmer whispered. He was a pale, skinny man who always wore the same old faded blue jeans and an old fashioned beige top. He had strips of grey bangs beneath his thick black hair. “The feathered dinosaur fossil.” “Who does this conservative belong to?” The farmer asked. “It’s a Sinosauropteryx.” The paleontologist next to him replied. The paleontologist was an old woman who had layered red hair and wore denim overalls while checking out bones. “It’s the first one ever found in the world!” Said the paleontologist. “How interesting!” That was just the first fossil found in China and no one had expected what would happen next.

A few more years later, over 40 different dinosaur fossils were discovered in the province Liaoning. The most recent discovery was a new species of Titanosaur. The fossil was discovered in Jiangxi, China. But did they know that this fossil was hiding some secrets from them? The Titanosaurus. The biggest dinosaur fossil ever to be found on earth. But why were the bones still warm? Were the bones not preserved well enough and the fossils were still fresh from the body of the Titanosaur? Not likely. If the Titanosaur had just been extinct, humans would not be here today. But why did the scientists think that the Titanosaur had non-preserved bones?

“Let’s get some rest.” The Paleontologist said. “We can come back in the morning.” But since the Titanosaur fossil they found was in Jiangxi, it meant they would have to spend the rest of the night there because it was really far from where they lived. But little did they know the night at the lab would be the most mysterious night ever. Because in the middle of the night, they heard rattling sounds. Sounds that were not the floor. None of them were awake. Farmer Bones was asleep, the paleontologist was asleep then who could be making those noises?

At 2:00 am, Farmer Bones decided to see what was happening outside. He carefully stepped outside the room, making sure he didn’t wake the paleontologist. Following the rattling noises, he slowly found his way to the mysterious place. As he followed the noise, he spotted one of the Titanosaur’s fossils on the ground. Curious, he picked it up and examined it. It was for sure the Titanosaur’s fossil. But how did it get here? How did it roll all the way from the lab, to outside the bedroom? Did he forget to put one of the fossils in his special cabinets? Puzzled, Farmer Bones rubbed his eyes and examined the fossil. It was exactly the same. Dusty, greyish, covered in dirt. “Ugh” Farmer Bones groaned. “I’m so tired.” So he picked the bone up and walked over to the lab. It was all silent. As the old wooden door of the lab creaked open, all Farmer Bones could see was a wooden cabinet and eyes? Farmer Bones screamed. Was he imagining things? Or was it real? He saw eyes staring at him as if they wanted to say “what are you doing here?” Scared, Farmer Bones switched on the lights. Nothing was there. Suspicious, he put the fossil he had found on the floor back into the cabinet where he kept all of the fossils of the Titanosaur. As Farmer Bones turned the lights off, He rushed back into the bedroom where the paleontologist was sleeping. He woke her up and told her about what had happened in the lab. Curious, the paleontologist followed Farmer Bones to the lab, not believing what he had said. “You must be imagining things.” The paleontologist said to Farmer Bones. “Maybe.” Farmer Bones muttered in reply. As they entered the lab, Farmer Bones didn’t see anything. It was quiet, pitch black and windy.

“I don’t see anything!” The paleontologist said. Suddenly, they heard a growling noise, and saw a pair of vibrant, neon green eyes. “There it is.” Farmer Bones replied. He quickly turned the lights on and the Titanosaur unraveled a secret. It was alive. The Titanosaur growled, stared at the two humans in front of it and jumped onto a humongous table. Farmer Bones and the paleontologist were terrified as they had absolutely no idea that this mysterious fossil they had found was alive. “What do we do now?” The paleontologist asked. She was absolutely terrified and had no idea what to do next. Then, the paleontologist saw that her “bottle of life” was knocked over. She said to Farmer Bones “I think I know what caused this.” “What” Farmer Bones asked. “It’s my new chemical potion!” “It makes things come to life!” Said the paleontologist. “The Titanosaur must have knocked it over!” Indeed. One of the Titanosaur’s fossils must have broken the bottle of potion, so the fossils had managed to assemble themselves back together and come to life! “We have to stop the Titanosaur before it destroys everything!” Farmer Bones exclaimed. “I think I know what to do.” The paleontologist said, forming a plan in her head. “I have this “taming band” that I use to tame wild animals and other violent species. If we can get the band

on the Titanosaur, we can calm it and put it back in the mountains!” “Good idea!” Farmer Bones said. “But we have to get the Titanosaur to hold still!” So the paleontologist got her taming band and Farmer Bones got the Titanosaur’s attention. Then, the paleontologist jumped onto the table and securely buckled the taming band on one of the Titanosaur’s bony fossil arms. Just like that, the Titanosaur was tamed. As the sun started to rise, Farmer Bones and the paleontologist had taken the Titanosaur back to the dusty mountains, where they found it and where it belonged.

# Guardians of the Past

*ESF Sha Tin Junior, Cheong, Man Fei Hazel – 10*

It is hard trying to fall asleep in a creepy mansion. There are creaking floorboards, dark shadows, and the unsettling feeling that eyes are watching my every step. The only reason I am in this place is because of my parents. They wanted a long vacation, so they did the obvious thing: they sent me to stay with my grandparents, who happen to live in China.

My grandparents are palaeontologists who moved here some years ago, captivated by the incredible fossil discoveries being made in Liaoning and Jiangxi. Their house is like a museum, crammed with ancient fossils, scientific journals, and replicas of prehistoric creatures. I have always thought their obsession with dinosaurs was a little overboard.

I tried to sleep but eventually gave up. I was restless and I decided to visit the library. The library was massive with tall bookshelves and overstuffed armchairs. One book caught my eye; it had no title. Curious, I pulled it off the shelf and settled into an armchair. The cover was pristine, too new for the title to have worn off. Something about it sent a shiver down my spine. I opened it. The moment my fingers touched the first page, the book began to glow. At first, the light was faint, but it soon became blinding. Before I could react, I was sucked into the pages, falling into a swirling vortex of colours and images.

I soared through a neon tunnel with flashes of history plastered on the walls. The first dynasties of China rising along the Yellow River, the construction of the Great Wall, and scholars inscribing characters onto bamboo slips. Then, the images shifted. I saw a dinosaur hatching from its egg. That image burned into my mind as I passed out.

When I woke up, I was lying on damp ground. My head throbbed, and my body ached. As I tried to sit up, something brushed against my arm. I froze. A dinosaur towered over me. Taller than me but still small for its kind, its scales glistened with hues of emerald and gold. Its eyes, enormous like polished jade, watched me curiously but without menace.

Instinct took over, I bolted. The dinosaur roared, but I didn't stop. I ran through dense foliage until I found a cave and dove inside, trembling with wonder and fear. "This can't be real," I whispered, clutching my knees. "It's just a nightmare, right?" But the damp ground and the roar still echoed in my ears.

Morning arrived with sunlight flooding into the cave, revealing a breathtaking view. The air was thick with the sweet scent of flowering ferns. Bamboo stalks creaked gently in the wind, while dinosaurs moved with grace through the undergrowth. Some had iridescent scales, while others had feathers like phoenixes, shimmering in the sunlight. These were Chinese dinosaurs, the kind I had only seen in the private fossil exhibits where my grandparents worked.

I remembered reading that more than forty dinosaur species had been discovered in Liaoning Province. I could see some of them now: the feathered Microraptor gliding gracefully between trees, Zhongjianosaurus with its elegant, elongated neck, and Yutyrannus, its thick feathers gleaming like frost in the sunlight. I even spotted a few pterosaurs, their wings spread wide as they soared above the jungle canopy. Creatures I knew were also abundant in Liaoning.

I took a deep breath, trying to suppress the panic. To distract myself, I began collecting berries from some bushes near the cave. Hesitant, I took a small nibble and was instantly hit by a refreshing sweetness. It was heavenly. As my troubles melted away, I savoured each morsel. I could have stayed there all day, but I had to find a way out. Stuffing two handfuls of berries into my pockets, I set off in a random direction.

As I ventured deeper into the jungle, and I came across a group of baby dinosaurs. Their scales were painted with vibrant patterns. I offered them some fruit and they crowded around me. One by one, they nudged me forward, leading me through bamboo forests. We travelled for hours until we reached a large clearing. I didn't understand at first, but then I saw it, a giant golden egg.

The dinosaurs surrounded the egg, leaving a gap in their circle, clearly meant for me. On the ground, I noticed a stone slab with two oval shapes that oddly resembled footprints: my footprints. All eyes were on me, urging me to step onto the slab. Slowly, I placed both feet into the prints. The ground began to vibrate, and cracks appeared on the egg. With bated breath, I peeked inside.

The egg shattered with a burst of light, revealing a Sinosauropteryx. A feathered dinosaur with body glistening like the sun. Its form shimmered with an otherworldly aura. It gazed at me with eyes full of wisdom, and I felt an overwhelming urge to reach out. The moment my fingers brushed its feather, I was pulled back into the vortex.

Once again, I tumbled through the kaleidoscope of flashing images. I witnessed something that made my heart skip a beat. A group of full-grown dinosaurs huddled protectively around a cave full of Neanderthals. Among them was the golden dinosaur. They were sacrificing themselves to protect humanity from the meteor that would bring about their extinction. Scenes of history speeding forward the dinosaurs slowly becoming extinct with layers of earth blanketing them. Ancient humans started populating the Earth and evolved into the present day as I know it.

When I woke up, I found myself back in bed, with my grandparents seated beside me. My grandmother asked, "How was your adventure?" With a trembling voice I recounted everything. You met the Sinosauropteryx," my grandmother gasped in awe. "Legend has it only the worthy can see them." I would never see dinosaurs as mere fossils again; they were guardians of humanity itself, and they had entrusted their story to me.

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Ma, Ying Bo Gabriel – 10*

The year was 1994 and China, at the forefront of fossil hunting, buzzed with the excitement of new discoveries. Remote and inaccessible areas of China now held secrets buried deep within the lands waiting to be discovered by the curious and well-informed. At the heart of this commotion, was a simple farmer named Li Wei who had always been fascinated by the mysterious tales of dinosaurs told by her grandfather. However, she was not ready for the groundbreaking find that would capture the media by storm: the discovery of *Sinosauropteryx*, the first feathered dinosaur. Little did she know that years from now, this would be the first of many yet to be discovered.

Li Wei had tirelessly worked the farm year after year— seasons came and went, leaves fell painting the ground with reds and golds while the wind carried whispers of new stories waiting to unfold. Early one ordinary morning, she decided to honour her grandfather by walking to far end of the farm to plant an oak tree over his grave. How she missed him and the lost tales he shared about dinosaurs that once roamed his lands freely. As she dug, something strange caught her eye— a fragile skeleton encased in shale, its feathers preserved in remarkable detail. “Could it be fossil of a dinos...the one my grandfather spoke about.” she mumbled in utter disbelief. She closed her eyes, breathed in her excitement. Her thoughts wandered back to the evenings spent by the crackling fire, her grandfather’s rusty voice telling her tales of winged, fearless giants. He had described each one in vivid detail—vast wings spread against a blood-red sunset, sharp eyes scanning the horizon as if they ruled the skies. She could almost hear his voice, filled with awe, as he spoke of their strength, grace, and mystery.

Word quickly spread after Li Wei’s discovery, attracting scientists, journalists, and those who were curious from all around the globe. Her grandfather’s once-quiet farm, home to a few scattered animals, transformed into a bustling centre of activity and not before long 24 pterosaurs (winged reptiles) were discovered. China made headlines as historians and reporters eagerly waited to see what would come next. In the midst of excitement, Li Wei felt a sense of concern and responsibility to protect and honour the legacy of this newly discovered treasure with the world.

Just as the excitement surrounding Li Wei’s discovery peaked, China and the world were taken aback (once again) by news about another significant find: a newly identified species of titanosaur found in the ever-green province of Jiangxi. This colossal creature, with its towering neck, short, skinny legs and massive body immediately sparked greater enthusiasm among researchers and the public. Suddenly, a new wave of enthusiasm burnt with hopes and dreams of unearthing more ancient wonders in China's less-explored territories. As excavations began, the air was alive with excitement. Each newly uncovered fossil held the promise to unlock stories from the ancient world, shedding light on the lives of giants that once roamed the earth. Li Wei stood in awe as researchers eagerly discussed the implications of the titanosaur discovery, their eyes sparkling with excitement. She began to feel that the land she had called home was more than just a farm; it was a portal to past, waiting to share its remarkable tales with all who dared to listen.

Across China discoveries continued to bring to life the rich untold stories of the past. China was now in the spotlight with tourists swarming in — each one eager to witness the wonders of palaeontology, each one eager to explore the sites that had captivated the world and each one eager to catch a glimpse of the ancient giant that once roamed the land. As families and enthusiasts visited the excavation site, they reflected on the fragilities on life that connected them to the ancient word. Children gazed in awe at the fossils, dreaming of being palaeontologists who might unearth yet another slice of history. Meanwhile researcher and curious historians continued to search other

lands in hope of discovering fossils that would reshape history or unlock the secrets of the mighty giants that once ruled this land.

As the sun dipped below the horizon and warmed up the land, Li Wei stood at the edge of her grandfather's farm, with pride and hope. What was once a peaceful place had now become a significant place of discovery where ancient skeletons were being revealed and a sense of community and purpose revived. With each new bone, stories of the distant past came to life, sparking a passion for science and history among the young and old. Li Wei knew that her grandfather's stories had not only stirred her imagination, they had nurtured a legacy that would inspire generations to come. As she looked over the horizon once again, she could almost see her grandfather's silhouette and hear his rusty voice carried by the wind, "I told you the dinosaurs that roamed this land were real." In that moment, she felt a deep connection to the ancient giants that once walked this land. She knew that their stories would live forever in the hearts of those who dared to believe, explore, and question the mysteries of world around them.

# The Journey of Respect

*German Swiss International School, Chadha, Ziya – 9*

A young and eager Ankylosaurus burst through the lush growth in the Shandong Province, China. Using her powerful tail to part the jade-green heather, she entered her tribe's hollow, just as the others came back from hunting. With their sturdy tails and armoured plates, they believed themselves unbeatable.

"*WHERE WERE YOU?!*" screeched Yingyue, their leader.

"I was l-looking for th-the Mystery Caverns," stuttered Zhirou. "There's a rumour that th-there's a way there to p-protect our world by g-giving us warmth, food, and safe h-haven."

"We don't need those things!" snapped Yingyue. "And 'we' includes you."

The thing is, Zhirou wasn't like her wary, hot-tempered pack. She longed to be herself. She tried to bury her inquisitive, friendly personality down as deep as she could. *But it isn't easy*, she thought sadly, Yingyue's everlasting rant blocked out by her misery.

\*\*\*

Jiehong was a sky-blue and fiery-orange T-Rex. As a T-Rex, one of the most vicious predators, he had been taught by his pack to stop at nothing till he got his way. But his heart longed to live differently. Unlike other T-Rexes, Jiehong was a timid creature, whose deepest desire was to explore the world himself.

As he lay down, remembering all his adventures, his pack returned, discussing the prey they killed. But Jiehong paid no attention, lost deep in his world. He reminisced about his discoveries and the friends he met along the way. But most earnestly, he wished to go to *The Mystery Caverns* – a safe and happy place!

\*\*\*

Zhirou woke up early the next morning and gambolled out of the cave, the sun warming her armoured back. She was determined to find the Mystery Caverns today and prove to everyone that she was right (especially to Yingyue). She set off alongside the Weihe River, unaware that a T-Rex was making the same journey at that moment.

After a while, the two dinosaurs encountered each other. The Ankylosaurs and the T-Rexes were mortal enemies. Typically, the two tribes would have sprung at each other, and one of them would have killed the other in the end. But this meeting was an exception, for neither of them was experienced in fighting, and neither *wanted* to fight in the least.

"Hi. I'm Zhirou. I don't mean you any harm. I'm just looking for the Mystery Caverns."

"Hey, me too! My name's Jiehong, by the way. My grandfather told me about its location. Let's head this way"

And, at that moment, a bond was forged between them. So, they set off, laughing and chattering as equals. Little did they know that a crafty pack of Spinosaurids was tailing them, waiting for a chance to attack them.

\*\*\*

As they journeyed through the wilderness, they told each other jokes, sang songs, and recounted stories of their adventures. Soon, they got to a marble gateway that divided the Mystery Caverns from the rest of the forest. The pair went through, followed by the pack of Spinosaurids. The snowy-white gateway silently sealed itself behind them.

Zhirou and Jiehong were spellbound. The first cavern had stalagmites and stalactites of every colour imaginable. Flowers blossomed magically; trees twisted to form gorgeous patterns. In a corner lay a bundle of ancient scrolls. They picked them up and unravelled them. Written in faded letters were secrets about creating light, building shelter, and mixing medicinal potions for strength and longevity. The end of each scroll carried a name in swirly letters: Wu Gongfu.

Zhirou gasped and gushed eagerly, “I’ve heard of him before! This knowledge is priceless! We’d be invincible with these secrets.”

There was a silent pause, as the pair imagined what it would be like to achieve such supremacy without bloodshed.

Jiehong excitedly suggested, “Let’s go to the next cavern?”

Zhirou, still lost in her thoughts, agreed.

But when they started advancing, the branches on a tree swooped down, and grabbed them by their hind legs, throwing them into a neighbouring cavern. The brushwood blocked their only way of escape. The Spinosaurids seized the chance and bit through the wood. The branches whacked the persistent dinosaurs but were no match for their size, strength, and skill. Once clear, they burst into the cave and attacked Zhirou and Jiehong. Nobody was around to help them. What could the young and naive duo do against a pack of bloodthirsty Spinosaurids? Who would save them? Even if they ran their fastest, they would be caught and turned into mincemeat.

Zhirou and Jiehong looked at each other, knowing they had to fight to survive, even though it would be challenging. They had seen the members of their tribe doing the same countless times. They could do it! Zhirou whacked a Spinosaurus with her mighty tail, jolting his powerful exoskeleton. Jiehong sank his jaws into a Spinosaurus’s back, wounding him severely. Zhirou and Jiehong twisted and turned, dodging and fighting. And at that moment, they both realised how much they meant to one another – their friendship was worth fighting for!

They fought valiantly and took down over half their army, but their energy was drained. Both collapsed to the ground, weak and tired. The Spinosaurids circled their prey, feinting and snapping at them. Jiehong gazed into the distance as he saw the sandy ground of the caverns tremor. He attracted Zhirou’s attention, and they saw a cluster of dinosaurs heading towards them from opposite directions. On one side, was Zhirou’s tribe, and on the other side was Jiehong’s family. The Ankylosaurus and T-Rex tribes froze at a distance seeing the sight – their children fighting *together* against the Spinosaurids as one. The two tribes ran into the cavern and united against the malicious Spinosaurids, forcing them to retreat away from their children.

Triumphant, members of both the tribes bowed to acknowledge and pay their respect to each other. Finally, bridges of harmony formed between the two rival tribes, laying the foundation of the peaceful and happy world Zhirou and Jiehong had wished for!

# The Legend of the Nine Dragons

*German Swiss International School, Chu, Jayden – 10*

“Bowen! You’re back! How was your day?” Bowen’s mom asked. She sat on their soft white couch, staring at her computer. Her black hair fell across her shoulders.

“Hi, Mom,” he responded, walking through the front door. He fidgeted with his glasses, his eyes darting around.

“Are you alright? Was it the bullies again?”

“I think I want to hear the story of the Dragons tonight,” he said, avoiding her question.

“All right, I’ll tell you later on, okay? I’ve got a meeting, finish your homework first!” she said. Bowen walked to his room through the many corridors in their family mansion. He cleared away the fantasy and archaeology books littered on his desk to set down his bag.

As he finished page after page of homework, Bowen thought about the events that had changed his life. He remembered every day so well. He remembered the day they moved to Chicago, fidgeting on the plane, hoping they were leaving Hong Kong for only a couple of weeks, the disappointment that occurred when they had told him they would be staying for the rest of his childhood. He remembered the kids who had bullied him at school, the ones who had called him different, stupid, and ugly. He remembered the first time his mom told him the story of his great-grand father, who discovered the first dinosaurs in China.

The door to his bedroom creaked open, “Bowen, I’m done,” his mom called out. “I’ve sent an email to the Principal.” It was only going to make the bullying worse, but he didn’t tell her that.

“Thanks, Mom,” he said, acting indifferent.

“I know what to do. Let’s go out to that Peking Duck restaurant you really like,” she smiled. “We’ll leave at 8, ok?” They went out to the restaurant. Bowen enjoyed the time there, but there was a little thing tugging at him. He resisted saying it and after they came home, Bowen reminded her, “You have to tell me the story.”

“Oh yeah! How could I forget? Many years ago – wait, no. Many centuries ago, the universe was protected by nine dragons. They are now known by another name, ‘Dinosaurs’. These dragons used magic, magic given to them by the ancient Crystal of Life, a powerful crystal that could empower people and bestow immortality.”

Every time his mother told the story, Bowen listened intently for any extra detail she might include.

“One day, the sky turned black. It was a dragon with scales as dark as ink: the Hei Di. Alarmed, the nine dragons rushed up to him and said, “Leave this place, you have no right to be here.”

He smiled and replied, “Surrender your powers and nobody in this universe will be hurt.”

“The dragons battled the Hei Di fiercely, but in the end, he used his powers to take all of theirs and stored them in the opal in his crown. Except he could not take their leader’s, for the Jade Dragon’s power was impossible to take.

“The Yu Long,” Bowen said. His mother nodded.

The Jade Dragon lunged to snatch the Opal glittering on the Black Dragon’s crown, but the Black Dragon flew away in a tempest. He would try to find other powers to steal, for he would not rest until he had taken the power of the Jade Dragon and destroyed the Crystal of life, and in doing so, destroyed the universe as well. The nine dragons retreated to a blue and green planet to form their plan.

Midnight struck, the Black Dragon approached, stronger than ever. The dragons took magic from the Crystal of Life, magic that they knew they would have to give up their lives to use.

Empowered, the dragons rose into the air to battle the Black Dragon once more. The Black Dragon’s crown blazed with power. Terrified, all the dragons began to ferociously fight. The Jade Dragon summoned her powers and grappled with the Hei Di. Shining with light, a crown of Jade appeared on her head. She tore the Opal from the Black Dragon’s crown and destroyed it, releasing all of the power trapped inside. The Hei Di’s roars echoed through the heavens. The dragons retreated back to the planet, hoping to banish the Black Dragon and end his tyranny forever.

The Jade Dragon ordered everybody to gather around the crystal and relinquish their powers and life force. The dragons' magic was sucked in and they shrunk and turned to jade. A spear formed, adorned with those little jade dragons. A wave of light swept through the planet, and life was created all over it while the Hei Di was banished. The crystal shimmered and disappeared, reappearing on the Jade Dragon's crown. The dragons' bones scattered all over the land that would become China. Nine special bones, however, buried themselves in the mountains that would one day become Kowloon – The Nine Dragons. Your great-great-grandfather was the first to find these bones. He was just a fisherman when he found them. The price he fetched set our family for generations. The buyers thought they were dinosaurs, calling them *Avinimus*, and *Sinraptor*, but he knew they were the bones of the dragons he had heard about all his life.

Pride swelled in Bowen's chest at his ancestry. He smiled. Rocks fell over the Jade items, burying them. To this day, nobody has found them.

"Do you think anyone will?" Bowen asked.

"Maybe one day," she said, "Now go to sleep." She kissed him on the forehead and left.

He had to find the spear. He wanted to prove to everyone else that he was just as good as them. His mind raced with possibilities of where the spear was as his eyes slowly fell shut. That night, he dreamed of a huge mountain in Hong Kong. His consciousness seemed to be guiding him to something in the centre of the mountain. And there, in a tiny hole, lay the jade spear and crown.

# The Tripping Bones

*German Swiss International School, Liu, Skylar – 10*

The conference room is packed with reporters. So many people. All waiting for me to speak. Suddenly I feel dizzy. No. This is all wrong. I need to rewind. Come with me.

## Two Months Ago – Liaoning, China

“Dad, why do I have to do all this work? I’m only eleven!” I asked. I had been sowing seeds and planting for the whole morning, and it was getting boring.

“Hang on, it’s almost time for lunch! We just have to finish this side of the field, and w——HANG ON WHAT ARE YOU DOING?? I told you one seed per metre! Those two seeds will interfere and affect each other’s growth! Haven’t I taught you anything?” He bent to fix the spacing of the seeds.

Soon Dad said it’s time for lunch, but I didn’t hear him at first. When I ran over to catch up, I tripped. As I climbed up, I saw the offending object: a bone. I went over to investigate – and promptly tripped again.

“Quickly!” my dad called.

“Wait!” I replied. He came over and saw a huge skeleton that looked like a zombie–bird, just with longer arms lying half buried in the ground. He realised what it might be and ran back to the house. I saw him putting a letter into the mailbox. He then got some fence and fenced the area up.

“I’ve written a letter to the authorities, but it might take a few days for the letter to arrive, so let’s stay on the safe side,” he said. However, I could see he had a trace of a smile on his face.

The next few days went by in a blur, but on Sunday I saw them, with three cars coming over. They all get off and that’s when I saw that they’ve brought a palaeontologist. Clearly, they wanted to investigate deeper. When they saw “our” skeleton, his face went pale. He squatted and started to brush the bones, taking measurements and such. After half an hour, he stopped, a wide grin on his face. He said that we’ve discovered the first clearly feathered dinosaur fossil on Earth, whatever that meant.

Anyways, after days of “pestering” my dad, I finally figured out the whole gist of it. Apparently, palaeontologists think dinosaurs are related to birds, but can’t prove anything. They say this is the missing puzzle piece and will help palaeontologists finally prove the close link between T–rexes and hummingbirds or something like that. Of course, inevitably, they named it something long and confusing, *Sinosauropteryx*, which he said means “The China Dragon Bird”. No idea why. Anyways, in short, we’re going to become famous. But when I asked the experts what to expect in the following weeks, they just said: “Interviews. Lots and lots of interviews, and meetings too. Of course you’ll earn money, but I’m not sure that house can stay stable with so many reporters pounding on the door,” he chuckled.

Well, he was right. I just had an interview with a reporter from *People’s Daily*, followed by an “annual palaeontologists’ meeting”, where I just had to say two lines about how I discovered the dinosaur fossil. That didn’t stop me from almost fainting from nervousness though. He was spot on with the bit about reporters pounding on our door too. I could hear the whole house creaking. Next, I had quite a lot of interviews and meetings before the “big one”. There was, someone else told me, several famous palaeontologists from abroad, as well as many Chinese palaeontologists. Now you’re finally up to date.

I steadied myself, picked up the dinosaur fragment, and said in a shaky voice: “This is a fragment of the skeleton of the first ever clearly feathered dinosaur that I found buried in my farm. There are unmistakable holes on the skeleton that would house feathers on the skin.” I won’t bother writing out my whole speech, but you get the idea. When I finally finished, there was a round of applause and I slowly returned to my seat.

All of a sudden it was the next day. The news bore a shocking headline: NEIGHBOURING FARMER CLAIMS RIGHT TO OWNING PATCH OF LAND WHERE SKELETON WAS FOUND

I was stunned. I knew which “farmer” that was talking about. My arch-enemy at school, Xing Guan’s dad, who wasn’t a farmer... You see where this was heading. Apparently, they were taking us to court. I spent the whole day coming up with arguments for the court:

First, you aren’t even a farmer. You don’t bear a Farmer’s Permit. You are a bricklayer. Therefore, you have no right to own farming land, where the fossil was found.

Second, we rightfully own the land. We have documents for proof.

I still gave interviews the next few days, but I was unfocused. My mind kept straying to the court case and what would happen if we lost. I tried not to focus on that, but it was hard. Then I woke up the next day and knew it’s time. It was all or nothing. It was bragging rights at school. Most importantly, it was thousands of dollars. On the way to court, I felt jumpy. Those doubts kept coming back to me. What if?

On the car ride to court, I shared my reasoning with my father, and he seemed to agree with them. When Xing Guan’s Dad came out, he started opening his argument with a ridiculous reason: 118 years ago, the government gave that land to their family, etc. But we countered with strong and effective reasoning, including both of my points AND the fact that there was no proof of that incident in 1876. However, there WAS proof of us buying the land forty-six years ago. He seemed to know when he was defeated and slumped away from the dock. On the way home, we took a side route to avoid the swarming reporters. As I relished a precious moment of silence, I wished it could go on forever.

# The Exiled Alliance of Dinosaurs

*German Swiss International School, Shin, Christabel – 10*

Zeta's wings were heavy with exhaustion, but she continued following the pack. Panic seared through the crowd as they realised they might soon be dinner. At this point, Zeta was desperate. She hasn't eaten in days because of her lack of skill. *Zeta, if you are ever going to survive out there, you have to manage **on your own**. You can't rely on the pack, or you will soon be dead. That is why we have to let you go.* Her mother's final words before she was sent away echoed through her heart. *Focus*, Zeta reminded herself. *Focus*. Zeta swooped down again, claws outstretched. Her claws caught on a baby albertadromeus. The little hatchling shrieked. Zeta quickly flew away before the baby could struggle. If her mother had done this, she would have said to the hatchling in her evil voice "Don't worry, this will all end **very soon**. I'm sure you won't feel a thing after," and then she would cackle evilly. Zeta shuddered at the thought. "I'm sorry," Zeta whispered, "I'm so sorry." And she really meant it.

Zeta settled for a spot that looked safe. She double checked before landing. The small dinosaur wasn't moving by then. Zeta hesitated. *What if I could let it go? No, it's already dead. Might as well eat it.* Zeta closed her eyes as she took the first bite. Usually she didn't take pleasure in eating other dinosaurs, but she was starving, so she didn't mind. It tasted like a mix of pleasure and guilt. *No*, Zeta thought, *We are Pterosaurs. We take no mercy and we kill without any hesitation, no guilt.* That was one of her mother's quotes. Soon, there was nothing but a small portion left. That was when she realised she longed for a nap. She closed her eyes and drifted away in her dreams.

Zeta woke up to the feeling of breath on her. The putrid smell of rotten meat filled her nostrils and she startled awake. In front of her was a big, terrifying ceratosaurus. Zeta shrieked as she ran. She tried to fly, but for some reason, her left wing felt pain. She panicked as she examined her wing while running. There, right at her left wing, was a snapped branch that prevented her from flying, at the same time causing pain to her wing. Zeta looked back to see how far the ceratosaurus was, but she immediately regretted it. She could feel the hot breath on her back. She tried to fly again, but it only made Zeta wince in pain. *This is it, this is how I'm going to die.* Zeta thought. Just when she thought she couldn't run anymore, She was swept up into the sky. A hatzegopteryx, wingspan about 18 feet, had rescued her. Zeta was a pteranodon, with a wingspan about 15 feet. But why would she save her? When they landed, the branch flew off because of the speed they went at. For a second, they just stared at each other. "Are you gonna thank me, or what?" the hatzegopteryx grumbled. Suddenly, a small sinosauropteryx jumped from the hatzegopteryx's back. "Ahhh!" Zeta screamed.

"Oh! HI! I'm Kaiju, I'm a sinosauropteryx, are you a pteranodon? Oh my gosh, I've never met a pteranodon before! It soooo nice to meet you!! What's your name? Ooh, guessing games! I LOVE guessing games! Muli, Puni, Nini, Mini, what can it be?" Zeta, still recovering from the shock, stared at the dinosaurs. The hatzegopteryx rolled her eyes. Kaiju smiled at Zeta, wide eyed. "I-I'm Zeta." Zeta managed.

"I'm Tyrant." The hatzegopteryx grumbled. "Were you exiled too? Ugrh, they always exile the helpless and useless ones, so I'm not surprised. So, you are coming to hunt, or what. We need food to survive, so we better get going." *Exiled?* Zeta has never thought of that before, but now that Tyrant mentioned it, it did feel like she was abandoned. "So?" Tyrant questioned, impatient. "I'm coming!" Zeta shouted. For the first time, Tyrant smiled, but it disappeared just as fast as it was there. "Come, Kaiju, hurry!" Kaiju hopped on, and the trio flew up.

“So, why did you save me?” Zeta asked, curious. Tyrant hesitated. Finally, she answered.

“You looked like you needed it. I’ve been in your place before, exiled, and well, alone when a predator attacked. Until she saved me.” She signalled at Kaiju.

“Both of you are exiled?”

“Yup.”

“Are we friends now?”

“Maybe.”

Soon, they spotted a herd of compsoognathus. These were small, but fast. Without warning, Tyrant dove down and returned with two in claws. “Your turn,” Tyrant said. Zeta gulped and dove down. They were on alert, so it was hard for Zeta. Her claws aimed at one but missed. The same happened to others. She went back up in annoyance. “Didn’t you catch any?” Tyrant asked.

“W–Well, I can’t.” Zeta’s cheeks burned with embarrassment. Tyrant nodded at her. The pair went down. “Catch from behind, you can take it by surprise. Focus on one, even if you don’t catch it, it will get tired soon.” Zeta followed her advice and earned dinner.

That night, they had dinner together, chatting. As Zeta chewed on a piece of meat, her family came to mind. But unlike before, the pang of hurt had disappeared. Zeta realised that she was exactly where she belonged. You don’t have to be related to people to call them a part of your family, Zeta thought. Suddenly, a loud bang echoed through the night. Fire spat, trees collapsed, and Zeta felt the world around her fade away in chaos.

## **67 million years later...**

*Thump!* The shovel hit something hard. “嗯？这是什么？” The farmer examined the fossils of Kaiju, the sinosauropteryx. His wife called “Xiao Cheng, 晚餐做好了！快来，不然饭菜就凉了！”

“等一下！” His wife, annoyed, went over. When she saw it, her eyes lit up, their faces lit up. And a new page of knowledge lit up.

# Friendships Made and Pleasures Shared

*German Swiss International School, Zhong, Isabel – 10*

“Meimei! Dinner time!”

“Coming, Ma!”

I breathe in a deep sigh. Life on the farm here in Jiangxi is always the same. I wake up, eat breakfast, and work on the farm until sundown. Then, I have dinner and do my house chores before bed. That’s how it’s always been for my brother and me, and that’s how it will always be.

I sit down at the dinner table next to my fourteen-year-old brother.

“Little thief, have you decided to return the chocolate to me yet?” Gege sneers. He’s just two years older, but he acts like he’s twenty years older than me.

Ugh. The chocolate. It all happened a few days ago. Gege’s friend from the city came over and gave him a full-size chocolate bar! Here in our mountain village, a chocolate bar is about as rare as a dinosaur! Then the next day, he dropped it on the cornfield while working. Since he’s always bullying me, of course, I took it. The next day, Gege noticed and came right up to me and said, “I know you took it.” I didn’t even try to play dumb. When Gege says something, it has to be true. But I didn’t give it back. Finders keepers.

After dinner, I open the door and am about to bring out the slops for the pigs, when I see something lying on the ground. It’s an egg fossil! The egg is bumpy and covered with mud. This is the fossil that all my neighbours talk about! Many people in this area have discovered these fossils. My heart races with excitement.

“Ma! Look what I found!” I shout as I point at the egg fossil.

“Heavens!” gasps Ma, her eyes wide.

As I kneel down to get a better look, the egg fossil starts to change. It cracks open, revealing a dinosaur with shimmering scales that glisten in the fading sunlight. It’s about a metre high. Bright blue spikes shoot up along its back, and its wings unfurl to reveal a sapphire of colours. The dinosaur hops forward, its eyes sparkling with mischief. It looks up at me, tilting its head as if trying to understand who I am. I can’t help but smile.

“You’re kind of cute, you know.” I’ve always wanted a pet. This will have to do for now. I think I’ll name it Lan after the colour blue.

Suddenly, the ground shakes beneath us, and a low rumble echoes in the distance. Ma grabs my arm. “Meimei, we need to get inside!”

“No, wait!” I pull away, entranced by Lan. “What’s happening?”

I look up just in time to see a bird-like figure gliding through the sky—a creature that I’ve never seen before! This one has enormous wings and scales that shimmer like scarlet red, a bird-like dinosaur that strangely reminds me of a Phoenix. But what is it doing here?

“Get inside, Meimei!” Ma urges again, her voice coated with fear.

But Lan suddenly takes off, launching itself into the air. “Wait!” I shout. It flutters just above my head, circling around Phoenix, now hovering above our house.

“What is it trying to do?” I gasp, watching the two creatures engage in combat, Lan darting and weaving around Phoenix as if challenging it. Phoenix looks bigger and stronger and swoops at Lan like a bully. Phoenix bares its fangs and hisses at Lan. What is happening?

“Meimei, come back!” Ma calls, but I’m captivated by the spectacle unfolding before me. Lan is fearless, its spikes standing tall, darting bravely in front of Phoenix.

Suddenly, I notice that Phoenix is holding something delicately in her massive claws—an egg! The egg is creamy white, speckled with gold flecks, and it radiates a faint glow as it sways slightly in the giant’s grip.

“Ma! Look! She has an egg!”

But before Ma can respond, Phoenix shifts her weight, and the egg slips from her claws. Time seems to slow as I watch it plummet toward the ground. “No!” I yell, instinctively reaching out.

In a flash, Lan zips into action, soaring through the air.

In that instant, I feel a surge of courage. “You can do it!” I shout, willing Lan to catch the egg for Phoenix. It seems to hear me, and with determination, it charges toward it, wings spread wide, glowing brighter than ever.

It darts downward, catching the egg just inches above the ground. I let out a breath, my heart racing with relief. “You did it!” I cheer.

Lan flaps its wings triumphantly, holding the egg securely in its claws. It hovers for a moment, looking back at Phoenix, who seems to be watching carefully. There’s a moment of silent communication between them, and I can almost feel the tension in the air.

Then, to my astonishment, Lan lets out a low, rumbling sound that feels more like a sigh than a roar. He flutters closer to Phoenix, as if seeking approval.

“Do you think they’ll become friends?” I whisper to Ma, whose eyes are wide with wonder.

“I think they already are,” she replies, her voice soft.

Slowly, I watch intently as the two of them flap their wings and soar through the sky, then vanish.

“Goodbye, Lan,” I whisper.

Suddenly, I feel a hand resting on my shoulder. I turn around. It’s Gege! Instantly, I feel the urge to apologise to him.

“Gege, I’m sor—”

“I’m sorry too! You hardly get any treats from the city. You can keep the choco—” he assures, but I can hear the hesitation in his voice.

“But I can’t! It’s your birthday present!” I protest. “How about we share it?”

“Sure!” he exclaims. He nudges me. “You know what? For a minute, I thought there was going to be egg drop soup tonight.”

“Gege stop it! You and your silly puns,” I laugh.

And just like that, our relationship is fixed between Gege and me; and dare I say, a new friendship has been formed between Lan and Phoenix.

# Bob the Dinosaur

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Arcoumanis, Constantine – 10*

In China, two paleontologists are heading to the town of Ganzhou City to visit a museum. They are chatting as they are gaming away on the scorching hot bus. One of them says, “Are you excited to see the fossils?”

“Yes I am,” the other mumbles, panting and drinking cold water.

When they excitedly rush off the bus, one of them shouts, “Wow it's cold!”

The other exclaims, “I think it is negative 5 degrees.”

It is a long walk to the museum. One guy says, “How much longer is it to get there? I am so tired.”

“Just 30 more minutes ok,” he says, annoyed by the fact that he keeps asking.

“Fine!” he said angrily.

When they arrive, he shouts “Finally we’re here!” They slowly tiptoe into the museum, admiring the beauty of the dinosaurs. After they hand over their bags for security, they enter down some halls and finally get to the room of fossils.

The guy exclaimed, “Wow, that's beautiful.”

The other guy said, “I know right.”

“Look at that fossil, it has a hole in the middle,” said one of the guys.

Let's look into what that fossil's life was like in the Cretaceous period.

Bob was very small for a 10-year-old Titanosaur and his tough, black plates acted as armour. Bob and his friend Dora were playing tag outside the urban environment. In the distance were volcanoes, lakes and moist ground that they were standing on. Dora was the tagger. They were playing happily when Bob spotted a big, strong Triceratops selling meteorites. When Bob looked at them, he saw they were fake and made out of plastic. The business-dinosaur asked if he wanted to buy something.

So Bob goes up and asks, “How do you make such meteorites so realistic when they're only plastic.”

He said, “If you want it then buy it!”

“OK, I will come back some time,” said Bob.

“Bye!” shouted the business-dinosaur.

Bob was amazed so he started reading about meteorites and how they were formed. So he started studying and spending a lot of time on that topic. He enjoyed it and he started competing in competitions and he won most of them because he wanted experience with meteorite competitions.

His teacher tells him that there will be a school tournament for meteorites and the person with the best poster and the best proof wins the competition. “Hm... Should I do it or not? Let's do it then!” said Bob. The dinosaur agreed to join the competition and to win it. He picked it over learning because he wanted a prize.

Every night from when his teacher spoke about the competition, he stayed up late, researched and created a wonderful poster. The only thing left to do was the proof. He didn't want to get a fake meteorite so he decided to try to catch a real one.

He wanted to build a machine to collect a meteorite so he first needed to find the pieces. He searched and managed to find all of the pieces he needed in his house. He took the chip, processor and buttons from a spare computer. Later on, his claws were in pain from all the drawing and writing to design the machine. He designed for over a day. Because of this, the ink smelled like rotten flesh and the pen hitting the paper sounded like a mouse squeaking. After all the tiring and hard work, he finally finished the sketch and now it was time for him to assemble the pieces. He heard the pieces assemble and combine. Chk! Ding! He felt uncomfortable when the metal pieces scraped together. The two days of work had finally come to an end and it was now time for testing.

He clicked a button on his remote and the robot started powering up. Zap! Beep! The robot's screen turned on. The robot's hands ascended. But then he realized... he could not charge it. He had designed other parts of the machine over the charging port. This would be a problem when he had to catch the meteorite because the battery would run out. But he knew that tonight was the only night to catch the meteorite so he decided to catch it with his bare claws.

When he tried to leave the house, his parents confronted him.

"Where are you going, son?" they questioned.

"Uh, you don't need to worry about it. I'm just going to get something" responded Bob.

"What are you going to get?" Bob's mom kindly exclaimed.

"Uh, I just want to buy some ice cream from the market." answered Bob.

"Okay, just be sure you do not go near the meteorite." ordered Bob's mom.

He left the house and headed to the approximate location where the meteorite would be landing. It was a long, 30-minute walk. He walked across the moist, unstable ground and arrived at the approximate meteorite crash site. The fresh air whooshed past him at the speed of light. The shimmering night sky glared upon him. At that moment he felt excited because he knew he was going to win that competition. He sees a hot, flaming ball rapidly descending. He feels the temperature rise. The meteorite loses altitude rapidly as it descends at a speed above 70 kilometers per second. So he gets his hands ready. The meteorite is coming down, 100 meters to go. The pressure is rising, the wind is increasing and that hot flaming ball is in his reach and... CRASH! It mounted into his body and slammed him into the ground. He left life and the next day, his body was found in the meteorite crash site. His bones were preserved and buried in ash from volcanoes. Paleontologists find these fossils and bring them back to the museum 66 million years later.

Let's go back to the present world.

As the paleontologists head out, one of them says, "That was a stunning experience."

"Yes I know right," says the other paleontologist.

When they get into the cold, one of the paleontologists complains, "Ugh, don't make me walk to the bus again."

# Chinese Dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Au, Atticus – 9*

Today was a very ordinary day. I was reading my favourite comic in my room, *Chinese Dinosaur Adventure*. It's all about a boy called Fred who builds a time machine and then travels back millions of years to see dinosaurs. Fred ended up in Guangzhou at a place where dinosaurs once roamed.

Suddenly, I heard my mum calling. "Atticus! There's an envelope for you!" she shouted. I dashed down the hallway, took the stairs quickly and was there in no time at all. Mum handed me the envelope and said it was something about Chinese dinosaurs. I snatched it eagerly and ran back to my room. I opened the envelope and I found the letter read:

*Dear Atticus,*

*We hope that you're having a wonderful day, and if you are, then it's about to get even better. We are writing to inform you about being chosen for a miraculous experience. We are building something out of this world, something no one has ever built before, a Time Machine!*

*If you're reading this letter, you might be confused, but we have invited you on a trip to see the astonishing Chinese dinosaurs in Guangzhou.*

*Please meet on Friday the 4th of January at midnight using the directions on the bottom of this letter.*

*Sincerely,*

*Chinese Dinosaur Centre*

That is tomorrow at midnight! I froze for a moment before getting my stuff packed, I knew what I needed to do, sneak out.

Today was the big day. I gathered my bags, then I waited for the time to come. The moment Mum and Dad were asleep, I made my move. I tiptoed out of the house and made my way to the Chinese Dinosaur Centre.

When I got there, the scientists were all waiting for me. "Welcome, Atticus," one of them said. I knew I couldn't turn back, as I took my bags and walked over to the Time Machine. Once inside they strapped me into the seat and waved goodbye, closing the door.

I suddenly heard three loud beeps. The next thing I knew, I was travelling back in time. I felt a shock like all my nerves were gone, and I closed my eyes tightly too frightened to look. There was a loud zoom sound, like the sound of a spaceship in Star Wars when they go extremely fast.

When I felt everything was calm, I slowly opened my eyes. The doors of the time machine had open, showing to me stunning views. Tall trees with verdant leaves surrounding crystal clear ponds. Dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes could be seen. They were tall, ruby-coloured and mighty, and they all looked very friendly. I saw nests with dinosaur eggs guarded by their mothers. I wanted to see how these tiny dinosaur eggs can eventually grow into an adult that could soar through the skies.

For a while, everything was calm and beautiful, until a pack of T-rex appeared, surrounding me. I froze for a moment, thinking of my next move, but there was no time. One of them opened its giant mouth revealing its sharp,

blood-stained teeth. I closed my eyes, thinking it was going to be the end. I started to think of my Mum, Dad and my sister. I closed my eyes, waiting for my time to come.

Then an idea came to me: what if I tried to communicate? I grabbed my Chinese Dinosaur Adventure comic and frantically flipped to the pages where Fred tries to become friends with the dinosaurs. I found in those pages how to say: "Can I be friends with you?" in dinosaur language is "Roar, roar, rahhhhhh." I bravely roared the words as loudly as I could.

The T-rex hesitated, looking confused at each other. Then after what felt like eternity, in unison, they let out a mighty "roar", which I later found out means "ok" in dinosaur language. After the incident I was so relieved as they turned and left. I was safe, I knew that I was very lucky to be alive.

That night, I lay down in the grass, marvelling at my adventure. After a while, no sound was left except the sound of snoring dinosaurs. I made myself comfortable and hoped that tomorrow would be a more pleasant day. Soon I was deep asleep as well.

The next morning, I woke early feeling refreshed and ready for another day of hard work. I sat up and saw the warm glow of the sun was coming over the horizon, rising up from its sleep, I was also fully charged, and the dinosaurs were already awake too.

I walked out onto the grassy field with lush surroundings circling with an air of enchantment. Today was obviously a marvellous day with vibrant T-rex's and other dinosaurs eating, running, and relaxing. So I also tried to enjoy myself. But the calm didn't last long when suddenly, with a flash of lightning, a mysterious time machine came out of nowhere. It took a while for me to recognize it but then, it all made sense. It was the exact same time machine that brought me here. I guess it was time to leave this magnificent place. "Goodbye, dinosaurs," I whispered, waving sadly as I stepped into the time machine.

Now, I was stuck back in this weird looking time machine. And once again, I was closing my eyes so tight, it looked like I was going to cry. But suddenly, I felt a jolt, and it felt like I was racing through space, so fast that I could not even imagine as time passed in ten seconds.

Relieved and exhausted, in the next moment, it stopped. I opened my eyes and opened the door which I learnt from last time that once it stopped, it would automatically open up. I lept into bed. "What a journey," I thought, drifting off to sleep with dreams of dinosaurs still freshly in my mind.

The next morning as I lay in bed, I couldn't help but wonder if it had all been a dream. Then I felt something cold and smooth under my pillow. I reached out and pulled it free – a small, speckled dinosaur egg. My heart skipped a beat.

How did it get here?

# Jade's Discovery

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Chan, Sophie – 9*

“Why do you always bring back so much rubbish, Jade?” a tall man yelled across the table. Yep, that was Jade’s dad. Jade and her family were sitting at the dining table having dinner.

“Not every rock and stone is a fossil, Jade!” her mum added.

“Oh my god! Can you guys just stop? I’ve actually found something this time!” screamed Jade before stomping into her room and throwing herself onto her bed. Jade stared up at the ceiling thinking about the fossils she dug up today. She remembered one of them looked different but why did it look so different...

Feeling as if she had to make a point, she picked the giant slab up with her two hands and dragged it to the living room.

“Guys, come look at this fossil!” exclaimed Jade. The rest of her family came running from the sofa to see. You see, Jade’s parents are both paleontologists but they favour their firstborn, Liling. Liling was a natural palaeontologist, really good at finding amber and very visible traces of dinosaur bone. Jade was...passionate But she always brought home “junk” as her parents call it.

“Of course this one is a special fossil, Jade! Just like all the other ones!” said her dad sarcastically, without even glancing at the fossil on the table.

“Thanks so much, Dad! I mean, you totally looked at the fossil before you started judging and throwing your nasty comments around.” mumbled Jade with a fake sickly sweet smile that spread across her face.

“Anyway DAD, I’m pretty sure that this is the fossil of a sinosauroptryx which is a dinosaur with an unusually long tail and very short arms which is actually very SPECIAL. A farmer here found the first sinosauroptryx fossil that had a clear trace of feathers. The longest sinosauroptryx is found to be 1.07 metres lon—”

“Yeah, yeah, yeah. We already know all of your trying to be clever speeches, Jade! We’ve heard it about a million times so will you STOP!” screamed Liling who was obviously being sarcastic.

“Can you just stop being sarcastic for once, Liling or are you SO addicted to it, that every time you speak there has to be a form of sarcasm in it !?” yelled Jade, her little, angry face glistening red. There was a long, awkward silence after Jade finished speaking but it got interrupted when Jade’s mum bellowed

“Jade! I do not like your behaviour today, so watch your mouth and your actions. You are GROUNDED!”. Jade stormed outside, slamming the door leaving her family standing in aghast. Jade had always had a temper and usually at home when she couldn’t control it she would slam the door so, of course they all knew she was going to do that.

“We all were expecting that weren’t we?” sighed her mum.

The next day, Jade’s parents left home early to go to the office. Her sister had .....today so she left soon after. It was now time to launch her plan into action. Jade knew she was grounded but she had to take the fossil to a nearby museum before it was too late and her parents tossed it in the bin.

Jade took the fossil and put it in a little wagon that she used to use as a kid then dashed out of the door to try to catch the next train to the museum. Jade glanced at her watch, it was 09:50 and the next train was going to reach the station at 10:00. She was going to have to make a run for it, otherwise she would miss it. Jade darted through a crowd of people in front of her and managed to make it to the station with 1 minute to spare. The train arrived in the blink of an eye and Jade hopped onto the train with her hopes high.

When the train reached the station that was right opposite the museum, Jade immediately raced through its grand doors and straight to a kind looking old lady at the reception.

“Excuse me, I was digging one day and found this very special-looking fossil. Is there anyone I could give it to?” asked Jade.

“I’m not sure, let me check...” replied the lady. Jade glanced at her surroundings and caught a glimpse of a familiar-looking man walking towards them but as he got closer Jade realised who he was. Wasn’t that her dad?

“Mr Li, could you help me please?” said the woman at the reception. Mr Li was the name of Jade’s dad. The man walked towards the counter. Jade realised he looked very angry. Now she was very convinced that he was her dad.

“Jade, aren’t you grounded! Why are you not at home? Go back home this instant!” Jade’s dad suddenly yelled. As her dad finished speaking, the air filled with silence. Another paleontologist walked by and stopped dead in his tracks.

“Sorry to interrupt but that fossil the young lady has looks very special to me. You can see clear traces of filament-like feathers. This is incredibly rare! If it is ok with you, may I send this to a Geological Museum in Beijing?” said the friendly paleontologist.

“Sure! It’s just a fossil I dug up anyway.” replied Jade. “I can give it to you now if you want.”

“That would be amazing if you could. Thank you so much! Your discovery will be rewarded.” said the paleontologist. Meanwhile Jade’s dad was standing there in complete shock.

The next day, Jade and her discovery was plastered across the internet and several other public platforms and these were the headlines— *A girl with a passion for collecting rocks and fossils brings home a sinosauropteryx fossil.* Journalists from around the world came to interview her about her discovery. Jade’s family apologized for making fun of her. Maybe not everything Jade does is a waste of time. That just goes to show that you shouldn’t assume things too quickly.

# The Missing Dinosaur

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Cheng, Cara – 11*

As the cool breeze brushed my face, I felt my heart pounding like it was about to burst out of my sweaty, sticky chest. I shakily took a breath in and out. It felt warm and dry. This was it. I had reached the deserts. Now the only thing I needed to do was to find the spot marked X on my map and I would be one step closer to becoming a famous archaeologist one day, or, maybe even, the founder of a new species of dinosaur!

Wait. I haven't even found the spot marked X yet and I'm thinking about becoming a founder of a new dinosaur species! Ugh. Me and my foolish imagination. "You know that's never going to happen," I told myself, "Stop thinking about these impossible things and focus on finding the X, which is actually possible, well...probably possible...unless everything I saw online was FAKE!"

My smooth, black hair blew onto my face and I caught a glimpse of my faint blonde highlights. That brought me back to life and reminded me that I was actually in the deserts and not in my little imagination world. Sighing, I tucked my hair behind my ears and started to find the X.

I tried to match up my map with the desert. It seemed impossible since every hill appeared to be the same, except for slight changes in height and width. My map looked similar to the desert but not exactly the same, and as my dad said, 'It has to be the exact same, for a map to be correct'. I should have just gotten my dad's map, after all, he is a cartographer. It took me one whole hour to find the place where it's marked X. In the first 15 minutes, I was just exploring the desert but in the last 45 minutes, I found myself going in circles! Finally, I found the exact spot since I had help from Google Earth and lots of other online maps that show this specific spot which is Hong Kong, The Sun Desert.

This desert is called The Sun Desert because the sun is there almost every day of the whole year.

Gingerly, I knelt down to examine the spot. It looked like any other sand heap to other people but not to me. I studied a lot about what sand and the shape of the sand looks like when there is a fossil or something inside. I took out my shovel and started to dig away the top layer of sand.

Half an hour later, I collapsed onto the sandy desert and let out a heavy sigh. I guess I better get back to work if I want this to be finished today.

Another half hour later, I finally saw something! I dug quickly and hopefully, waiting for a hard bone to appear out of the sand. Instead, I saw an egg. It was light, baby pink on the top with a gradient of light purple and baby blue. The egg wasn't any bigger than my head, which was surprising because my head was immensely small.

Suddenly, I heard a small crack. I let out a tiny gasp. Then, I heard another crack, and another, and another. I looked down at my hands and saw that the egg was hatching! Gingerly, I placed the egg down on the sand and watched it for a few seconds. Out of nowhere, a little head popped out from the eggshell. It had a scaly, white skin with pink highlights on its thin, fragile tail. It was no bigger than a stapler and it had eyes as blue as the Pacific Ocean. It stared at me. Wait a second. Scaly skin, blue eyes, hatched from an egg...is this ...is this a DINOSAUR? I froze on the spot for at least 10 seconds.

All of a sudden, I heard thunder rumbling. The clouds turned dark grey and the little creature whimpered and tried to hide in my top. I carried it and placed it on my hands gently. I frantically searched around for a place to shelter. Out of the corner of my eye, I spotted an orange tent, just big enough for me. I felt one drop of water drip onto my sleeve. Then, another drop dripped on me...oh no. Before I knew it, it was raining so much that it was like the sky was flooding with cold water. The tent was far away from me. The creature squeaked in my hand and I knew I had to get me and the creature to safety, although I didn't know if this creature was dangerous or not. My hair was damp and my clothes started to stick to my skin.

Without thinking, my feet ran as fast as they could to the tent. It was really far away but it was the only safe place to hide from the thunderstorm. I ran as fast as my legs would take me. I ran so fast that I had a stitch on both sides of my stomach that felt like a large needle was piercing through my skin. I ran till I couldn't breathe properly anymore. I ran till the back of my throat felt like swords were stabbing through. I ran till I couldn't anymore. I ran too fast, faster than my body could handle. My right leg tripped on my left leg and I hit the soaked sand hard. My body felt weak and like it was submerged in a swimming pool. The rain was pouring on me but I didn't care. The creature curled up into a ball and rested next to my head. I took a massive sigh and closed my eyes.

I tilted my head to my side and felt my eyelids droop down. The last thing I saw was the rain immersing every single speck of sand in its water, like a witch, mind-controlling everyone in her path.

# Raising a Sinosauropteryx

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Chiu, Matthew – 10*

It was a sunny day in December, which was a perfect day to go for a field trip to the museum. The museum's name is called Dino Adam Museum and it took 1 hour to get there using the HIS school bus. I was really excited to go there as I would see the different kinds of animals, artifacts, artwork pictures, but my favorite thing to see is the dinosaur's area where I could learn and explore more about them.

As we entered the museum, everyone was amazed by the scenery inside and outside.

What I like the most in the Dino Adam Museum was the Dino Area. It was like going back to the past like we've travelled time back million years ago. I was amazed the moment I step to the entrance it was like I'm witnessing what it looks like million years ago during Triassic Period. The dinosaurs where like real creature moving around from their places and making noises and sound that would terrify each student that would pass from it. It is also divided in three (3) eras: Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. Since we were here in Hong Kong, we focused about all the Chinese dinosaurs that we will have in our lesson for that week and amazingly there's a lot of dinosaurs founded here in China like Beipiaosaurus, Archaeornithomimus, Chaoyangsaurus, Agilisaurus, Guanlong, Chungkingosaurus, Alectosaurus, Avimimus, Datousaurus, Bellusaurus, Bactrosaurus, Equijubus, Euhelopus, etc.

After a long stroll of all the Chinese Dinosaurs Section the one that caught my eyes was the Sinosauropteryx which means Chinese reptilian wing. It is a compsognathid dinosaur This fossil was dated to the Early Cretaceous Epoch. It was the first dinosaur taxon outside of Avialae to be found with evidence of feathers. It was exceptional because its head, neck, back, short arm, and long tail were covered with a coat of very simple filament like feathers. The Sinosauropteryx the first non-avian dinosaurs where colouration has been determined. The colouration includes a reddish and light banded tail.

It's been a tiring and long day for all of us who attend the field trip in Dino Adam Museum but its all worth it because I found some most interesting dinosaurs in the world. I enjoyed most of my time in Dino Area. I also enjoyed my time being with my friends eating our snacks together in the food court area of the museum. Everyone in the bus was chatty and most of them talked about what they've seen in the Dino Area. Some felt asleep going back to school where our parents were waiting for us and ready to pick us up when we arrived there. I can't wait to see my mom and tell the exciting part of the trip.

Its 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we arrived at school and everyone was excited to see their moms and dad. My mom was with her BMW to pick me up. The moment I saw her I was eager to tell her about my trip to Dino Adam Museum. Weve chatted all the way home about the different things I saw during the trip. Until dinner time I still kept on talking about my Mom, my brother Barton and my Dad about the Sinosauropteryx which is my favorite dinosaur in the Chinese Dinosaur Area.

I finally did my night routine and was about to prepare to sleep but my mind was still full of dinosaur's stuff not so long after I fell asleep. I know I was in deep sleep but the truth is I was already dreaming about the Sinosauropteryx. In my dream I felt something in my feet and I accidentally kicked it. It was an egg. It was not just an ordinary egg it was a dinosaur egg where I found myself in the dinosaur period from which I recall in the Dino Adam Museum. As I held the egg in my hand it was starting to shake and slowly cracked bit by bit. While it cracked open, I was thrilled to have a once in a lifetime moment

and it was magnificent to witness it. After it hatched it thought that I was his/her parent. It started to cry like a baby so I have no choice but look and find for food that would suit for the baby dinosaur. I tried plants but unfortunately it likes meat. I caught some insects and lizards for the baby dinosaur. I went around to find more food and checked if there were any other dinosaurs nearby. When I realized the baby dinosaurs was following me around whenever I go.

It was like a puppy following his master.

Raising a dinosaur was not easy but when I looked at it grows fast like it was just a baby yesterday but now it looked like a bird that would fly any time but it was a Sinosauropteryx. I didn't realize that the baby I was feeding was Sinosauropteryx and now it was ready to feed himself. It was ready to hunt his small mammal without my help.

There was a time that we were looking together for his food when we found some eggs near a cliff and started to wonder where could be the mother of the eggs we found. I was about to see whether it hatched when suddenly I mistook my steep and I went tumbling down the cliff. Unexpectedly the Sinosauropteryx looked at me with sadness in his eyes and jump down the cliff to save me. He took me up back to the top where we saw the eggs then suddenly the mother of the eggs came back and it was also a Sinosauropteryx.. That was the moment when I realized that he belongs to that species.

It was a hard decision to let him go but it was for his own good even though it was a hard on my part. I bid goodbye to him and he let me hug tight. He licked me back as a sign of his affection towards me and it made me very grateful with a smile in my face. I sent them away to their way and wave goodbye until I can't see them from my place.

I was awake because of the tears rushing down my cheeks and my mom rushing to my room because she heard me crying. I hug her tight the moment she sat down on my bed like I hugged the Sinosauropteryx in my dream. She asked me why and then I start to tell her my dream. At the end of the day I was surprise that my mom bought me a dinosaur maybe because she felt that I was sad about my dream

# The Fisherman's Journey

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Chong, Waiwai – 9*

Once upon a time, there was a lonely fisherman called Li. He earned little money to feed his family and always got bullied by the other fishermen.

One day, when he was going out to do his daily fishing at dawn something felt wrong. All the fishes were gone. Li thought to himself

"maybe there has been another fisherman before him?" So he decided to go for a little sail.

Li observed the river as he went. It wasn't the same. Li was sure. He took out a worm and threw it in the tranquil, placid river.

A sudden SPLASH broke the quietness of the river, an enormously large, obsolete creature flew out of the water, catching the fish mid-air then leaping back into the disturbed water. Li was terrified.

He paddled rapidly back home afraid to go near the river again.

One day in the cool breeze of autumn, Li decided to have a walk down the mysteriously foggy river with his family. They ended up sailing through the autumn, cool wind on the mild river but the dinosaur-like creature was never found again.

After centuries of when the most recent dinosaur was seen in the river. There was a little boy named Wang. He was a hardworking farmer along with his mother. He planted all sorts of food and crops from golden weeds to tropical tomato all year around.

On one breezy morning, little Wang and his mother eagerly went out to their farm but was devastated and shocked what they have seen. All their hard work was demolished by big footsteps which crumbled all their daily resources. Wang's mother was shocked could it be... THE CREATURE FROM CENTURIES AGO?

They ran as the cool breeze stabbed their throats like medieval swords. Up and down the hill they ran. Finally reached their home. Panting rapidly as they entered.

A few days later the deadly news were spread. The village was horrified. Everybody hid in their house, hid their crops hoping the dinosaur would not come.

After days of hiding, a young, courageous villager had the bravery to hunt the mysterious creature down. Everybody begged him not to but deep inside he knew he could do it.

He hunted from days to weeks to months. He was losing hope but everybody had put their lives in his hands.

As he was resting on the soft, cloudy snow he heard a big THUD! He immediately grabbed his weapons to defend as he sneakily crept to the direction of the sound. He was disappointed but relieved to find a camp site. "Perhaps it was just a lumber jack working there?" He thought to himself. He slept near the campsite with a campfire as he dreamt of going home with the head of a dinosaur.

The next day, more windy than usual he got woken up by a supervisor of the winter camp. He desperately warned "It's not that noisy and windy here regularly, there might be an avalanche." He didn't think much of it and began running with the terrified crowd. Suddenly thoughts struck him. Could it be the snore of a giant dinosaur?

He slipped through the screaming crowd that hurtled his ear and began going to the sound. Every time he took a big step he would hear a loud ROAR! He was sure that his thoughts were right. He crept to the sound with his knife expecting there would be a giant cave with a terrific dinosaur but instead was surprised to find a small dinosaur under a rock with a weird shape. He couldn't kill this dinosaur. It was just born. So he decided to pick him up cautiously. It purred in the boy's hand as it slept happily. It touched the boy's heart like nobody had done so well before. He carried the baby dinosaur home carefully.

They arrived but the boy was scared it was going to be harmed so he took a picture of the baby dinosaur and showed it to the villagers.

After that, everybody lived happily and the baby dinosaur grew up to be the village's guard dinosaur.

# The Aetheron

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Du, Tina – 10*

The sun shone vibrantly overhead, showing us no mercy. My once black t-shirt was covered in stubborn stains of sweat, grime and clay. A bead of sweat dripped on to the dry parched ground next to me. The rhythmic sound of my tool hitting the stone became a tuneless song. We had spent the better part of three months trying to find the remains of the Aetheron. I forced myself to be patient. I wish I was back at home lying in bed enjoying some ice cream. Soon after I sank into my daydream, I heard the unmistakable sound of metal hitting bone. Slightly, a patch of peachy pink and beige colour was buried in the ground. I shook my head. No, my eyes were not playing tricks on me, it was a piece of bone.

“Guys! Lucien, Calista!” I shouted.

“I think I might have found something!”

I carefully brushed the last of the earth away, revealing the massive ribcage. Lucien towered over me, his eyes shining with excitement and meanwhile, Calista clapped her hands in delight.

“It’s gorgeous,” he breathed.

“I know,” Calista answered as she bent over to get a closer look at the skeleton of the Aetheron.

“Can you imagine this flying through the clouds?” I echoed.

“I could almost hear its wings beating against the wind.”

After discussing for a while, the subject had been changed to the boring events that were to come—cataloguing things and preparing for the exhibition. Showing just the bones had now not seem enough.

“I wish I could see it come to life just for a second,” I confessed.

Lucien’s eyebrows frowned in thought.

“What if we could?” I already knew he was planning another of his wild schemes.

“You know how the legends say storms can awaken spirits?” he said. Calista’s eyes grew even wider.

“You mean like really? Bring it back to life?”

“Ridiculous. We’d be risking our whole careers on fantasy.” I debated.

“Or making history,” Lucien replied with a mischievous grin. “Come on! Whether it works or not it’ll be an adventure!”

Just like this, I felt like she was swept by their wave of enthusiasm. Although I knew that this is extremely risky, Lucien had a point. Trying won’t hurt. Right?

“Fine. We can try but—”

“YES!” Calista and Lucien shouted in unison. I sighed. Sometimes, I honestly felt like I was working with two children.

We spent the entire afternoon reading, looking and researching everything that had to do with thunder, ancient rituals and spells. By the time dark clouds began to appear in the skies, we had placed its complete skeleton in the middle of a circle made of stones and gems. According to an old book about thunder and its uses, this would attract the storms gaze.

When thunder booms ahead, our hearts were racing with anxiety and excitement. The first strike of lightning illuminated the night sky with an electrical blue. Lucien, always the one for drama, drew a deep, dramatic breath.

“This is it! On the count of three!”

“Wait, maybe we should—”

“One!” Lucien shouted, cutting me off. The sound echoed across the canyon.

“Aetheron, hear us! Awake!”

We chanted the words we had memorised. At each rumble of thunder, my unease turned into regret. Why did I drag myself into this mess? It was too late now.

Another ear splitting crash. Energy passed through the ground. The Aetheron's bones sparkled slowly turning into flesh. They were painted with a mosaic of different colours. Enormous wings swept out like sails on a boat, and they were all frozen in awe.

"Look! It's alive!" Lucien's voice was a mixed tone of disbelief and wonder.

The Aetheron shook off the remains of soil and let out a roar that sounded like it waited for centuries for this moment. It had. Wings glinting of emerald, diamond, sapphire and amethyst caught the light of the storm.

The wind howled and raged on, we realised that the thrill of fun and curiosity had changed into something else: we now faced the consequences of their actions. Before anybody had a chance to say something, the Aetheron fixed its gaze on the little trio, looking like a skyscraper next to a little apartment. I glanced at my friends. I knew that this was no longer a joke, and we had to face the consequences of our actions.

"All right, team," I said, my tone firm with determination. "We made something beautiful. Now we have to protect it –and ourselves."

With new found hope, we embraced each other and stepped into this new world, now filled with different possibilities and filled with dinosaurs.

## Escaping Time

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Ellison, Elsie-Mae – 11*

“Dinosaurs are incredible prehistoric creatures that once roamed our earth. Next week, on Dinosaur Hunters...”. Ming quickly switched the TV off and slumped back lazily on the sofa waiting for his dad to finally get home. This was the daily window of time when Ming would become engaged with the discoveries his father had made. You see, Ming’s dad is a palaeontologist, and Ming had encased himself, with the fullest commitment, within the wondrous world of dinosaurs. Suddenly, the door burst open and there standing was a ranger, big, strong, and imposing, welcoming his son to the world of dinosaurs. He unfolded his considerable mass by sitting down next to Ming ready to talk about his unusual world. But Ming’s dad’s face dropped; Ming could tell something was wrong. His dad was a happy sort who rarely got mad. He sighed heavily and spoke very gravely to his son. “Son I received some bad news today. My boss has fired all of us for a year due to a lack of available finance.” He sighed, deeply. Ming hadn’t realised until now that his family’s future was so dependent upon people’s general interest in dinosaurs. Dinosaurs were money to them. Dinosaurs, ironically, meant security.

A few months later, Ming found himself taking a detour from the usual school walking journey through the canyon. Swirling dust filled the space. Suddenly, he found himself flying through the air, landing hard on the ground. He looked back to see what he had tripped on; it was something long and white. Luckily, he always carried the fossil digging kit his father had given him as a birthday present some years ago. He started slowly scrapping and brushing until a clean pristine bone came into sight, and he was astonished. Was it a dog bone or a cow bone perhaps? There next to it was another one, and another, and another. Like a puzzle it started piecing together, forming the shape of an animal. Was it a dog? No, too small. Was it a horse? No, it only had two feet. Suddenly, the shape made sense and Ming stepped back in both fear and delight. It was the most feared and spell-binding creature on the planet; it was, unmistakably, a dinosaur.

Staring in awe and trepidation, he slowly and steadily approached this new wonder, hand outstretched ready to touch it cautiously. He felt the past come immediately to life as he made physical contact with this once majestic beast. Without warning, as skin met bone, he found himself in an unescapable darkness with only a slither of light left struggling to pierce the air. He followed the magnetic light to a new beginning. As he stepped, pace by small pace, time seemed to halt and he found himself somewhere that he had seen many times on the TV before: the world of prehistoric creatures, the world of almighty wonder. The world of dinosaurs! It was a palaeontologist’s dream. The world he now inhabited was filled with undiscovered creatures of a world that once was. Fearful thoughts immediately rushed through his head: how am I going to get home? Miraculous discoveries of the century are one thing, but how was he going to get back to dad? Suddenly, without notice, a pair of piercing talons grabbed him furiously and whisked him off into the blinding sky. His head was spinning like a tornado; he looked up helplessly and saw what as a young boy had always been his most favourite dinosaur. The pterodactyl is the undisputed flying king of the animal kingdom. It was carrying him away to a distant volcano, the largest he had ever seen. As their flight approached the entrance, the grip that detained him ended abruptly and he found himself falling and falling; falling until the end of time.

And then there was nothingness. He had come to a sudden stop, finding himself back where he had originally been – there, standing next to the remains of a newly discovered dinosaur. As he walked home, bewildered thoughts preoccupied him. Would anyone believe him? Was it all some wierd dream? When he reached the reassuringly familiar wooden door, he opened it quietly, so as not to disturb his slumbering dad. But he couldn’t find him; he had probably just popped out. Ming, feeling a little eased by the normalness of home, decided on an early night and just

hopped off to bed. As he turned the crisp white sheet, a sharp object scratched his pale skin. A pin perhaps. He gave the item greater scrutiny. It was a toenail, well, of sorts. What did such a long, sharpened and unusual nail belong to? And then it hit him: a pterodactyl.

# The Echoes of Extinction

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Entwistle, Lucas – 10*

Somewhere in the middle of Beijing, there was a thunderous bang. Something in the experiment room exploded, sending papers flying while glowing tubes of green liquid spilled onto the lab's floor.

"Did you hear that?" whispered a scientist, her eyes wide with fear. A low rumble echoed through the facility, vibrating the floor beneath their feet.

It had all started with a team of British and Chinese palaeontologists collaborating to recreate life from a batch of unusual fossils, newly discovered in Jiangxi province. The result had created a terrible nightmare. Somewhere in the shadows of the lab, something growled and stirred, something that shouldn't even exist. As the creature escaped into the dead of night, the bewildered team gathered around the experiment chamber and realised they had made a mistake, a huge mistake.

That very night, a little boy, just the age of seven, couldn't sleep so peered out at the glowing night sky. He managed to locate Mars and Jupiter shining brightly like diamonds overhead. Could those jewels contain life? He gazed mesmerised for a while before being distracted by a strange shadow lurking in the alleyway, knocking over bins and metal cans. The little boy thought to himself, "What is that creature?" Then all of a sudden, he did the unthinkable; he quietly opened the window, trying to not wake his parents, and carefully climbed out! He was well practised, so he was very stealthy. When he had climbed partly down the house, he jumped off and landed on the ground, barely making a sound. The boy tiptoed over towards the alleyway, bravely convincing himself not to turn back. As he approached the shadow, he finally noticed the sheer size of the creature. It was as big as a fighter jet, large and broad with huge black slimy tentacles that extended almost a metre, then, in less than a heartbeat, the creature noticed the boy spying and lunged at him, swiftly dragging him away into the dark alleyway, never to be seen again.

It was immediately on the news; people were making predictions of what could have happened. The most common explanation and the best was that he simply decided to run away. Some other people said that he just snuck out to go to a party and got lost, but he was only seven years old so what would he be doing at a party? Most of the scientists believed that this boy must be the one who caused the mass destruction at the laboratory and probably killed himself there, accidentally exploding himself.

A day or two later though, reports started emerging saying that strange creatures were being seen and yet more and more people were going missing.

The core team of scientists knew what was going on but what could they do? They couldn't tell everybody that they were behind all of this. Otherwise, the government would definitely ban them from China, and they'd lose their precious research completely.

The creature crawled out of its alleyway and onto the pavement, strangely transforming itself into slime and sliding down the storm drain. Inside the drain it was cold and damp. The creature could hear occasional drops and splats of water dripping onto the stone floor. There was lots of rubbish in the sewer; cans of drinks, cereal boxes and even some plastic bags were down in there. They floated down the slow stream of rainwater from a few nights ago and disappeared out into the darkness, all except a solitary can of soda. The creature morphed back into its true form and picked up the can. Emblazoned on it was the name *Veloci*. "Veloci" the creature thought to itself thoughtfully.

“That shall be my name” said Veloci, testing out his raspy voice. He crunched the can up in his huge tentacles and flung it away into the darkness.

A nearby group of teenagers just caught a glimpse of slime squirming into the drain, so they decided to investigate, thinking they might have found the infamous creature and maybe even a reward. They prised open the drain and wriggled down it, but they would never have imagined what they saw next in a billion years.

Down the drain the noise of water dripping had now quietened, instead replaced with a slow deep growl, rumbling throughout the drain. They knew someone – or something – must be watching them.

The teenagers inched down the storm drain, fearfully looking side to side, trying to see what or who was spying on them. In less than a millisecond they found themselves dragged into a pipe and screaming through to the other end, where they landed upon a masterpiece. The chamber was like a throne room, containing a royal stone seat, shining brightly with what seemed like ancient language carved into it. The room was captivating but that couldn’t hide the fact that there was squiggling black slime all over the damp ground. The teenagers looked around, all thinking the same thing; where are we and who on earth does that seat belong to?! They must be incredibly powerful and could end us in seconds!

Slowly, a monstrous form appeared on the throne in front of their terrified eyes. Tentacles stretched out while a mysterious figure appeared. Its face had a devilish smile with jagged teeth covering up a tongue that was trying to slither out. As it rose up, they saw the same ancient words etched on its chest.

Veloci concentrated and the script became legible... INHERITORS OF EARTH... Beware of the EVIL that exterminated us. It WILL be back from its world to destroy you too. It’s time to unite and DEFEND our old home and YOUR FUTURE.

The words slowly faded and Veloci’s toothy smile lit up the teenagers’ terrified faces. “What do you think? Join me on this throne and it will teleport you to our world. You activate it with a word from our ancient language... DINOSAUR”. So, will you join me?

# China's Dinosaur Discovery

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Fong, Hannah – 9*

## ONE

Once there was a bright, sparkly eyed young boy named Gideon, who always adored dinosaurs. Some children might dream of being a doctor or a scientist or a lawyer, but not Gideon. He dreamed of being a paleontologist. Almost every day Gideon would get sent home from school in trouble for various reasons: Forgetting to do his homework for two weeks in a row, making up a story about how a tyrannosaurus rex ate his PE kit on the way to school, creating a fact poster about the rarest dinosaur specie that ever lived (The Deinonychus) instead of a fact poster about the Ancient Greeks, you name it! His father once joked that he liked dinosaurs so much, one day he might get stuck with marrying a dinosaur!

## TWO

One brilliant, balmy afternoon, Gideon trudged back home as usual. Humming to himself cheerfully, he dragged his computer out and typed into the search bar on safari: 'China's dinosaur fossils'. Ding! A news report popped up on his bleary, cracked screen.

***"China's newest dinosaur fossil discovery!"***

*As two American tourists stumble across the mountains of Beijing, China, they unexpectedly find a dinosaur fossil of a Plesiosaur. It is probably the best fossil find ever..."*

Gideon was on pins and needles. The best fossil find ever! How come he didn't know about this?

Gideon was breathless. Then, less than a second later another news report buzzed on his screen furiously.

***"Hong Kong's first ever fossil find!"***

*On October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024, dinosaur fossils have been discovered on the Lantau island for the very first time. Professionals have theorized that the dinosaur was buried under many layers of sand and sediment where it died, washed away with flood water, and buried once again on Lantau Island where it was found. There might be even more dinosaur fossils on the Island, so it will be closed for further investigations."*

Gideon couldn't contain his excitement. Fancy that even his own petite, tiny city had found dinosaur fossils!

"Tomorrow, my beauties," Gideon thought with a triumphant smirk on his face. "I'm coming for you."

## THREE

It was the dead of night, and a very stealthy Gideon was lurking about in the shadows. Putting his only black jacket and plastic boots on, squeaking down the hushed, eerie pavement, it was so silent. It was like someone or something was watching him. A shiver ran down Gideon's spine. He took a deep breath, told himself that he would be fine, and ran down a thin narrow alleyway.

#### FOUR

The journey to the Island was unpleasant and cramped. Strong, furious winds whipped in Gideon's face. The fierce, salty sea water danced around his boat. There was stripy yellow and black police tape protectively surrounding the Island. Gideon laughed. He flexibly bent down, and crawled under. "The police should do better when wrapping a place with tape," he thought cheekily. Holding his umbrella out in front of him uneasily, he felt a lump under his shoe. Startled, he lifted up his shoe, prepared to find just a cocky little stone. But the thing was, it wasn't a stone. It was an egg. Gideon was struck dumfounded, just standing there with his mouth hanging, staring at the small egg. He looked absurd. "Could it be....." the boy thought. "Could it possibly be a dinosaur egg?" He shook his head. Cautiously, he slipped the egg into his pocket and sped back home.

#### FIVE

At school, Gideon did nothing but stare at the teacher for the whole day. All he could think of was the dinosaur egg he set in the box and deposited in the attic room. Then, the school bell finally rang. Gideon discovered that his mother was at the hospital again. With his mind racing, he went to check on the egg. It had a crack in it! Whooping in delight, he lifted up the egg, swung it around and around, and placed it back in the box. Research time again! *Don't donate the dinosaur egg to a museum! They are hard to find and if donated to a museum it will be a complete waste!* Just as Gideon was staring at his computer absent-mindedly, a loud crack echoed behind him. The egg had hatched! The baby dinosaur shook off the pieces of egg shell and gave a loud roar. Gideon was so shocked, he almost fell off his chair! Putting a finger to his lips, he whispered, "Shh! Don't let mum hear you!" As if the adorable creature understood, it nodded and put his claw to his mouth too. Giggling happily, he placed the dinosaur back in the torn shoebox.

#### SIX

"GIDEON! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!"

Right after Gideon was back from school one day, he heard his mum screaming.

Gideon trudged up the stairs, trying to look innocent. "Did you call me, mum?"

"WHY IS THERE A BABY DINOSAUR IN SHOEBOX STUFFED IN A DUSTY CORNER OF THE ATTIC?"

The story about the dinosaur was soon all over the newspapers.

*BOY BRINGS PREHISTORIC DINOSAUR BACK TO LIFE*

*BEWARE: THE DINOSAURS ARE BACK!*

News reporters swarmed around Gideon's house like a bunch of angry bees, trying to get at least a peep at the baby dino.

Ding! A loud ring from the doorbell. Gideon had just ran up to the attic to check on his beloved pet dinosaur.

Curiously, he crept down the stairs. No less than a second later, Gideon heard voices in the living room.

“Oh! Hello! Who are you?”

“I am Mike Watson from the National Dinosaur Museum. May I ask if a certain Gideon Zang lives here?”

“Gideon? Oh yes! Gideon, come down here! There’s a visitor who wants you!”

“I am Mike Watson from the National Dinosaur Museum. The dino team have been wanting to learn about this specie of dinosaur for a very long time. Are you willing to hand it over?” Gideon looked thoughtful. “Do you know, Mike, I actually wanted to decline the offer. However, as much as I love Dino, I would prefer working hard to achieve my big dream: Being a paleontologist!”

Mike smiled. He waved to Gideon, and headed towards the door.

## SEVEN

One afternoon after school, Gideon finds himself in his bedroom reading about the latest China’s dinosaur discoveries. It had now been eight years since Mike came to take away his pet Dino. He has been studying hard these years, trying to be the best paleontologists in town. Gideon might only be a tiny person on the planet Earth, but he was going to dream BIG.

# Modern Day Agilisaurus

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Ho, Stella – 10*

The sun was hanging in the sky like a giant fireball. It was merciless to those underneath it as it poured its scathing heat down. The sun seemed to take joy in this as this has been happening for the past month. Lush green vegetation turned into brown, withering twigs and the field that was once a sea of green has given way to a barren land that looked like a desert. In the horizon, everything was devoid of life. Water was a resource that was abundant in the past but has become the most valuable treasure that's elusive to all. I fumbled my way across the barren landscape, hoping to find just a single drop of water to satiate my dying thirst. I had embarked on this quest since three days ago but my efforts have been fruitless. I can feel my strength seeping out of my body and this was when I realized that I am nearing my limit. I dragged my legs and tail forward with all the strength I could summon. From my failing vision, I could see that I was near a cliff. I looked up at the sky, praying for a miracle to happen, praying for just a little rainfall to happen. Of course, my wishes were not answered. Why would any deity answer to the hopes of a Agilisaurus? Suddenly, darkness began to creep into my vision and it wasn't long before it enveloped me completely. I felt that my body seemed to be floating. Perhaps I had finally met my timely end and was transcending to Heaven. Moments later, I realized I wasn't going upwards. I was actually in a free fall into a chasm. I closed my eyes and waited for the fatal impact between my body and the ground below...

My eyes snapped open, I stared at the place where it was once darkness. I looked around and a weird looking object caught my eye. It had some kind of wooden plank with four legs sticking out beneath it. Beside this artifact were 4 of her babies surrounding her. They looked slightly shorter but have a long back. The weirdest thing was that on top of the bigger object, a miniature sun was floating there. This sun even had a long tail that extended upwards. I was very surprised because although this tiny sun was bright, I did not feel any scorching heat emitting from it. There were four bamboo walls guarding me from escaping this puzzling place. Suddenly, a weird looking life form with no tail walked in carrying a metallic weapon. He was clad in the strangest looking garment. For a moment our eyes made contact. What lasted for a few seconds felt an eternity. Time stood still as I tried to process what I was seeing.

Suddenly, my survival instincts kicked in and I frantically ran around the dark room finding a way to escape. Objects smashed and clattered on the floor as I tried to maneuver my way around. The loud clashes only added to my panic and intensify my anxiety. Suddenly a familiar scent invaded my nostrils. It was an aroma that made my stomach rumble. I turned my head slowly and saw the weird looking life form dangle a carrot. It looked like it was trying to offer it to me. Suddenly, my stomach started to grumble ferociously and that's when I realized that I was famished. I started to creep towards the carrot cautiously. I sniffed the carrot uncertainly, fearing that it could be poisonous or a trap. Sensing that there was nothing amiss, I devoured the carrot in a split second. He started to speak in a foreign language which I never heard before but astoundingly I could understand everything he said. He introduced himself as Gregory from a species called humans. Apparently they are the dominant animals on Earth now. However it was what he said next that shook me to my bones. Dinosaurs had been extinct for millions of years. He explained to me that he was a scientist and that he found me encased in a block of ice when he was exploring a cave nearby. He added that the discovery of me was a historical breakthrough. Many people would flock to see me once they get win of my existence. So in order to protect me, he was going to protect me from the world by keeping it a secret.

As time passed by, I gradually adapted to life in modern civilization and I even learnt the names of some metallic monsters like planes, cars and trucks. Life now is simpler as I do not need to hunt for my own food. Gregory brings me my food on a daily basis and it includes a wide variety of greeneries that I have never eaten before. I recall Gregory calls them salad greens and my favorite is this purple vegetable that is long. Gregory says it is called an eggplant and the name always amuses me since it looks nothing like an egg. Furthermore, I do not have to worry about predators at all. The only downside is that I am all alone in this foreign world. The enclosure that Gregory built for me was meant to look as close to my old world as possible. He did it with good intentions to make me feel comfortable. However, he was unaware that this enclosure actually brought feelings of nostalgia and intensified my loneliness.

This all changed when Gregory burst into my enclosure one day. His eyes were beaming with excitement, beads of perspiration lined his forehead and he was visibly out of breath. What he said to me next rocked my senses. He informed me that while exploring the area near where he found me, he chanced upon another Agilisaurus that was also encased in a block of ice. I leaped upright with the news and my heart was racing with anticipation. Thoughts of me seeing a familiar face finally brought tears to my eyes.

As Gregory set off to recuse the other Agilisaurus, I waited patiently for their return...

# Unearthing Hope

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Huang, Derek – 10*

Nelson wanted to make money over the summer without spending any. Growing up in the poor part of the city, he felt the weight of the ongoing drought; money was more important than ever. In his mind, money was a shining golden key to a better life. If he had it, he could finally be seen, have power, and escape the cycle of poverty. But that was only a dream.

Reality was stark: he had no money. His plan for a fulfilling summer was simple: rent a metal detector, go to the local beach, find valuable minerals, and sell them. It was just a plan, and achieving it wouldn't be easy.

When Nelson arrived at the beach, he was greeted by sunshine and soft, velvety sand. The golden sand felt like a carpet prepared for a king, and he was ready to start his quest for fortune.

The work was tough. He outlined a pit in the sand and poured water to prevent it from collapsing. As the sun rose, Nelson dug deeper, determined not to stop until he had something to show for his efforts. The days passed, with the moon guiding him home at night, and he pushed on relentlessly. There were only a few days left of summer, and he needed to make them count.

Finally, the pit he dug plunged deep into the earth, revealing walls dotted with glistening minerals. The walls were a tapestry of colors—striking blues and greens from copper, vibrant reds and yellows from iron oxide, and deep blacks from coal. But something unusual caught his eye at the bottom: a grimy white object peeking through the wet sand. Curiosity sparked within him, electrifying his senses.

As he knelt to examine it, his heart raced. Brushing away the sand revealed a dinosaur fossil, its ancient bones glistening in the sunlight. This wasn't just a relic; it was a piece of history that could attract the attention of paleontologists. The realization hit him: this discovery could change his life and his community's future.

With renewed energy, Nelson carefully excavated the fossil, ensuring he wouldn't damage it. He imagined sharing this find with others, knowing he had unearthed something extraordinary. After securing the fossil, he contacted a local university's geology department. Within days, a team of paleontologists arrived, excitement palpable as they confirmed it was part of a previously undocumented species. Nelson was invited to participate in the excavation, learning alongside the experts.

Word spread quickly, and soon the beach became a hub of activity. Families visited to learn about dinosaurs, while local schools organized field trips. Nelson felt pride swell within him; he had not only found something remarkable but also brought his community together.

As summer turned to autumn, the fossil was prepared for display at the local museum, where it was accompanied by Nelson's story. The museum dedicated a section to him, honoring his role in the discovery.

Nelson's life changed in ways he never anticipated. Local businesses rallied around him, sponsoring educational programs for children interested in paleontology and earth science. With donations, he started a scholarship fund for students pursuing geology and biology, ensuring others could follow their passions.

At the museum's grand opening, surrounded by friends, family, and community members, Nelson felt fulfilled. The once-distant dream of wealth transformed into something far more valuable: a legacy of learning and adventure.

As the crowd applauded, Nelson realized that the true treasure lay not in riches but in the connections he had forged and the joy of sharing knowledge. The summer had changed not only his life but also the narrative of his community, igniting a passion for discovery and collaboration.

Looking out at the smiling faces around him, Nelson knew he had found his place in the world. He was no longer just a boy from a poor part of the city; he was a young man who had unearthed not only a dinosaur fossil but also a future filled with hope and possibility. As the sun set over the beach, casting a warm glow, Nelson smiled, knowing this was just the beginning of his adventure.

# The Palaeontologist's Adventure

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Hung, Catherine – 11*

Lily clambered over the fallen trees of the fossil mine for the fifth time that trip. Of course, she'd been to the Lufeng county of the Yunnan province many, many times; after all, she lived in the province's capital Kunming, which was just under a 2-hour drive to the museum near the mountains. But she never went there for the museum. She was there to go into the mountains and find fossils for herself. However, these mountains were under strict laws of no trespassing, and they were closely guarded by hundreds of guards.

The first time she'd announced her intentions to a border guard and demanded entry, she had been scorned away. There was no way she could find a fossil on her own, the guard had argued. Would she even come back for a second try?

When Lily had heard their final argument, that she wouldn't come back, she had been angry enough that she would've been ready to burst. Of course, she looked like a European. Her lineage, her father's lineage, made sure of that. Her 'dirty' father, as her mother had always drilled. But Lily refused to believe that her dad was horrible, the same way that Lily refused to follow the orders of the guards. She hated orders so much, she'd even gone as far as to change her name to something much more British than her given name (Liling, from her mother) was. However, no matter how hard she tried, it was impossible for Liling to hide the truth that she'd been born and raised in the heart of China, to a commoner Chinese family.

Either way, she was here, and she was here on a mission. Carefully, she grabbed another deceased tree's bark and dragged herself even higher up. Again, and again, and again. It was like the PE lessons that she had back at home. Luckily, Lily knew the secret to keep herself going – it was to imagine that she'd finished her goal, and she'd finally become a celebrity like she'd always wanted.

Then, Lily looked down.

Far down.

At first, it was beautiful – there as a glittering river of diamonds, and to either side there were vast emerald forests bursting with life. Lily tried to readjust her awkward position, hoping to soak up more of the forests' beauty. To her left, there was a brilliant waterfall, and above, she saw candy-like clouds floating in the distance. The more she looked around in wonder, the more amazing everything seemed. A flock of black-necked cranes flew in the distance, their dark specks gliding freely around the blue and white canvas.

One of the cranes, the largest of the flock, flapped its mighty wings and flew towards the side of the cliff, towards Lily. She stopped climbing, trying to inspect more of the crane's beauty. Squinting her eyes to see, she noticed the snow-white plumage of the crane's body, as well as the midnight-coloured feathers that adorned its wings. Many of her friends back in Kunming wouldn't agree with her, but Lily's favourite animal was the black-necked crane, due to its almost casual simplicity.

Just then, quite suddenly, a huge golden-winged hawk swooped in front of her. Lily was completely mesmerised by its size and colour, and, if not for what it had in mind, she would've loved it.

The hawk sailed towards the crane and nonchalantly plucked it out of the air by its neck. The hawk then soared away; its catch secured. Lily's eyes widened in shock, and she let out a little wail before she reminded herself that this was the way of nature.

Only then, after she'd calmed down, did Lily realise that she'd blown her cover, and the guards in the area were most likely currently searching for trespassers, and what would happen to her when she would be found, she couldn't bear to think it. Her thoughts screamed that she should do something, something fast, before she was caught.

Her instincts reacted before she could. Lily's grip on the rocks loosened, and she plunged down following the path of the waterfall. The wind flew up against her, and it tore at everything that Lily had exposed. Had she not been so scared, she would have been delighted to finally experience it. As she fell, she thought. She thought about her parents, under the impression that she'd gone to the toilet. She thought about her friends at school, how they assumed she'd been stuck at home. And she thought about herself, falling, falling, falling.

The next thing that Lily saw, she was lying in the bottom of the plunge pool of the waterfall. Wonderfully, alive. Her shin seemed to have slammed onto something hard, like a rock, but strangely, it wasn't bleeding. When Lily picked up the 'rock' to inspect it, she noticed it wasn't a rock, but instead it was shaped like a huge dog bone. Could it be...?

As she lifted the bone for closer inspection, several things happened at once. The animals and plants around her stood up in alarm, Lily dropped the dinosaur bone, and the world around her started to spin and fade.

Lily awoke to the horrifying sound of thunder. When she looked around, there were dinosaurs roaming upon the plateau she was on. Thousands of possibilities sawed through Lily's head – *Is this a prank? Where am I? What's happening?*, until her brain finally understood what had happened. She'd been time-traveled, and teleported.

Then, a realisation struck her, painful and hard. Liling looked up, and, sure enough, the sky was turning blood-red, as though a bomb was to hit. The air slowly became stifling hot, and the asteroid edged closer. Liling's life had been so short, yet so long. Was it really going to end now?

Comets rained from the sky.

Liling thought, with all her heart, *Goodbye, world.*, forward 66 million years to her parents and friends.

And, with a resounding BAM, Liling blacked out.

# Story of the Chinese Dinosaur

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Iwasaki, Ohana – 10*

Back in the day about approximately 165million years ago, there was a group of reptiles known as dinosaurs. For over 130million years , dinosaurs denominated life on land. They came in several shape and size, from feathery little carnivores to the size of a pigeon titans that stretched over 120 feet in length. And today I will tell you the story of a Chinese dinosaur named Chang.

Once upon a time there was a small town in central China. There lived a small group of sauropods. Chang was the smallest sauropods in the whole town. Everyday at school at playgrounds almost everywhere he got bullied by class mates , other orphans even by the strangers who visited the orphanage. Chang was always told that he was impotent,powerless,infirm and lots of similar other words. He didn't like people calling him names so he declared that he will prove them wrong and prove that it doesn't matter how something or someone looks. He wanted to show that even he was different and small he was still capable of great things.

After a few days Chang decided to leave home. He wanted to find the 1 missing gems far away. The gems were on different lands above the clouds. They were not just on 1 island it was on 3 different islands. The first one is called THE FORGOTTEN LANDS, but it was lost somewhere above the clouds so it was said to be impossible. He needed to be ready for anything so he called a friend far away named Hua.

So he set off to the river where he skill-fully built a raft barely bobbing above the water. Slowly and steadily he flowed down the river. Only accompanied by his shadow.

He awoke the next day worth the sun rising over the horizon. He had finally reached the town of Sun Zhou. The riverside bustled with life. Many were fishing. Some travelling. Some trading. But no one he asked had heard of Hua. The more people he asked, the more desperate he became for his friend. Finally he met an old dinosaur who said Hua moved towards to coastal town of Hai Nian. Beyond the mountains of Pangea.

So he set off at the dark of night to find this town his friend set off to. He traveled over mountains. He went through freezing blizzards, dangerously high cliffs, bottomless ravines and broken bridges. After days, he reached Hai Nian. He couldn't find Hua anywhere so he asked a little dinosaur. Chang asked the little dinosaur if he seen Hua past by and he said she went walked by and went left at the crossing. Chang ran across, left at the crossing and found Huastaring at the magnificent view. Chang exclaimed 'Hua, I finally found you. Why did you not tell me that you moved! Anyway, let's leave that for later and i need your help! Please?!

So they climbed up to the forgotten lands. Above the rivers and seas. Above the mountains and valleys. Above the clouds they found the gates to the forgotten lands. The path slithered up towards the alter which held the gem high up into the sky and Hua said 'Do we need to really climb this, because this looks exhausting.' But Chang insisted he climb up and get the gem. And so after several exhausting hours he got the gem and slid down the bottom. Meanwhile Hua already fell asleep because she later explained 'I was bored, you know' so they went back to town and noticed a flock of other dinosaurs cheering. The news had spread all across lands and seas and he was famous.

## Emmie and the Runaway Thief

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Jiang, Rosie – 9*

In Liaoning Province, in the capital Shenyang, stood a colossal building. It was a behemoth. The building's edifice had tall, elegant pillars. They stretched along the main road. The building had an arch that linked the building to a dome, colosseum building. On top of this dome building was a sign with big, black letters that stood out to be the Ministry of Science. It had no windows. Down one of its corridors, some ten floors underground was a room. Its door was five inches thick. It also had no windows and its doors were covered with black and yellow tape that read: 'CAUTION! CAUTION! CAUTION!' The doors had a sign, 'Unauthorised Entry Prohibited'. Inside the room, on the far side, behind a desk, sat a girl with brown, curly hair and hazelly eyes. She was marking a paper, while looking at her computer screen. 'Lin Lin, it's my turn to mark,' said a man from behind.

\*\*\*

Later that same evening, the scientists could hear loud cries coming from the incubator. Every one of the scientists gathered around, pushing and shoving their way to the front to get a glimpse of the dinosaur.

'It's a miracle,' shouted one of the scientists.

'Our bioengineering technology is a success,' heckled a short lady from the back.

'Let me through,' said Lin Lin.

Lin Lin pushed through the crowd hoping to see the dinosaur. The dinosaur had gold, shiny feathers and brown eyes. Its eyes shone fear, as they gazed around the room. Lin Lin was stunned and amazed at the same time. She did not know why the ultrasound did not sound. She went back to the computer and rewinded the tape. After watching the footage, she realised that the camera and sensors connected to the ultrasound malfunctioned.

\*\*\*

The following day Lin Lin showed up to work. She was ready to start her work to monitor the dinosaur's health and find out what food it can eat. She was about to sit down, when her boss pulled her aside.

'Look Lin Lin, I know you have worked the hardest on this project, but we will use paracetamol on it,' he said.

'Why? It has chemicals proven to severely damage the dinosaur's health,' she exclaimed.

Her boss sighed and walked away. But she did not care about her boss. She knew she had to save the dinosaur. Lin Lin walked in the laboratory, but the dinosaur was not there. She frantically started running down the neverending corridors. She opened every door hoping to find a glimpse of a golden feather dinosaur. Finally, she found it sleeping safe and sound in a crib. Her heart stopped beating as fast as before. The dinosaur looked up and, when it saw Lin Lin, it gave a gentle, sweet smile.

Lin Lin smiled back at her creation.

She named it Emmie.

She closely examined the dinosaur and realised it was a Sinosauropteryx, a type of Chinese dinosaur. It had feathery wings, and at first glance, appeared to be a bird. Lin Lin knew she had to do all that it takes to save the dinosaur.

Figuring out how to escape with the dinosaur, Lin Lin remembered that on her first day, when she was shown around her workplace her boss told her to never use an exit that would take her up to the ground floor, unless it was an emergency. She gave Emmie porridge, and put him in her bag, which she adapted for the dinosaur by drilling small holes into the material with a pencil.

Then she began to run.

She ran until she reached the exit. Footsteps approached Lin Lin and her heart beat began to beat as fast as a drum. Her fear took over her mind as she repeated in her head, 'Anyone there, anyone there?' Suddenly, she heard the voices come to life, as somebody down the hall shouted, 'Anyone there?'

Lin Lin did not turn back and instead held her breath and walked up the flight of stairs. She did all she could to avoid making noise. After leaving the complex, she booked a taxi to Shan An, where she lived.

When she got home, there were many people waiting for the lift. Emmie started to make gurgling and growling sounds.

'Oh! My stomach is grumbling, I better go home and eat something,' cried Lin Lin. She made a porridge and gave it to Emmie, although she also ate some herself. Following on, she went upstairs, where she rested Emmie on the sofa. Looking back at the wall, she saw her graduation certificate, which reminded her of her studying Vertebrate Bioengineering at Tsing Hua University. Next, she grabbed her stethoscope and put the earpieces into her ears and using the diaphragm, she searched for the heartbeat. It was there, gently, slowly beating. The heart could barely contract, as the blood did not receive the same concentration of oxygen that the dinosaur required for respiration.

Then it stopped beating.

Emmie closed his eyes.

A tear rolled down Lin Lin's rosy cheek.

# The Last Dinosaur Kingdom

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Kim, Youngjun – 10*

Long ago, there lived a tribe of dinosaurs in a hidden place. The world had long forgotten about these majestic creatures, and their secret home was a cave located on Victoria Peak in Hong Kong. But the cave was more than just a home—it was a tunnel connecting the past and the present. No one knew its secret until the 1st of January, 2025.

It all started when Chief Po, the dinosaur leader, announced an urgent meeting. "We are running out of food supplies and will soon starve. We have to leave our home and explore the planet further. I know this is dangerous, but we must do it for our survival. We will set off tomorrow morning to the north."

The next day, everyone was armed and packed with their remaining food supplies, ready to face the outside world. As Chief Po stepped outside the cave, he was amazed at how much had changed during his time. Tiny creatures (humans) held long sticks made of metal. They were dressed in yellow and holding bars of wood, paint, and metal. Next to them was a huge mountain covered in a sea of greenery.

As soon as the humans saw them, they screamed in fright. Word spread quickly, and the military surrounded them with guns and missiles. There were tanks, trucks, and many other vehicles loaded with weapons. Then a loudspeaker boomed, "Who are you? Are you trying to harm us? Where did you come from?"

Chief Po replied, "We are not here to harm you. We are just looking for food supplies." After this, the government informed them about farming with seeds.

The humans taught the dinosaurs how to use AI and other technologies to create more foods. In return, the dinosaurs revealed their secret cave and helped the humans with heavy machinery, carrying and building together. Reporters were full of questions about their world.

However, this wasn't the first time Po's family had interacted with humans. Po's ancestors came from China's northeast, and humans had recently found the bones of these ancient dinosaurs. These bones were now shared between humans and dinosaurs, showing their long and undiscovered history.

Through these interactions, Po and his friends learned that every kingdom has its end, but it is through sharing and understanding that histories can live on. The dinosaurs returned to their hidden kingdom with the new skills and knowledge they had learnt, ready to face whatever challenges lay ahead. They reached an agreement with the humans not to bother each other, so the hidden place of the Dinosaur Kingdom remained a mystery to the world. As they continued their journey, Po couldn't help but smile, knowing that they had made new friends and learnt valuable lessons. The history of the dinosaurs would continue, even if their hidden kingdom was to remain a secret forever.

Chief Po was now too old to rule, so a new king of the dinosaurs was chosen. His name was Ming, and he had heard all about the adventure.

Ming summoned all the dinosaurs for a meeting. "We have learnt much from our adventure in Hong Kong," he began, "but our journey isn't over. The world is vast and filled with mysteries yet to be discovered. We shall continue our journey and seek out new experiences."

Po, with his adventurous spirit, was the first to volunteer. "I can still lead the way!" The dinosaurs set off once again, this time heading towards the amazing city of Chengdu. As they ran gracefully through the fields, they marvelled at the stunning landscapes below—the Mount Qingcheng, the Wenshu Monastery, and many other fascinating places.

After arriving in Chengdu, the dinosaurs came near a busy, crowded marketplace. The city was a breathtaking sight, with modern skyscrapers piercing the sky and neon lights illuminating the night. They quietly observed the city's vibrant life from a distance, taking note of the humans' advanced technology and bustling activities.

Po's curiosity got the better of him, and he wandered into the crowded marketplace. The market was bustling with vendors selling all kinds of goods—from exotic fruits to adventure video games. Po couldn't resist the fun of video games riding the dragons.

However, he didn't go unnoticed for long. A young girl named Ling spotted the towering dinosaur and gasped in amazement. "Look, everyone! It's a real dinosaur!" she exclaimed. Shoppers and visitors turned their heads, their faces a mix of astonishment and excitement. Po quickly realised the attention he was drawing. He tried to reassure the crowd, "I mean no harm! I'm just here to learn about your world."

At first, the people of Chengdu were worried, but they soon warmed up to the friendly dinosaur saying they could be good friends of Panda. They invited Po and the other dinosaurs to join their festivities, teaching them about Chinese culture and traditions. The dinosaurs were fascinated by the dragon dance, colourful lanterns, and lovely pandas.

As the days went by, the friendship between the dinosaurs and the humans grew stronger. The dinosaurs shared tales of their ancient kingdom. In return, the humans taught them about modern science, technology, and the importance of preserving history.

Inspired by their newfound friendship with humans, Ming and Po decided it was time to share the wisdom of their ancestors on a larger scale. They approached the human leaders with idea.

"Let us create a Dinosaur Museum Centre," Ming suggested. "A place where people can learn about our history, our culture, and the natural world we once ruled. In return, we will help you build a brighter future by using our strength."

The human leaders agreed. Together, they built the Dinosaur Museum Centre, a magnificent structure.

The Dinosaur Museum Centre quickly became a popular destination, attracting visitors from all over the world. Maybe when you climb up the Victoria peak next time, you may find Ming or Po.

—End—

# The Onyxsauros

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Law, Nicholas – 9*

One day, when the high-pitched, antagonistic screeches of pterodactyls pierced the air, the sea rumbled and the waves churned into a froth. A gargantuan creature burst from the shimmering surface, roaring loudly. There was a blinding zap, and two humans appeared out of nowhere.

ROAR! THUMP! A vehement Yunnanosaurus stomped ferociously on the humans, bearing down upon them with an intense rage that the humans could smell its anger! The humans were palaeontologists from China named Yuroi and Xianbing. Darting forward, Yuroi cut some of the Yunnanosaurus's hide and yanked it out, then both palaeontologists disappeared in a flash of light. The Yunnanosaurus howled in rage and swung its gigantic head, trying to shake off the pain of the cut Yuroi had made.

Far away, in a concealed underground laboratory, Yuroi and Xianbing examined the coarse hide of the Yunnanosaurus. Suddenly, Yuroi shifted in excitement.

'We can create our own species of dinosaur using the DNAs from the Yunnanosaurus!' he exclaimed.

'You are an intellectual genius,' commented Xianbing. Together, they picked up the piece of hide and stored in a crystal sphere of the OCR device to scan and retrieve data.

An hour later, Yuroi burst in Xianbing's private suite, yelling, 'I've got it! Xianbing! I've made a new species!' An awestruck look spread across Xianbing's face, and he jumped up in delight. 'What do you call it?' he asked Yuroi.

'The Onyxsauros,' replied Yuroi, looking proud. He led Xianbing to the laboratory and gestured toward the Onyxsauros. Xianbing gasped in astonishment. 'We will unleash this mighty, superior beast in China, and have them bow before us. We will dominate the world!' Yuroi explained. Xianbing rubbed his hands together in greed.

'What an excellent plan!' he said. Yuroi strolled over to the navigation system and charted a course to Beijing where they would set free their wrath upon the world.

Far away in Okinawa, Japan, a sushi chef named Hebi had heard about Yuroi and Xianbing's evil plan. Hebi was worried because China was so close to Japan, so he decided to alert the authorities and the locals. Hebi trained hard, practicing his sword swipes and jabs just in case he had to fight with the beastly Onyxsauros. One warm, sunny afternoon, Hebi ran to the leader's shrine. 'Leader, leader!' yelled Hebi, 'two palaeontologists named Yuroi and Xianbing plan to launch a dinosaur prototype in China!'

'So what? It doesn't bother us,' replied the leader, not turning around to look at Hebi.

'But... But China is so close to us, the dinosaur might trample our homes!' Hebi exclaimed exasperatedly.

'Let's list all possible Chinese dinosaur DNAs that Yuroi and Xianbing have used,' suggested Mamushi, the leader.

The next day, Hebi met Mamushi again at his shrine. 'I have a friend named Aodaishi who is skilled in combat. Do you want his help?' asked Mamushi.

'Sure. Bring him along,' replied Hebi. He bowed to Mamushi and unsheathed his shining, sharp sword. As quickly as a cheetah, Hebi dashed to a dummy and did a series of slashes and slices. The villagers applauded and cheered. Suddenly, there was a knock on the gate. Aodaishi, a strong, muscular man walked down the stairs and exchanged a bow with Mamushi and Hebi.

Meanwhile, Yuroi told Xianbing that there was a change of plan that they were going to attack Japan first.

'They won't know what hit them!' he cackled. Xianbing glared balefully at him.

'I still think we should attack China first,' he argued.

'Nonsense! Japan is smaller,' Yuroi replied.

'I won't help you!' yelled Xianbing. He marched away, seething with rage. Yuroi secretly opened the Onyxsauros's cage and cloned the Onyxsauros.

RUMBLE! The earth shook violently underneath the village, uprooting trees and burning down houses. 'Run!' screamed Hebi. Mamushi led the villagers away from the village towards Hebi's house. Hebi and Aodaishi slipped on

some armor from the local blacksmith stall. Fifty Onyxsaures stormed the village rampaging everything in sight, causing pandemonium. Hebi jumped at the Onyxsaure, jabbing his sword into its thick, impenetrable hide. Suddenly, fifty Pterosaurs soared across the sky, coming from down south. 'It's the Pterosaurs that used to live in China! They've come back to life!' yelled Aodaishi. Hebi stared at the winged reptiles in surprise. A new piercing cry rang out above. 'Sinosauropteryxes!' Aodaishi called out.

'How do you know?' asked Hebi.

'I like studying China's fascinating dinosaurs,' Aodaishi replied. ROAR! Without warning, a gargantuan Titanosaur burst in from behind the trees, barreling into the Onyxsaures. It parried them using its long neck. It swung its mammoth head in a wide arc, knocking down every single Onyxsaure in sight. Mamushi and his villagers hid behind a massive oak tree, cowering in fear. Just as the Titanosaur flung an Onyxsaure into the air, Hebi leaped away and beckoned to Aodaishi, Mamushi, and the villagers to sprint away from the village together.

Yuroi screamed and stamped his foot on the floor. 'Those morons! They ruined my plan! Hebi and Aodaishi!' 'I told you we'd better attack China first,' said Xianbing, watching Yuroi wail and sob.

Hebi and Aodaishi became best friends and Aodaishi always dropped by at Hebi's house to help at the sushi bar. Mamushi and his people built a new village around Hebi's house so the young hero could protect them from any dangers lurking ahead. 'I saw four different dinosaurs, how is that possible? I always thought there was only one species of dinosaur,' Mamushi said.

'There were three more species, Pterosaurs, Sinosauropteryxes and Titanosaurs,' Hebi smiled.

'They came from China, just to help us,' Aodaishi chimed in. There were gasps of astonishment from the villagers around. 'They've been around for two hundred and thirty million years,' Aodaishi added.

Hebi was crowned as the new leader of the village. Young villagers often asked him about his adventures and how the Chinese dinosaurs had helped him. In the end, everyone knew that China's dinosaurs were truly some unique creatures.

# Lulu the Lufengosaurus

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Lee, Alex – 8*

190 million years ago, there was a dinosaur named Lulu. Lulu was a Lufengosaurus. Lulu's neck was extremely long but his legs and hands were really short. They almost made him look a bit comical and clumsy. Lulu had vibrant green skin and he was very proud of his appearance. Lulu lived in Yunnan, a place in China with magnificent lakes and rivers and majestic mountains. Lulu loved eating grass and leaves. Lulu was feeling very grateful for living such a free and peaceful life.

One sunny morning, Lulu was minding his own business searching for grass and leaves to eat. The Pterosaurs were roaming freely in the sky and singing. Lulu was delighted. Suddenly, Lulu came across a dark cave in the forest. The cave seemed haunting but also captivating. Lulu grew extremely curious. He wanted to see if any other dinosaurs lived in the cave. "Perhaps another Lufengosaurus lives in here...we can be friends!" Lulu murmured to himself softly. He decided to be brave and he entered the cave with small, cautious steps.

The cave was so dark that Lulu could not see what was ahead. He started to feel frightened. Maybe I should turn around and head back, he thought to himself. Nevertheless, Lulu decided to carry on exploring as he remembered that his parents had told him to be daring. All he could hear was his own footsteps echoing in the cave. As he walked on, he saw light appearing from the end of the cave. Lulu's heart beat fast. Finally, he was going to be out of the cave!

When Lulu was finally out of the cave, he felt puzzled. What he saw was not a world of familiar faces. Instead, he found himself in the middle of a massive park! There were tiny little creatures everywhere. The creatures were screaming and they looked horrified to see Lulu. "Run!" A little creature with blonde hair screamed. Another creature was pushing her pram frantically. The even smaller creature was crying thunderously in the pram. Lulu was feeling quite terrified himself. He did not know what to do now. He looked around with large, frightened eyes, but no one wanted to help him.

Lulu told himself to be brave and he took large steps forward. He managed to walk out of the park and to his amazement, he saw something strange ahead of him. There was a tiny white box with four circles attached to it. Lulu, being a dinosaur, had a strong sense of smell. He could smell something fragrant coming from that little white box. He walked towards it and saw that there was a tiny creature trembling inside. "Hello!" Lulu said in a friendly voice. "Oh my gosh! You can speak! Jesus Christ!" The creature shouted. "Yes, I can." Lulu was now feeling a bit more confident than before. "Where does this nice smell come from?" "Oh!" The creature seemed less afraid now, "Are you talking about the ice-cream?" "Ice-cream? What is that?" Lulu asked curiously. The man smiled kindly at Lulu and he grabbed a cone and started making the ice-cream from the ice-cream machine. "Here you go, try it! It is delicious!" The man offered Lulu an ice-cream. Lulu looked at the ice-cream. It was pearly white and it reminded him of the beautiful fine sand on the beaches back home. He took a small bite of the ice-cream. It was creamy, smooth and tasted like heaven. "You are right, this is mouth-watering! It tastes even better than the leaves that I usually eat!" Lulu was delighted. The creature grinned at Lulu. "I am Derin, and I work in this ice-cream van. I am a human. We can be friends!" Lulu was still hesitant about being friends with Derin. "Why aren't you afraid of me like everybody else?" "Well, I was scared at first, but you just seem so happy after eating the ice-cream and I reckon that you are a herbivore and you are not going to eat me. Do you want me to show you around this city? It will be fun!" "Sure!" Lulu was overjoyed, he made a new friend in this unfamiliar, strange place!

The man showed Lulu around the city. They both saw emerald green trees and massive, blue oceans. They also saw a shopping mall but Lulu could not enter because he was too tall. However, Lulu noticed that not everyone was as friendly as Derin. The majority of people were horrified to see the giant, green dinosaur walking in the city. Lulu tried to ignore their frightened expressions and he gazed at the magnificent blue sky. Oops! Lulu almost stepped on an old lady who was running for her dear life. "Sorry!" Lulu apologized. "Aah! A dinosaur!" The old lady was so terrified that she ran as fast as her legs could carry her.

"We need to call the police!" A man shouted furiously. "Look at this weird dinosaur! He just attacked an old lady!" People started pointing their fingers at Lulu and one of them called the police. Lulu was scared. "Hey guys! He is a herbivore! Don't be afraid! And he did not attack the old lady! Calm down, I will show you that he is innocent." Derin tried his best to reassure the crowd that Lulu would not eat them. He went to the supermarket to buy some meat and placed it in front of Lulu. Lulu felt disgusted at the smell of raw meat and immediately ran away.

"Oh! Maybe he is not dangerous after all!" A little boy said. Too late! The police already came and they tried to put Lulu in an enormous cage! Lulu did not like it at all. He roared and shrieked. Derin said to the police angrily, "Stop! Can't you see that you guys are hurting him? He needs his freedom! He does not eat humans!" The crowd agreed with Derin. They demanded the police to release Lulu. Fortunately, the police agreed and Lulu was set free!

From that time onwards, Lulu became best friends with Derin and all the people were friendly to him as well. Lulu and Derin explored many more places together and Derin even rode on Lulu's back all the time! They had lots of adventure and Lulu truly enjoyed his new life in the modern world!

# Chinese Dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Lee, Summer – 10*

## Chapter 1 The Beginning

I opened my eyes and saw two figures behind my large, blue shell staring at me. Both looked identical with long robes, clipboards, and warm smiles. The only difference was one had long hair and one had short hair. Long hair picked me up and short hair go to open a door. Some people walked in and stared at me.

“So this is the dinosaur Luna found in China and it just hatched,” said short hair. “We could get Hector, the Dinoman to train it, please sir?”

“Of course, Marc.” said ‘Sir’.

“You should give her a name,” someone shouted. Long hair looked down at me and said “She is a Micropachycephalosaurus, the last dinosaur alive... she hatched under the star in front of the moon, her skin is a dark navy colour with some unusual silver specks on it and she has a glowing outline around her... I don’t want to call her anything scientific ... let’s call her .... Lucy!”

## Chapter 2 Mr. Dinoman

Mr. Dinoman was a strong, gentle and busy man. He trained pets and toddlers. He was in the middle of teaching a pair of twins boys when the doorbell rang.

Mr. Dinoman said, “Please get the door. Be polite.” They ran to the door.

“Who is it?” they asked.

“It’s us, Marc and Luna.”

The twins looked back at their teacher, who nodded at them. The boys sprang into action. One opened the door and stepped next to it, then one said with a very posh voice, “Pleasure to meet you, please make yourself at home.”

When everyone was inside, one ran into the kitchen and brought out three cups of warm water carefully not to spill any onto the floor. The other ran into the storage room, took out a small table, wiped it clean, placed it in front of the three, dashed back into the storage room, brought three chairs, and placed them around the table.

“Thank you. Class dismissed,” said Dinoman. The boys bowed and left.

## Chapter 3 Conversation

I watched the boys disappear; would I have to be like them when I grow up? Maybe, but I even can’t talk yet. Let’s listen to their conversation to find out more first.

Luna started, “This is a Micropachycephalosaurus found in China and her name is Lucy! I found her egg and it hatched in the lab! She is probably the last dinosaur alive!”

Wow! I’m the last dinosaur alive, cool!

“So, Hector,” Marc said “we want you to train Lucy.”

“What do you guys want me to teach this last dinosaur alive? I can teach many stuffs like English, Swimming, Math...”

“Okay, Hector,” interrupted Luna. “Could you please teach her how to walk, swim, speak English and Chinese, if you can...”

“Sure, I know Chinese. I actually know lots of languages like Chinese, Cantonese, Portuguese...”

“Brother, we would leave Lucy to you, so please take good care of our little Micropachycephalosaurus. Thank you, here is the money. Bye,” said Marc quickly and desperately.

Luna said, “Farewell Lucy, we will come back to you once in a while. Be good Lucy!” Her eyes were filled with tears as she said this. Her words confused me, but all I could understand was ‘Be good Lucy,’ so I quietly sat on her palm.

#### **Chapter 4 Tricks**

Before I knew what was going on, Luna placed me in Mr. Dinoman’s arms and they left. I watched them go away; they were the only ones I knew, and now they leave me alone to this stranger.

When I turn my head back, Hector gave me a warm smile and said, “Well, let’s have some fun before we start our first lesson, shall we?” Once we entered a huge, round room, Hector gently placed me on a small round table in the middle of the room.

“Now, Lucy I am sure you are excited, right?” I looked at him, then at the table’s surface, then him; I didn’t know where to look!

“Don’t be shy, Lucy! You know how to nod!” said Hector. I did the same actions, which I think is called “nod.”

“You’re a smart little dinosaur! I think I can teach you more tricks now!” said Hector excitedly. He stood up and jumped.

“Jump, Lucy!” I copied him.

“Good job,” said Hector. “Now what about this, can you say your name?”

I couldn’t, but don’t ask me how, suddenly I whispered, “Lucy.” in a voice that I think was cute.

“Yes little one!” he exclaimed happily, “That is adorable Lucy! Let’s learn some more names. The man was Marc, whom you can call Daddy; Luna was the woman, and you call her Mummy. I am your Uncle Hector.”

“Luna...” I whispered.

That was my first lesson, and it happened every day, except I learned different languages and subjects.

#### **Chapter 5 The visit**

“Lucy!” I hear as someone knocked on the door one day.

“Who is it?” I shouted back excitedly.

“It’s Mummy and Daddy, and we’ve come to visit you, dear Lucy!” said the female voice.

I looked at my uncle; he nodded. I ran to the door, opened it, and smiled, “Nice to meet you again, I have been looking forward to your company. Please make yourself at home.”

Then, before I could set anything up, Luna scooped me up and held me in her arms like a baby. “Let's see... you grow up so much! What have you learned here?”

I replied “I know how to speak and write English, Chinese, Arabic, Haitian, Creole....”

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” Luna asked.

“A storyteller and writer,” I replied “As I know how to speak so many languages, basically I could talk to anyone!”

“Can you tell us a story while typing it down? It could become a book,” asked Luna.

“Certainly” I said “**Chapter one, the beginning.** I opened...”

# Anna and the Dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Li, Zihe – 9*

One day, Anna, stepped into the elevator and lightly pressed one of the shining LED buttons, labelled ‘dinosaur’. She was sucked into the Time Machine and magically teleported into the Cretaceous period.

With a sudden crash, she felt the time machine come to a halt. She stepped out. The first things she saw were the wandering ankylosauruses, menacing, vicious Tyrannosauruses’ and flexible, little velociraptors. The velociraptors scurried past her, as if that they didn’t even see Anna.

She opened her digital map, it said that her location was in a place called, “Beverlands”. She was confused. Why hadn’t she ever heard of this name before? She had read so many books about dinosaurs ever since she was eight. Suddenly, she saw a wandering Ankylosaurus lumbering towards her. Don’t worry, she told herself. It is going to be okay. However, it was not okay. The Ankylosaurus swung its tail at Anna. She dodged, but here came the second attack; a slam in the chest. Anna ran as fast as she could, away from the ferocious Ankylosaurus. Then she realised... *It was afraid.* That is why it attacked her. It was threatened, it was frightened.

She walked over to the Ankylosaurus, and offered it some food. “Do you want some food, big guy?” Anna whispered softly. The Ankylosaurus gave an irritated grunt, as if it was trying to understand what Anna was saying. Anna dug into her utility bag; she found her old, crumpled bag of cheese flavoured crackers that were buried deep in the bottom. She hoped the dinosaur would like them. It swung its tail, licking the piece of cracker that Anna gave to it.

Suddenly, she noticed another strange sound, this time coming from the trail that she had left ten seconds ago. There was a pack of hunting Sinosauropteryxes. Anna was amazed at the elegance of these bright creatures. One of them caught a glimpse of Anna watching them, and it lowered its flexible, agile neck and stared into the eyes of Anna. She bent down onto her knees and patted their Sinosauropteryx’s soft, furry hair. The Sinosauropteryx licked Anna’s hand. Soon Anna and the Ankylosaurus and the Sinosauropteryx were close friends, and she began to live among them.

Five years passed. They were still in the same period, the Cretaceous period. Suddenly, the sky lit up like bonfire night. Magma was bubbling menacingly beneath the surface until the piercing sound of an explosion erupted throughout. The volcano shed bright, scorching blood. It coughed out hot streams of molten rocks down the peak. BOOM! A 50–foot cloud of ash and smoke was released into the air. Everything was silent for a second in Anna’s mind.

Anky and Sino called a distant roar, begging for Anna to come down from her hammock up the hill which was made by Sino and Anna together. She searched and searched for her lava–proof tent. Finally, she found it and ran to find Anky and Sino. She covers them and herself with it, but there was one thing that she forgot. This was not any lava... it was a rare type of lava, only found in the Cretaceous period.

They tried to hide under a tree, but Anna knew it was a ridiculous place for hiding from a monstrous volcano. Running quickly, they tried to hide in an ancient cave. They soon realised that the cave was also useless as it was made by old, dusty chunks of manure. So then, Anna understood. The only way to solve this problem was to teleport to a different era.

Anna knew exactly where to teleport them, the Triassic period. After they arrived, they got to work on gathering supplies and building a new home. While they built, they lived in their lava–proof tent on the outskirts of the forest.

2 years passed again, and they were still living inside their utility tent, although that they had made a stick house, unsure if it’s stabilization. Everyday life was getting boring, since they have been living in the Triassic period for 9 years. One day, Anna wanted to go for a short walk down the riverside. “It is just going to be a really short walk, I promise,”

begged Anna. As she went to secretly explore the dinosaur world, she surprisingly heard footsteps behind her, as if some kind of strange following creature is following her. She still didn't dare to look back. For one hour, those footsteps were getting closer and closer every time she moved one step. She looked back. She screamed and ran.

It was a huge Therapod! It chased after her, not giving up at the sight of its supper. Its large jaws snapped at Anna, letting her beware that the Therapod's jaws are stronger than any other dinosaur during the Triassic era. When she went back to her meeting spot with Anky and Sino, she couldn't find them somehow. Then she realized: the pack of Therapods have tricked her! While the first one was scaring away and chasing away Anna, the rest of the pack were stealing the two adorable dinosaurs from the utility tent!

It was not long before Anna discovered the Therapods' meeting space. She shone her utility flashlight to see what they were up to. The Therapods were trying to eat Anky and Sino! There was a hot stove on the table, which had screeching bubbles of fire, waiting to cook two dinosaurs. Now she decided, at the right timing, she would leap in the air and push them away from the stove. She waited until the Therapods finally were planning to push them in to the stove. Anna let a battle war cry shoot out of her mouth. She leapt into the air, threw her flaming torchlight at the Beasts, and pushed them out of the monster's mouth. When Anky and Sino both saw her, they snuggled deep into her hug, tears running down their cheeks and into her arms.

# Time Travel Adventures

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Liu, Clara – 9*

There once was a very unusual family of Millers. What's so unusual about them, you ask? Well, the mom, Dr. Miller, was an inventor who created a time travel machine when she was just a teenager. She used it regularly for research, often with her husband, another Dr. Miller, a renowned paleontologist obsessed with dinosaurs. Their kids, Eric and Emma, enjoyed time traveling since they were little. Eric, a responsible 13-year-old, loved science and history. Emma, 11, was joyful and sometimes mischievous—but her parents loved her curiosity. They were quite unusual, especially because of the places they traveled to.

One day, the Millers were having a picnic on the beach. Eric and Emma were digging holes when they suddenly found a hard, white, rock-like object. They immediately realized it was no ordinary rock—but a fossil! To confirm their suspicions, they brought it to their dad.

"Wow!" exclaimed Dad. "It looks like a fossilized dinosaur skull!"

"Can you tell which dinosaur it belonged to?" asked Emma.

"Yes, it seems like it belonged to *Sinosauropteryx*," he answered.

"Si-nah-what?" Emma was confused.

"*Sinosauropteryx*, a tiny dinosaur with colorful feathers," explained Dad.

"Oh yeah, I read about it. Its tail was red and white and about one meter long," added Eric.

"Oh my, I really want to see it in real life. I bet it was super cute!" Emma said excitedly. "How about we use Mom's time travel machine to see it?" she suggested.

Suddenly, Mom appeared. "Did I just hear you talking about my time travel machine?! You know you can't travel without me, young lady!" Mom was usually really kind, but not when it came to using her machine. She always explained how dangerous time traveling could be.

"I'll do it anyway!" shouted Emma as she sprinted toward Mom's workshop, where the time travel machine was. Eric ran after her.

"Wait!" he screamed. "It's too risky!"

"Come and catch me!" teased Emma, as she was about to press the button on the control panel that said "[Dinosaur Times. 125–122 million years ago. Early Cretaceous Era.](#)"

Eric reached out to grab her hand, but Emma's fingers were faster. She pressed the [START](#) button! Eric felt the usual woosh around him. "Not again..." he thought, panicking.

In the blink of an eye, they appeared in the Early Cretaceous jungle, surrounded by tall trees.

"What have you done???" shouted Eric.

"We're going to be okay!" Emma snapped back. "I just want to see the *Sinosauropteryxes*!"

"We should get back. Mom will be so mad!" Eric was worried. "We—" He didn't finish, because his sister had already run off into the bushes. "OH. MY. GOD," thought Eric, following her steps.

"Eric! Look!" he heard Emma shout. "DINOSAURS! Whoaaa!" Emma exclaimed, running toward a group of tiny dinos.

"Oh no," thought Eric. She was approaching a group of young feathered dinosaurs that looked like the *Sinosauropteryx* he saw in his dad's pictures. Surprisingly, they weren't frightened by the humans at all! They looked at the siblings curiously, allowing them to come closer.

"Wow, I think they like us!" Emma said cheerfully as she went to pet one. "I really want to have this one as a pet!"

"No, they might be harmful," Eric warned. "We should go back," he said, pulling her toward the machine. But he didn't notice that she had snuck a dinosaur egg into her pocket.

Emma and Eric pressed the button that said "[Present times. Liaoning Province.](#)" When they returned to the workshop, their parents were waiting, worried. Dad was crying, and Mom looked quite angry.

"We're home!" shouted Emma. "And we're safe!"

"Yeah, thanks to me!" grunted Eric.

"Haven't I told you that you cannot use—" Mom started, but she stopped when she saw Emma pull a dinosaur egg from her pocket.

"What is that? Is that a dinosaur egg?" Dad asked, stunned.

"Yes!" Emma said proudly. "I'm going to wait until it hatches and have a pet dinosaur!"

“Are you crazy?!” Mom and Dad screamed.

“It could be dangerous!” added Mom.

“Most importantly, imagine how this baby dinosaur will feel when it hatches without its mom,” Dad said.

“Try to imagine being left alone in another time without any family around you!”

Emma felt disappointed. Deep down, she hated the idea of leaving the egg alone.

“That’s really sad!” she sighed. “But I have to return it.”

“This time, I’ll make sure you’re safe. I’ll come with you!” Mom said.

“I’m going too,” added Dad. “I won’t let you go without me!”

“Okay, okay... I’ll join you, I guess,” said Eric. “After all, I don’t want to skip the family trip to the Early Cretaceous Era!”

They all got into the time travel machine. Once again, Emma pressed the “[Dinosaur Times. 125–122 million years ago. Early Cretaceous Era](#)” button. As they returned to the prehistoric jungle, they rushed to return the egg. It seemed the dinosaurs didn’t even notice it was missing! To mark the day, they took a picture with the dinosaurs in the background.

Once they returned home, they hung the picture in the living room. It wasn’t just a photo—it was a reminder that even the wildest adventures couldn’t replace the importance of family. As they looked at the picture, Eric smiled. “We may have broken the rules, but we sure had an unforgettable adventure.”

Emma nodded, her eyes full of wonder. “Yeah, but I’m glad we did the right thing in the end,” she said softly.

Mom and Dad exchanged a look, the tension of the day fading. “Next time, we stick together,” Dad said with a smile. “But maybe without sneaking off to the past.”

The family laughed, knowing that, no matter the time or place, they could face anything as long as they had each other.

# The Story of the End of the Chinese Dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Meng, Jayden – 8*

Bamboo, a little Alectrosaurus, was wandering in a Chinese bamboo forest. He felt lonely and wanted to find someone he could spend time with because he noticed that all his family members had disappeared. Suddenly, a torn piece of ancient paper caught his eye. He later found that it was part of a map. There was a title for it, but he could only see some of the words that said “.....place for dinosaurs”. This gave him the hope there might be other dinosaurs existing. He decided to set off on his journey.

It was a daunting journey for little Bamboo. Each step felt like an adventure. He overcame challenges like crossing rivers and climbing mountains. Suddenly, a faint, sorrowful cry echoed from a dark cave nearby, sending a shiver down Bamboo’s spine but he still ventured into it.

The cave was blocked by a giant rock. He tripped on another piece of paper which was another part of the map. Putting them together, he saw that it was “When you seek..... place for dinosaurs”. He became more curious. But first, he needed to find out who was moaning inside the cave.

With his strong jaw he lifted the rock out of the way. Then he saw a big creature, which he thought was an Euornithes. He was so excited that he did not notice one of the creature’s wings was injured.

Bamboo said eagerly, “Finally, I am not alone anymore!”

The creature lifelessly said, “Little Dino, can you help me?”

Hearing that, Bamboo noticed the creature looked dehydrated and had an injury.

“How can I help?”

“Please get me some water from the river and get some herbs on the riverbank, then I will tell you what to do.”

Bamboo sprinted to get what he was told. After that, he treated the flying creature patiently.

“Phew! Now you look so much better. Let me introduce myself, I am Bamboo. I’m finding my disappeared relatives. By following this map, I may be able to find them. However, one part of it is missing!”

“Thanks, brave little Bamboo. I’m Ling the phoenix. I’ve been trapped here for days, and your kindness means the world to me,” Ling said. “I bet you are an Alectrosaurus, just like an old friend of mine trying to find his relatives too. He left me a piece of ripped paper which also looks like a map.”

Ling passed the paper he had to Bamboo. When Bamboo saw it, he was over the moon. Now, the title of the map read “If you seek, you will find the final resting place for dinosaurs”.

“Little Bamboo, I know you want to find your relatives but the journey is gonna be dangerous. Shall I accompany you?”

Bamboo agreed immediately. Along the journey, Ling shared some memories he had with Bamboo’s relative. They formed a great team and became friends. Ling watched over Bamboo like a guardian watching over a child. In turn, Bamboo looked up to as a wise mentor. After months, they finally got close to the destination. However, they spotted a lot of dead bodies of unfamiliar animals.

They saw a sign that said “If you can get out of this maze, you will find what you have desired.” Little Bamboo ran into the maze immediately while Ling hesitated and warned, “Little Bamboo, be careful. This maze might be dangerous.”

As expected, there were lots of traps and snakes in the maze. With their teamwork, they overcame all challenges until a terrifying two-headed monster showed up, blocking them.

“An Alectrosaurus again? I thought I had given you all the hardest lesson and sent you all to death.”

“What did you say? Did you kill all the Alectrosaurus? Why did you have to do that to my relatives?”

“This is my territory and you dinosaurs cannot take over my power. Now it’s your turn to be killed like your family.”

Seeing that, Ling was alerted and hoped to protect his little buddy.

After that, Ling brightened his wings with fire and noticed that the monster stumbled back with its jaw open. Ling signalled Bamboo that heat might be the monster’s weakness. Quickly, Bamboo took some bamboo shoots while Ling lit them up. They threw them at the monster. Slowly, the monster got burned into ashes. They ran quickly out of the maze and were surprised by what they saw ——— a magnificent temple in front of them.

Bamboo stood in stunned silence as he recognized the familiar faces of his relatives carved into the stone pillars. Thinking about their fate, he dropped tears. The first pillar was the oldest relative, and it got younger faces all the way back. Reaching the top of the temple, they found a letter.

“This monster is afraid of fire but that doesn’t kill him alone. The only thing that can destroy him is the power of friendship exhibited by two legendary species ——— dinosaurs and phoenix. Killing the monster will unleash the power to protect the city eternally”

The next moment, the letter started glowing blue. Before they knew it, Ling’s wings spread with fire and it got uplifted to the top of the temple, imprinted on the ceiling. Right below Ling’s imprinted body, there was a clock. Suddenly, the clock began to swell, its hands spinning wildly in flash, Bamboo found himself imprinted at its centre. What was seen next was a magical moment. Starting from Ling’s imprinted body, blue beams came out, followed by Bamboo’s and the pillars. When the temple was full of blue magical light, the clock clicked and stopped at 12 o’clock. The words on the letter Ling and Bamboo changed to: “When the clock stops, it is the end of the dinosaurs and whoever has his whole body imprinted will be the protector of China.”

Since then, the monster has never been seen. Today, visitors flock to visit the temple whether they believe in this legend or not.

# The Diary of Tammie the Pterodactyl

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Mok, Henny – 8*

## Saturday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period

Dear Diary,

I am so annoyed! Mom said we have to eat fish for dinner again tonight. I really hate all kinds of seafood, like shellfish or plankton, but fish is the worst. When I flew over to complain to Dad, he said raw fish is a good nutritious meal for a young, growing pterodactyl like me. I miss when we lived farther inland, when we could eat crunchy, gooey insect chips and land-dwelling animals. YUM!! Even eating the carcasses that Dad scavenged was better than Mom's yucky and slimy raw fish. I guess we do not have much of a choice anymore, since we moved to live along the ocean coast.

## Sunday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period

Dear Diary,

Mom and Dad woke me up this morning to tell me that they have a surprise for me in the backyard. I thought it was going to be a pet steropodon, because I have been pleading with my parents for one for ages. A Triceratops in my school called Chase brought his steropodon to school for show and tell, and it was so jurassically cute!!! But when I flew out to the backyard, all I saw was a bunch of white thingies sticking out of the wet dirt. Turns out, mommy had laid a bunch of eggs in the ground. They were small, oval-shaped, and soft-shelled. On my dino, I am so excited for baby siblings!

When I was in the backyard, I saw something weird. There was a tiny ball in the sky that seemed to be glowing, like the moon, but orange. I guess it is not a big deal. I am more worried about what to wear for the first day of school tomorrow.

## Monday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period

Dear Diary,

You will never believe this! Today when I flew to school in my new, pink, puffy dress, everybody started staring at me and whispering to each other. I thought I was in big trouble, but instead I was called to the principal's office. Principal Rominia, an enormous and scary-looking Tyrannosaurus Rex, gave me a letter and told me to give it to my parents. When I went back to class, my best friend, Aimee the ankylosaurus, screamed and waved at me. We were in the same class again! We have been best buddies since Year 1. When Dad picked me up after school and read Principal Rominia's letter, he told me that I got nominated to be "Principal of the Day" and I am going to deliver the morning speech, as well as eat lunch with Principal Rominia tomorrow. I was so excited that I got dino bumps all over my wings!

## Tuesday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period

Dear Diary,

Being "Principal of the Day" was awesome! When I delivered my morning speech, I made a joke about a pink pterodactyl and everyone laughed. After the speech, I went back to class proudly, I realised there was something waiting for me at my desk. A congratulatory letter, and a "Principal of the Day" TROPHY!!! Boy, was I happy. Then, I saw a new student in our class. She was sitting right next to me. Her name is Lulu, she is an adorable triceratops. I was about to say good morning to her until...RRRING! It was lunchtime! I was too hungry to stay behind. On my way

to the cafeteria, I spotted something odd. The glowing thingy in the sky seemed to be getting bigger. I don't know what it is, but I'm sure it's nothing.

### **Wednesday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period**

Dear diary,

Today, I hung out with Lulu for the first time. She wanted to sit next to me, and she was so friendly. Mom said I could have a sleepover with Aimee on Friday, so I thought maybe I could invite Lulu as well. She said yes when I asked her! But honestly, the real excitement was today's FIELD TRIP! We visited the conifer and fern forests, and I loved looking at the flowers. We even saw a real steropodon in the wild! Lulu and Aimee also loved petting the steropodon. After the field trip, the coaches let us either walk home or take the bus home. Lulu, Aimee and I chose to take the bus together. We all had some snacks, so we didn't starve after so much walking. We were really, really, tired after heading home, so we slept until dinner. Ugh, it is fish again.

### **Thursday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period**

Dear Diary,

Yay! I cannot believe it! Today, when I went to the playground that Mom and Dad built, I saw a white crack in the eggs that Mom laid. I was so excited because my siblings were hatching! I flew as quickly as I could to Mom and Dad to tell them about the hatching eggs. They were excited too! When I saw a wing coming out of the egg, I was really shocked. Suddenly, the egg cracked, and my baby sibling, a pterodactyl, emerged! Hey Diary, you won't believe what happened next! When I woke up this morning by my window, I saw glowing things again. But this time, they were bigger and hotter. I guess we just need to get a drink.

### **Friday, the Cretaceous–Paleogene Period**

Dear Diary,

Wow! I had a BRILLIANT day with Aimee and Lulu! We played from 10:00 a.m. until nearly 11:00 p.m. Everyone thought we were fast asleep until noon!

First, we swung and slid for a bit. When our tummies rumbled, I said, "I am starving!" We tucked into peanut butter and jelly sandwiches—just like Mum's! "Yum! This is the best!" I exclaimed.

After lunch, we dashed to the playground. "Let's have more fun!" Aimee shouted. We played a game called "dino-mind." "We're not worthy!" Lulu joked, but we pretended it was fabulous!

When we got back home, we had dinner and shared ghost stories. "I heard about a haunted dinosaur!" I whispered as we giggled nervously, feeling the thrill of the night. It was such a laugh, but we definitely had some proper night fears!

## Saturday, the Cretaceous – Paleogene Period

Dear Diary,

Today, we decided to stay home instead of going to the playground. I took the opportunity to tackle my chores. After finishing my laundry, I allowed myself some rest and chose to read my favourite book. As I settled into my bean bag with my pillow, I began to read.

Outside, I noticed a glowing object in the sky. It seemed much larger than before, even bigger than the sun! It was incredibly bright. I wondered, why is it so close? No, wait—it's getting even bigger! What is happening? No, no, no...

# The Mystery of the Titanosaur

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Monaghan, Sophie – 9*

Echoing through the house, the doorbell announced a visitor. Excitedly, I jumped out of bed and charged downstairs. Flinging the door open! I am sure people in Australia could hear us screaming hello to each other. The house seem to shudder with anticipation of the mischief that we were about to get up to!

Without a moment to spare, we rushed upstairs, and threw her suitcase in my bedroom. Then we began our adventure. Lily and I were going to discover the secrets of the grumpy, ancient house. Maybe it was all the movies I had watched, but, one place that I really didn't feel brave enough to explore was, the attic. Even before we began to climb up there, the light bulbs flickered in the stairway. Finally, I dragged her up the rickety wooden stairs towards the ram-shackled attic. Even though Lily was beside me, my heart pounded uncontrollable like a drum in my chest. Pushing the cobwebs aside, slowly, I turned the knob of the door....

Nervously, I reached for the light switch and flicked it on. One would think that the light would make a difference, it did not! It was still so dark and dim, more shadows had seemed to appear. In front of me were, piles and piles of boxes that coated the floor. BANG! I tripped. I had fallen over something hard. Fumbling around in the darkness, I tried to work out what it was. However, it suddenly started beaming like a bright torch. Bravely, Lily picked up the strange object and blew the dust away. My hand uncontrollably reached out to touch it, as if there was a magical pull.

On closer inspection, it looked like a map with Chinese writing below it saying : 千里之行，始于足下 .Oh, how I wish that I had paid more attention in Chinese class. But Lily on the other hand said it without hesitation and told me that it translates as – ‘A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step’. As soon as she uttered the words the scroll glowed brightly, teleporting us to another dimension! As I opened my eyes I was shocked to see a whole other world. It looked to be the hidden valley shown on the scroll. Within a blink of an eye I ran for cover.

There I was with Lily stuck in a treacherous desert with no way out! The merciless heat of the desert made every step feel like a challenge. The severe landscape of the desert stretched endlessly, with it's dry earth and vegetation. Under the restless sun my skin was scorched. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a angry volcano ready to erupt, with torrents of sizzling smouldering ash and rocks raining from the sky. Boiling, flaming lava inside was ready to explode!

OH NO! I thought to myself trying not to scare Lily, but to be honest she was pretty scared herself. My hands were trembling, my palms were sweating as-well, Lily's face was stuck in a huge jaw drop wondering if her face will stay that way. Now, the lava was a fountain of fire, like a throbbing wound flooding the sky. Suddenly, the ground trembled violently beneath our feet as what seemed to be like an earthquake unleashed its powerful force, sending shockwaves through the valley! “RUNNN!” I bellowed in the harsh conditions. Lily and I were struggling to walk through the coarse arduous sand as it was blocking our path. Lily was clinging onto my arm with all the strength she had in her, she was squeezing me to death! As I turned round cautiously my eyes opened wide with delight as there in front of me stood a Titanosaur! This was the forgotten dinosaur my History teacher Mr Blueberry had been harping on about. Grabbing for the scroll I could see a faint sketch of the Titanosaur in the corner of the page. As quick as a flash, Lily and I stared at each other and knew exactly what to do. We screamed at the top of our lungs 千里之行，始于足下! Maliciously, the words worked and the Titanosaurs halted, turned on their heels and sprinted off in the opposite direction. We couldn't believe what we were seeing. Had we saved the Titanosaur from extinction?

Suddenly, my world was a blanket of darkness as my body started to shake and a cold chill crawled up my spine. Then with a loud thud, we landed on the hard, wooden floor of the attic. Rubbing my eyes, Lily and I hugged each other

in shock, not really believing what had just happened. Reaching for my computer I searched on the Wikipedia and saw in black and white a Titanosaur fact file in present day. We had done it, we had really done it! Lily and I had saved the Titanosaur from extinction. People would know that this wonderful animal did live and roam the Earth. In saving the dinosaur, I learned that even small actions can make a significant difference in the world.

# A Great Dream

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Neo, Jayden – 8*

It was another Chinese lesson, this time about Chinese Dinosaurs.

It was an intriguing topic and I wish my Chinese was more powerful enough so that I could understand better. It was a sultry afternoon outside and I tried to focus but soon, I had my head in the clouds.

Beyond my wildest dream, a Chinese dinosaur named a Sinosauropteryx approached my classroom with his pathetic, small legs. As he came in, he told me he had a magical power that he could fly. He offered me to fly across the land of China. Instantaneously, I did not hesitate and immediately hopped on his back. As he flew, I was nearly going to pass out as I was both extremely nervous and scared, as we travelled across the whole nine yards.

With its curved, lengthy tail and I sitting on its back precariously but cautiously. After some time, it started to lose a gush of energy, and I was going to fall down but I swiftly got up by the skin of the teeth.

We flew by the West Lake that was full of magnificent pagodas, temples and gardens. All the pagodas looked unoriginal and fake; it was so undramatic that I decided to leave. Our next adventure was the filthy and dangerous Yangtze and Yellow River that had caused many people to perish. Sinosauropteryx dived into the river, with me on his back. We took a dip and resurfaced, making me look like I was made of cheese from the yellow water.

Soon after, we had drifted down to an eerie basement, but little did we know, it was not as scary as it was; instead, it was the Terracotta warriors in Xian. It was like history coming alive, meeting the hundreds of soldiers that we buried with the first emperor of China, supposedly to protect him in his afterlife. We glided swiftly over the warriors, treasure and the chariots, expecting the mud-made figures to come alive but luckily they did not.

Approximately 20 minutes later, I was blown away as I saw the Forbidden city, home to 24 emperors. We glided into the front porch but it was absolutely zero sound, completely empty and in pin-drop silence. Sinosauropteryx let me down and I sauntered through the hallway examining the statues and the nicely decorated rooms.

We also flew to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world! It was called the Great Wall of China, the only structure on earth that is visible from Space. It was a nail-biting experience with a breath-taking view. We had actually flown so long that we did not notice we had actually clocked one-third of the entire earth radius.

The final destination was the city of Jiayin in Heilongjiang (黑龙江), one of the further and coldest city of China, and also the land of the Chinese dinosaur. It was there that I had the rare opportunity to see his relatives, Archaeornithomimus and Chinshakiangosaurus. They were really old and existed 166 Million years ago. Unlike Sinosauropteryx, which is carnivorous, Archaeornithomimus is omnivorous and Chinshakiangosaurus is herbivorous. I hopped off the back of Sinosauropteryx and landed on the muddy ground with a thud. Sinosauropteryx introduced me to Archaeornithomimus and Chinshakiangosaurus. Strange enough, Chinshakiangosaurus asked me to hop on his back and we galloped for about 30 minutes before we reached a football pitch where other dinosaurs were playing football. Instead of kicking the ball with their feet, they used their extremely long and extended tails to swipe the ball forward. When Chinshakiangosaurus crossed the ball, Archaeornithomimus leaped up in the air and used its extruding tail to head the ball. The dwarf-like Sinosauropteryx, in comparison to other dinosaurs, was swift and agile and “dribbled” the ball very well.

After the football match, I introduced Rugby to them. I told them that Football is gentlemen game played by hooligans and Rugby is a hooligan game, played by gentlemen. Of course, this time, it is all about the dinosaurs. An

aggressive relative called Yuangchuanosaurus, came in to join the rugby match. When they did the scrum, the Chinshakiangosaurus dominated, as his fat body helped him make everybody fall like bowling pins. Chinshakiangosaurus ended up beating everybody in the first half, but then Yuangchuanosaurus tried his hardest and ended up making a comeback to secure the victory.,

Later, the dinosaurs went swimming in the nearby river. Chinshakiangosaurus was the first to jump in the pool, making a deafening sound on impact due to his large body. All the other dinosaurs started cracking up and followed Chinshakiangosaurus to jump in the river and swam at break-neck speed.

Our final sport was a 1-km race. Sinosauropteryx and Archaeornithomimus were the fastest as the other dinosaurs had a bigger built. Both of them sprinted to the finish line at lightning speed and moved their arms vigorously while all the other dinosaurs moved like an amateur.

After the match, they looked for their meals in the vegetation. We had grass, rock and wooded planks for breakfast. As for me, I found some berries, which I also shared with the timid Sinosauropteryx, the gigantic and obese Chinshakiangosaurus, the mid-size Archaeornithomimus and the ferocious Yuangchuanosaurus. As for lunch, they surprised me with dead rabbits, cows and lizards. I told them a white lie and said I was a vegan so I wouldn't need to eat the raw food that they gave me.

All of the sudden, my teacher called out my name. I was dumbfounded and jumped up in utter shock. She asked if I had understood the lesson. I drew a blank and was speechless. I was up a creek without a paddle. In the bundle of nerves, I was shaking with uncertainty and uttered a foolish and made-up answer. I replied "mei shi, mei shi" (没事 which means "no problem") . It was an interesting day-dream but an embarrassing one too.

# The Adventure of Achelosaurus

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Ng, Marcus – 8*

The sun hung in the sky like a monstrous fire demon, mercilessly pouring its blistering waves of heat onto those below. However, this did not hinder me from hunting my prey. My target was drinking water at a serene lake in the jungle, totally oblivious to the imminent danger he was in.

Towering trees surrounded us. The canopy on top blocked out most of the sunlight, giving the forest a sinister ambiance. I could hear my own heartbeat pounding in my ears as I looked at my enticing meal in front of me. As I lunged onto the Achelosaurus from my hiding spot, the only sound that lingered in the air was his piercing screams of agony. Sharp claws tore into tender muscles and razor-sharp teeth snapped bones. A short moment later, I stood triumphantly atop my prey's dying body. His blood oozed from my mouth, and the warm fluid revitalised me.

“Enjoy your last few days of life; we are going to meet the same fate eventually...” Those were the last words that came out of the Achelosaurus's mouth. It was an ominous message that sent a chill down my spine. A few days passed uneventfully and I had begun to forget the warning from the Achelosaurus. A weird black dot appeared in the sky out of nowhere. It could be a figment of my imagination, but the dot seemed to be getting bigger every day. There was a sudden spike in temperature to an intolerable level. The rivers had run dry, and all that was left of the riverbed was parched and dried soil and rocks. Leaves and grass that were once lush green had turned brown. One by one, the herbivores began to die from lack of food, and some of the carnivores followed. The lively habitat that I once called home was now a shadow of itself. In the past, the jungle was always filled with noises from different animals, but now all I could hear were agonizing moans from creatures that were on the brink of death. The stench of death and decay was everywhere. It seemed like the prophecy from the Achelosaurus was coming to fruition. Now all that was left were skulls and scattered skeletons of dinosaurs. A loud boom tore through the tranquil air, shaking me to my senses. The loud noise was coming from above. I looked up and found that the black dot had expanded to the size of an enormous mountain. At close range, I could see clearly that the black dot had taken the shape of a massive rock. Surrounding the rock were raging flames that seemed eager to destroy everything in their path. The flames were as red as blood, reminding me of the Achelosaurus's blood. What I was looking at was a meteorite! I am a Tarbosaurus, an apex predator that had spent my entire life being the personification of fear to many animals. However, in front of this majestic force of destruction, I felt the exact fear that my preys felt when they saw me. At the very moment, I was frozen in my tracks and cowering in fear.

After what seemed like an eternity, the meteor collided with the Earth. There was a flash of bright light that blinded me temporarily. The ground started to shake violently and cracks started to form. Scalding lava exploded out of the cracks and burnt everything it could reach. From the direction of the ocean where the meteor landed, a towering wave of water rushed toward me at a ferocious speed. Suddenly, the ground cracked open, making me lose my balance. My life flashed before my eyes as I fell into the gaping chasm.

When I woke up, I was surrounded by blinding white lights. Pungent smells of chemicals lingered in the air. I tried to put my foot on the ground but I realised I couldn't. I found myself floating in some kind of fluid. When I leaned forward, I bumped into cold glass. Panic attack started to set in as I struggled for freedom. Suddenly, a solemn voice that was devoid of any emotions started to speak to me.

“Welcome to the cutting-edge STEAM Lab in China. I am Doctor Wu, the head of this prestigious lab and in charge of your extraordinary rebirth. This is the year 2025, 21 million years since your tragic death. A catastrophic meteor hit

the Earth and destroyed most living things on it. However, you fell into a hidden chasm which happened to be an ice cave. The freezing ice water saved you from the apocalypse and preserved your body. Following the monumental discovery and study of the Tarbosaurus fossils by enthusiastic Chinese paleontologists in Xinjiang, China in 1960s, and the concerted efforts of Chinese molecular biologists, genetic engineers, and an academy of various esteemed experts, we succeeded in uncovering your body and reviving it with advanced science.”

I had no idea what this man was saying, but it seemed like the world I used to know was long gone. I felt scared and lonely being the only living dinosaur left in this world. Over time, I was moved from the lab to a museum to be showcased to the public. Every day, there were tons of people coming to see me like bees attracted to honey. I became the centre of attention in the world but this did not make me happy. In fact, it depressed me. Being a Tarbosaurus that once roamed the Earth with supremacy, striking fear into every living thing that saw me, I had now become just a mascot to entertain children and adults. The only good thing now was that I didn't have to hunt for food anymore. Fresh meat was sent to my enclosure every day at fixed intervals. And most importantly, I was no longer threatened by meteors. I missed my old world dearly, but I knew it shall forever remain a fragment of my memory.

# Jurassic Echoes: A Journey to Ancient China

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Ng, Pak Hei Nathan – 8*

On a warm and sunny evening, Lian and Kian were looking for stones in a deep, dark cave. Suddenly, they heard roars and footsteps coming from afar. Maybe it was a bear scaring animals away, but they had a weird sensation pulsing through their bodies, alerting them that it was something way more terrible...

Lian was an experienced scientist who never stopped thinking. He always had a thoughtful heart and a curious mind. He was eager to uncover the cause or understand what had transpired whenever something went wrong. He always wore a bright blue coat, glimmering glasses, and dark, mustard-coloured shoes that made click-clack sounds when he walked.

Kian, Lian's kind and helpful partner, guided Lian through many memorable adventures. While Lian was a scientist, Kian was an archaeologist full of resilience, never stopping until the very end. He wore a white jacket, dark blue trousers with large holes at the knees, and sturdy shoes for his long days in the mines.

Together, Lian and Kian became famous for their discoveries, never stopping until they reached the pinnacle of success, like climbers conquering a mountain.

On a bright morning, Lian and Kian woke up early in a hotel in China. They arrived the day before because they received an unexpected notification about a newly unearthed fossil. This fossil, currently being displayed in the Jiangxi Geological Museum, is rumoured to be a previously unknown dinosaur species. Wasting no time, they hopped into their shining red car and headed to the museum.

Arriving at the museum, they saw many historical figures and objects related to archaeology. As much as they admired these artefacts, they were eager to see the fossils.

The area was crowded by hundreds of people as Lian and Kian were shoving their way up to the front. What came into sight was a mysterious fossil of a dinosaur. The fossil was said to be from a dinosaur called Sinosauropteryx, a feathered, mustard-brown dinosaur that was small but extremely violent and brutal. Lian and Kian could not take their eyes off the fossil, as they had never seen such an intact fossil. The fossil was preserved so well that it looked lively, as if it was real. Hours had passed, and the duo were still staring at it; they were mesmerised. Lian and Kian suddenly felt dizzy, and everything faded into black. Right before they lost consciousness, they vaguely heard quick footsteps and a deep cry.

Lian and Kian woke up shivering in what they thought was a forest with massive trees covered with needle-shaped leaves. "Where are we?" questioned Kian. "I remember we were in the museum," said Lian. The silence between them was shattered by a distant roar, followed by rushed footsteps as if something was charging at them quickly.

They knew they had to move to survive whatever was coming at them. A cave entrance suddenly appeared before them, a dark opening in the mountainside. The air temperature turned cooler as they stepped inside, and the light grew dimmer.

After walking in the dark for a few minutes, a cold breeze ran down their spines, and they froze. Loud footsteps and a distant roar grew louder as they tried to hide behind a large rock. Their resilience held firm like obsidian resisting a metal axe.

However, the large rock did not seem to provide them with the adequate protection they wished for. Soon, a large dark shadow loomed over them as if trying to consume them. Suddenly, a giant red dinosaur charged at them like

a raging torrent. In sync, the two frantically ran towards the cave exit. To their surprise, there was a hollow area beneath the rocks; the dinosaur, too heavy to step on it, fell through.

They finally realised they had time—travelled. Lian recalled that he read a relevant book and had a plan to return to their time. They needed to find legendary objects: the stone of time, a scintillating golden dinosaur feather, and a jar filled with liquid from the river that could heal all wounds. These items were not easy to find and required much hard work.

For the time stone, they had to go to a cave full of legendary stones; the stone had red and yellow sparks repetitively flying out of it. After walking for a long time, they found it. The cave looked ruined, but it had light shining out of it, and they knew they were coming close.

They were in the cave looking for the time stone, following the glowing path of light that led to it. Radiant, bright colours shone from every side as if they were in a rainbow; many other stones were littered on the floor, and every time they made a step, they would rustle beneath their feet. Suddenly, the earth began to shake, and the two began to quiver in fear; cracks began to form beneath the surface, and a cold breeze climbed down their spines. Large crystals fell on them like a glowing meteor shower approaching them in every direction as the wind began blowing past their bodies in a wave that would make the earth collapse into tiny, microscopic pieces. The wind was getting faster and faster and blowing in circles like the roots of a tree. Unexpectedly, there was a small dinosaur that looked as if it were not harmful. It had mustard eyes and brown fur and ran fast as it was trying to attack them. Its jaws were ready to bite, and its claws sank into position, ready to strike. Knowing that it would be their end, Lian and Kian's hearts faded, and the animal widened its jaws. They screamed loudly. Once again, everything faded into darkness.

In the haze, they vaguely heard someone say, "Wake up!" When they woke up, they found themselves at a construction site with a shining stone beside them. Lian and Kian peered into each other's eyes, a mysterious understanding flickering between them.

# China's Dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Ng, Tyen – 9*

“What’s this?” Simon muttered curiously to Isaac. The two boys were at the Natural History Museum of China. They had been there countless times because they liked dinosaurs very much but they had never noticed the strange door which had a weird, glowing symbol on it. They felt that they had to explore what was behind it.

“Do you think there are more dinosaurs exhibits in there?” Isaac questioned.

“Maybe, let’s check it out!” Simon replied, glancing around to make sure no one was watching them. Isaac cautiously turned the brass handle and suddenly they were sucked into a time portal. Everything became blurry and they began to spin, which seemed like endlessly, through space as symbols and bizarre numerals surrounded them.

As abruptly as it had started, the spinning stopped and their vision cleared. Simon grunted, he was lying on the ground, still giddy. He couldn’t believe his eyes; they were no longer in the museum. The scenery was unlike anything he had ever seen before. Huge trees towered over him. Volcanoes in the distance were spewing out acrid smoke and ash. Vines, moss and exotic plants surrounded them. Simon rushed over to Isaac and shook him awake. Isaac groggily got up and groaned. “What happened?” he murmured. To their astonishment a remarkable flock of Pygmy Gladocephaloideuses flew over a nearby swampy lake. Suddenly, a rustling in the bushes could be heard. All of a sudden, a stampede of brawny five-toed Protoceratops came thundering by, flattening flora and trampling on saplings. They smashed trees down with their powerful heads. A few moments later a deafening stomping came from the forest ahead of them. All of a sudden, an enormous Yutyranus came pounding by, chasing the Protoceratops. Its brown feathered, muscular body rippled as its massive jaws, with dagger-like teeth pursued its prey. “Woah!” Isaac exclaimed.

“That was awesome!” Simon blurted out “I wonder when they added animatronics?”

“How did they make the volcanoes, lakes, swamps and these giant trees so detailed?” Isaac quizzed. “What’s with this awful pungent smell?”

“Also, how did they make the ground shake? Let’s check it out, c’mon,” Simon added confused, grimacing nervously as he watched the Yutyranus disappear over the horizon. They anxiously explored further into the strange, humid forest. It was swarming with insects, such as large shimmering dragonflies, hovering with their translucent wings, massive crawling centipedes, colossal, incessantly buzzing, glistening mosquitoes and all sorts of giant creepy crawlies. A few minutes later, they found a nest full of tiny blue-green, speckled eggs on the muddy ground. “What’s this? A dinosaur nest!” Isaac uttered. Simon gasped as he stared wide-eyed at a Sinosauropteryx behind Isaac. “I—I wouldn’t g-go near that if if-f I were y-you,” Simon told him.

“Why not?” he questioned. “I mean it’s just a prop, right? What could go wrong?” Isaac’s eyes filled with horror as he turned around to see a small, agile, raptor-like dinosaur just a few metres behind him. Despite its size, it was a terrifying sight. Isaac realised, in horror, as he noticed that feathers covered its body, it was a Sinosauropteryx and it was furious as they had messed with its eggs. It growled menacingly, exposing its razor-sharp teeth. “H-hi, when did this an-animatronic get h-here?” Isaac stuttered. “I-I’m sure it’s not harmful, right?” The Sinosauropteryx instantly started charging towards them as fast as possible. Its razor like claws ready to attack.

“RUN!” Simon yelled. Both the boys dashed as fast as possible away from the dinosaur.

They frantically darted through the forest and eventually lost the dinosaur. “I thought this was a dinosaur exhibit!” Simon groaned. “So where is all the information, signs, statues and washrooms?” Isaac just shrugged. They continued exploring, searching for the exit but they found themselves completely lost in the forest. Everything felt so real. They soon discovered the insects and bugs were alive but could the dinosaurs be real? They had to find out. A while later,

they found a Equijubus feeding on some shrubs. Simon approached it to inspect it. Unfortunately, the Equijubus peeped at them and galloped away. They walked a few metres ahead to find a colony of Hadrosaurs chewing on the finest ferns, delicious herbs and scrumptious leaves. Isaac snuck past them, took his phone to sneakily take a few photos. He then reached his hand out to touch one of them. His sweaty palms touched the scaly skin of the Equijubus. Its skin felt scaly and rough. It felt exactly what an Equijubus should feel like from the descriptions in books. The Hadrosaur was startled and immediately darted away.

“This might sound crazy but I think we’re in the time of the dinosaurs,” Isaac stated. If they were, how had it happened? Out of nowhere a Tugulusaurus came stomping straight at them.

It roared and growled while chasing them and obviously wanted to eat them. Isaac and Simon ducked under logs, leaped over branches and went through several obstacles but the Tugulusaurus would not give up. Without warning a Sinocallopteryx jumped out of the trees and joined in the chase. Then they collided and started fighting. Isaac and Simon took this chance to escape.

After running for a long time, they stopped by a murky pond, crayfishes treaded water while salamanders inched towards the water. They noticed a putrid, pervasive stench coming from a cave. The entrance was partially blocked up by huge, craggy rocks. As they came closer, they spotted the same strange glowing symbol they had seen in the museum. Panting, they clambered in through a small hole between the rocks, hoping it was safe. Unexpectedly, they were overwhelmed by darkness and a spinning sensation.

When they opened their eyes they were back in the museum. There was no strange glowing symbol anywhere. Even worse Isaac was devastated, he had lost his phone. No one would ever believe their stories. The evidence was lost. The two boys visited the museum every day for months but they never found the symbol again.

# Cretaceous Combat, A Battle Of Two T-Bones!

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Oakes, Dash – 11*

As a million insects critter, a thundering storm starts to brew. The sky gets lit up by the distinct glow of magma, and the ground quakes from an imminent eruption. Two looming mountains cast shadows miles into the distance, leaving the earth below in darkness. Plantations of exotic trees exceed eyesight painting the island a jungle green. And in the centre of it all, two eggs hatch...

Peeling off the frail shell, their beady eyes open. This was the beginning of two new lives, two new ideas, two new dreams and one lifelong rivalry.

As they take their first steps, Bartholomew and Giovanni are now one year old.

Entering Contract Academy, they are now four years old.

Passing their first grades, they are now seven years old.

At ten, they are handed their first rocket launchers.

Entering a more rewarding school, Giovanni turns greedy, selfish and power-hungry. And his dear brother is sensing a change between them. Will this come between us? Bartholomew thought. Eventually Giovanni's greedy and selfish nature turned to pure malice.

And at the age of twenty, searching for rapid power, Giovanni raided a technology lab. You see, raiding a technology lab in Chengdu City is a major crime punishable by death. But absorbed in thought and worried of the consequences, Bartholomew let Giovanni continue getting more and more evil. Eventually, at the end of the last year at Contract Academy, the two brothers parted ways and two new stories began.

After fifty years Bartholomew had made a life for himself in a small cottage at the foot of the North Mountain. It was a simple life; but a happy life. Bartholomew received news from Pteranodon Air every day. Most of the time it was just the regular volcano radar and the daily diplodocus. But one day, it was different. A raging tyrant is born what's that all about? Bartholomew thought. Suddenly, a look of horror stamped itself on his face and a cold sweat broke out. Giovanni had terrorised the main city...

Bartholomew knew the day would come that he had to stop Giovanni. But would he be able to? There's only one way to find out. So he packed his things and started his truck up the North Mountain.

After days of pure muscle and grit, Bartholomew finally made it to the summit, where a rocky plateau lay. And in the very centre of the plateau was a chest the size of a truck. Bartholomew tirelessly trotted over to the chest and firmly planted his feet into the ground.

'For whom seeks the power of the sun must pass away everlasting fun,' Bartholomew started to chant. 'With the power of a thousand dragons, pain will drench those unworthy.'

CHING!! The golden chest made an echoing rumble and opened. Within the glorious chest was none other than Bartholomew's famous laser suit. Solid, steel plates armoured the suit, and beaming energy flowed through it.

'Activate suit,' Bartholomew shouted. The suit changed shape and fitted itself over Bartholomew's body.

Suddenly, the ground started to shake and smoke poured from under the suit.

'Flight mode activate!'

Bartholomew soared through the sky as fast as a bullet, ready to end this lifelong rivalry.

After many hours, Bartholomew had finally arrived at the Southern Mountain. And standing at the summit was none other than Giovanni.

'What you're doing is wrong, Giovanni!' beckoned Bartholomew. 'You can't keep terrorising Chengdu City.'

'Try and stop me, you pathetic excuse for a brother,' Giovanni barked.

CRASH!!

Their two fists smashed together and shockwaves quaked the land.

Bartholomew's laser kit was ready, 'Divine Laser!' Bartholomew bellowed.

Huge seas of fire flooded the summit. 'You think your weak laser is any use against me?' snarled Giovanni.

'Satanic Beam,' Giovanni roared. Crimson red light spewed from his laser and the sky turned nightmarishly dark.

'I didn't want to have to do this,' Bartholomew warned 'but you leave me no choice,' Bartholomew shouted.

'Dysfunctional Obliteration.' As Giovanni's life flashed before his eyes, everything went white.

And as fast as Giovanni entered this world, he left it. Reduced to atoms, Giovanni the Malicious Tyrant was no more.

# The Adventures of Little Dinosaur.

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Pan, Cathy – 8*

in a fantastically fun forest, there lived a happy dinosaur family. The dinosaur mom was extremely beautiful, and the dinosaur baby, a mischief, loved to sneak out for adventures, causing Dinosaur Dad to search the world for him to come back home.

One day, the little dinosaur, without his parents' notice, sneaked out again for an exploration. He had so much fun that he got lost! If he couldn't find his way home, he might go hungry or even be eaten by a big monster. The little dinosaur was a Spinosaurus, who loved eating little fish, so he plucked up his courage and jumped into the water to look for food. But after searching for a while, suddenly, a huge dinosaur emerged from the water, frightening the little dinosaur so much that he ran away as fast as his legs could carry him. The little dinosaur not only failed to find food but was also chased by the big dinosaur, which was really unlucky!

Just then, the sky started pouring rain. The little dinosaur knew it was raining, and although he wasn't afraid of water, he didn't want to sleep in the rain. So, he quickly found a warm cave to hide in and fell asleep snoring.

When he woke up the next day, the little dinosaur found himself in the cave. Suddenly, a red Tyrannosaurus Rex walked in, staring with wide eyes and saying, "Little Spinosaurus, I'm going to eat you!" The little dinosaur was scared and ran out like the wind, with the Tyrannosaurus Rex chasing him desperately. The little dinosaur ran super fast and finally reached a big lake, jumping into it with a splash. After swimming for a while, he found that the Tyrannosaurus Rex wasn't chasing him anymore and started happily looking for little fish to eat. He found many little fish, diving underwater and eating his fill.

After eating, the little dinosaur wanted to find a new home. He saw a pile of reeds and hid inside. When he woke up, he decided to continue looking for his way home. He walked and walked until he reached a super beautiful grassland, where he met many Triceratops. The Triceratops were friendly, but they ate grass and couldn't teach the little dinosaur how to catch prey. So, they took the little dinosaur to their friend who lived in the water – Uncle Plesiosaurus.

Uncle Plesiosaurus started teaching the little dinosaur various skills. He first taught the little dinosaur how to catch fish quickly, because the little dinosaur was always slow at it before. After the little dinosaur learned to catch fish, Uncle Plesiosaurus began training him to run. The little dinosaur, having been chased by the Tyrannosaurus Rex before, ran very fast and soon became even more skilled! In the following days, Uncle Plesiosaurus kept teaching the little dinosaur new skills.

Time flew by, and the little dinosaur had learned many skills. It was time to go home. He said goodbye to Uncle Plesiosaurus and set foot on the way back home. He walked for a long time but still couldn't find his home. The little dinosaur kept walking and walking until he heard a familiar voice calling him. Wow, it was Mom's voice! The little dinosaur followed the voice and found his mom looking for him everywhere. He rushed over and leaped into his mom's arms. The little dinosaur was finally home. This was really a super-long adventure trip!

# Avimimus

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Shi, Zoe – 9*

The dinosaur had a distinctive appearance. To say that it looked like a reptile is an over statement because it bore a strong resemblance to a bird. At first glance, one would have thought it was a hybrid between a prehistoric lizard and a bird. It stood at a height of 1.5m which is the height of an average teenager. Its whole body was covered in feathers, giving it a non-intimidating look. Two long and slender legs supported its whole weight. Despite its scrawny appearance, the legs surprisingly packed a lot of speed and the dinosaur could run at a speed of 43 miles per hour. The feathery appearance even extended to the back of its neck. It looked like a majestic mane from a distance. Its eyes emitted an innocence as if to announce the fact it is not menacing. Its dumb outlook was just a disguise as this animal was highly intelligent.

The species of Avimimus is known as theropods and they are associated to the ancestors of birds. The translation of Avimimus means 'Bird mimic' and its a representation of the debatable relationship to birds. It was interpreted by its discoverer, Dr Sergi Kurzanov, as a dinosaur that had features which coincides with birds. Russian palaeontologist Sergei Mikhailovich Kurzanov works at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Paleontological Institute. His work in Mongolia and the former Soviet nations of Central Asia is what made him famous. A largely complete specimen of the new genus and species Avimimus portentosus was discovered by the Joint Soviet-Mongolian paleontological expedition in the summer of 1973. The theropod skeleton was discovered near Udan-Sayr in Mongolia's southern Gobi.

Being the first dinosaur discovered with recognisable and substantial levels of bird-like traits, it was a remarkable discovery. With a unique hip shape, it was also the first theropod. Palaeontologists created the Avimimidae family to classify it because of these novel characteristics. Upon the initial discovery of Avimimus, it was believed to be a bird, but later research and the finding of fossils in the 1970s showed that it was actually a theropod with bird-like traits. The name Kurzanov provided, Avimimus portensosus, means "portentous bird mimic."

The initial discovery of the Avimimus fossil was made with the absence of a tail, Kurzanov wrongly assumed that Avimimus did not have a tail. Yet, further discoveries of Avimimus skeletons including tail vertebrae have validated the existence of a tail. The inability to fly may seem like a disadvantage compared to other dinosaurs, but Avimimus had its own useful adaptations. First of all, it was smart, this intelligence would be needed to avoid predators and catch prey. The brain of Avimimus is very large compared to its size and is well protected by bony skulls. The legs of the Avimimus are longer than those of other members of the Avimimus family, indicating that they have been flightless birds long enough to develop their specialized limbs for running. It ran with three toes, a feature known as Digi-grade. Because of its resemblance to modern road runners and ostriches, it is possible that Avimimus was capable of running at high speeds for prolong periods. It was bipedal with two very long thin legs. The ratio of the femur also indicates that it was fast. The skeleton shows that the tibia was proportionally longer than the femur, which apparently refers to modern running birds that spend most of their time running on the ground. The muscle scars found on the leg bones also indicate

that Avimimus specializes in running. It was with this characteristics that the Avimimus was able to escape from some of its natural predators like the Tarbosaurus.

Avimimus has variously been labeled as a herbivore, omnivore, and insectivore. Scientists haven't been able to infer much about an Avimimus diet from the fossil records except for what they know from other Oviraptors which was a larger variation of the Avimimus. Like Oviraptors, Avimimus was assumed to be an omnivore. Its mouth was a toothless beak that could've been used to scavenge for food. Sergei Kurzanov speculated that, since the upper portion

of its beak had a serrated edge, there was a good chance that it ate insects. It would have also been useful for tearing into vegetation. Another idea for its diet was that it stole the eggs of other animals. Its classification as an Oviraptor—which literally translates to "egg stealer"—is the basis for this theory. Palaeontologists generally agree that Avimimus was an omnivore.

The Avimimus lived between 83.6 million years to 66 million years ago which was between the Campanian to Maastrichtian era, otherwise known as the late Cretaceous period. This also means that the reason for its extinction was due to the asteroid that crashed on Earth, the Chicxulub impactor. Assessing some of the damage was straightforward. A massive scar half-covered by the Gulf of Mexico, measuring over 110 miles in diameter. The aftermath created numerous natural disasters such as massive tsunamis around the Gulf coast. The impact struck with such force and displaced so much water that within 10 hours, an immense wave tore its way along the coast. What remained was a geologic mess: ocean sand on what would have been dry land, and fossils of land plants in areas that should have been the ocean, in a mixed up slurry of ancient sediment. There are parts of the world where the tsunami occurred, and these layers indicate a violent transition between the final day of the Cretaceous and the beginning of the Paleocene era. The impact's repercussions were not confined to the site of collision; the explosion generated geological disturbances, including earthquakes and landslides, which in turn triggered additional tsunamis. While the waves posed a significant threat to life in the western hemisphere, the intense heat was even more catastrophic. When the asteroid collided with Earth, small fragments of rock and debris were propelled into the atmosphere. Geologists have discovered these fragments, known as spherules, within a 1/10-inch-thick layer found globally.

# What Happened to the Muddled-Up Bones?

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Tan, Isabella – 9*

Once upon a time, Dr. Ivan and Dr. Bell were super cool palaeontologists in China, in a place called LuFeng in Yunnan Province. They loved dinosaurs so much! Every day, they looked at fossils and dreamed about the giant creatures that lived millions of years ago.

One sunny day, a farmer named Mr. Li was working on his farm. While he was digging in the soil, he found something really weird sticking out of the ground. He got curious and brushed away the dirt with his hands. To his surprise, he uncovered a big, dusty dinosaur bone! Mr. Li got super excited and quickly called the Dino Museum. “You won’t believe what I found!” he shouted.

Dr. Ivan and Dr. Bell were in the museum when they got the call. They jumped in their van with their team, their hearts racing with excitement. When they arrived at the farm, they could hardly believe their eyes! It was a big deal! They set up colourfultents and shiny tools, ready to dig up more dinosaur bones.

For six long months, they worked really, really hard. Every day, they dug and brushed away dirt, uncovering more and more bones. They were having so much fun! Finally, after what felt like forever, they found not just one set of dinosaur bones, but three! One belonged to a gigantic T. Rex, another was from a sturdy Triceratops, and the third one was a total mystery. They were super excited! If no one had ever found this dinosaur before, Dr. Ivan and Dr. Bell could name it themselves! They thought about names like “Ivansaurus” and “Isabelsaurus.” How cool is that?

The workers were very careful as they packed up the bones. They gently placed the small bones into a sturdy wooden box lined with soft tissue paper. The bigger bones were wrapped in bandages, just like wrapping a broken arm. Everyone was focused, making sure nothing got broken as they loaded the boxes onto the trucks.

But then, disaster struck! Clumsy Dr. Ivan, who was always a bit forgetful, accidentally tripped over her own left foot with her right foot. She stumbled and sent the boxes flying everywhere! It was like a dinosaur explosion! Not only that, but she fell on the trolleys and knocked over five more boxes of bones. Now, all the bones from dinosaurs A, B, and C were mixed up and scattered all over the ground.

“Oh no! What can we do?” Dr. Bell gasped, her eyes wide with shock. Some bones even cracked when they hit the ground. Everyone felt really sad. Six months of hard work seemed ruined. Dr. Ivan was so upset; she felt awful. Tears streamed down her cheeks because she thought she messed everything up.

Dr. Bell rushed over to give her a hug. “It’s okay, Dr. Ivan,” she said softly, handing her a tissue to dry her tears. “We can fix this! We just need to stay positive!”

The rest of the team gathered around, cheering her up. They told her that even though it was sad to see their hard work in a mess, they could transport all the muddled bones back to the museum. “With teamwork, we can probably figure out how to sort the bones into A, B, and C,” they said. Together, they could carefully put the dinosaurs back together, making sure the heads, tails, and legs were all in the right places for display.

Fast forward six years, and guess what? The team finally sorted through all the pieces! After lots and lots of work, they discovered that Dinosaur C was a brand-new species that had never been found before! Everyone was super excited! The scientists said Dr. Ivan and Dr. Bell could name this new species and publish their findings. Dr. Bell decided to name it “Ivanbellsaurus,” which was a cool name that combined both of their names!

The museum called the press, and over a hundred excited journalists flew in from all around the world. At exactly 9:00 AM, the grand doors of the museum swung open! After a quick announcement, the red curtains were drawn back,

revealing the amazing T. Rex and Triceratops bones. Flashes from cameras lit up the room as the journalists took pictures, buzzing with excitement.

But the best part was still to come! With a big drum roll, the final red curtains lifted, showing off the Ivanbellsaurus for the first time! Everyone went wild with joy, snapping photos left and right. Dr. Ivan and Dr. Bell stood next to each other, grinning from ear to ear because they were so proud of their awesome achievement.

A few months later, they won Nobel Prizes for their hard work studying dinosaur fossils! They even appeared on TV, smiling brightly as they shared their story. They thanked Mr. Li, the farmer who found the first bone, for calling them and helping them make this incredible discovery.

As they looked back on their amazing adventure, Dr. Ivan and Dr. Bell knew that even when things got all mixed up and messy, teamwork and a little bit of laughter could lead to the greatest discoveries ever! They were super proud of their work, and they couldn't wait to see what other dinosaur secrets were waiting to be uncovered beneath the ground.

# Titanosur of Jiangxi

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wang, Arrow – 9*

This was the last biology class of the semester. The classroom was filled with a drowsy atmosphere, and most of the students were struggling to keep their eyes open.

“Attention everyone!” bellowed Miss. Sagel. “An astonishing discovery – a new species of a titanosaur was found in Jiangxi!” Nobody bothered to lift their heads. However, at the back of the classroom sat a boy who leaned forward, his face lit up with anticipation. His name was Anson. Dinosaurs had always been his favorite subject.

Ring, ring! The bell rang. Everybody pushed each other while descending the staircase. Anson was swept up in the rush of bodies, yet the words on the whiteboard remained attached in his mind, the world around seemed to have faded away.

“Hi, sweetie,” his dad greeted in a playful voice as Anson got onto the car. “What did you learn today?” “About a newly discovered fossil in Jiangxi” Anson replied, happiness written all over his face. “Well, maybe I’ll have the chance to see it. I’m going on a business trip to Jiangxi tomorrow with your mom.” his dad replied. Before anything else could happen, Anson jumped on him and pleaded, “May I please, please go with you?” It took half an hour and the entire dinner to finally persuade his dad to let him join.

After quickly packing his bag, Anson jumped onto the bed and opened his laptop. He began searching for information about the fossil, it looked so majestic and elegant. He had never seen such a beautiful fossil. “Anson, time to go to sleep!” his mom shouted, her eyebrows narrowed. “Fine,” Anson replied with an exaggerated sigh as he closed his laptop reluctantly, but his heart was still pounding with excitement.

In a daze, he found himself on a mysterious hill. The sky looked as red as a million sunsets, and the clouds were barely visible. “This doesn’t look like the normal world!” Anson murmured. Below, there were volcanoes everywhere, as if they were invading the land, and there were... dinosaurs! Those huge, gigantic creatures were going about their daily lives. Some were sleeping, and some were playing! Puzzled, Anson ran towards a gigantic bush and hid there. The air wrapped around Anson like a cozy blanket. Suddenly, a noise caught his attention. A fight was going on between two enormous dinosaurs! One was a T-Rex, and the other was...um...a strange but fierce dinosaur, who had two shiny, long horns that reflected the sun. Its eyes gleamed like a lamp flickering in the warm air. Without any warning, the T-Rex charged at the horned dinosaur and knocked it down with a sharp blow. Suddenly, the T-Rex noticed Anson and stared at him blankly as its tail curled up like a menacing snake. Anson screamed at the top of his lungs and tried to run away, but fear had already paralyzed his legs. Before he was eaten alive by the T-Rex, the horned dinosaur mustered its last bit of strength, rushed towards the T-Rex, and blocked the path. The T-Rex’s sharp teeth slashed at the horned dinosaur’s body, leaving a long, deep gash. The horned dinosaur hurriedly picked Anson up with its powerful jaws and placed him on its back. He began running, dodging every obstacle in its way! Anson felt dizzy as he held on tightly to the dinosaur’s horns. Screech! The dinosaur stopped. With a loud bang, the colossal creature collapsed onto the hard ground, crushing several trees, and Anson was flung far away. The dinosaur’s eyes were welled up with tears, but its long neck writhed as if saying “Run Anson, and don’t forget me. My name is Kenny!”

Beep, beep. Anson awoke to the deafening buzz of his alarm clock at 7:30 sharp. He hit the snooze button and breathed a sigh of relief. "What a dream!" Anson dragged his drowsy body to the bathroom, brushed his teeth, and took a shockingly cold shower. Grabbing his small suitcase, Anson walked downstairs to meet his parents.

After two hours of plane and two hours of taxi, Anson and his family finally arrived at the museum in Jiangxi. The vast shadows of the building loomed over him. The concrete pillars stood like skyscrapers as the unique clock's hands struck twelve sharp in the afternoon. They walked inside. What on earth! The waiting line was like a menacing snake, almost reaching the entrance. Twenty minutes passed, Anson hadn't even moved through a quarter of the line yet. He let out a heavy sigh, his shoulders slumping as he idly picked at a loose thread on his shirt. His eyes wandered around, searching for anything interesting to break the tedium.

Suddenly, his eyes were caught by a gigantic dinosaur fossil standing right in the middle of the exhibition hall. The atrium lights shone brightly on it, making it stand out proudly. With its two long, shiny horns, it was so unique...Anson couldn't help walking towards it, as if drawn by a mysterious force...His parents were shouting loudly behind him, "Anson, what are you doing?"

Many people were standing under the huge fossil. "Never knew dinosaurs could have horns." said a visitor, "look at his gesture and the scratch. Quite remarkable. Seems he was protecting someone..."

Anson's mouth opened so wide that you could fit an elephant in it. On the bones of the huge dinosaur fossil was a long deep scratch, which was so eye catching, like lightning in the dark night sky! Anson stood there frozen. "This can't be real, it's Kenny!" He spoke in a shaky voice, his eyes welled up with tears. People around him were looking at him strangely, but he didn't notice. He walked towards the fossil, his body trembling violently...

# The Nightcatcher Alliance

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wang, Michael – 10*

“Fight! Fight for your lives!”

I tried but it felt like my tail was on fire; blood gushed, flicked and splattered with every swing. The wound was agonising. The pack of Sinornithosaurs circled me again, their feathers flaring angrily. Their vicious yellow eyes darted back and forth, seeking an opening in my five tonne body. I whipped my tail around again to protect my flank, and it darted backwards; this left my rear hind leg exposed from behind however, and another microraptor materialised. My exhausted tail felt like it weighed a hundred tonnes, and it was becoming difficult to catch the agile Sinornithosaurus pod with it – I lifted my head and with all my might, swung, smashing the Sinornithosaurus in front of me; there was a satisfying crunch, and I felt its ribcage crush beneath the weight of my skull, its organs becoming as flat as a leaf. It opened its mouth. Nothing came out.

I roared, celebrating my victory, shaking off the raptor’s blood as I heaved my head up above the canopy of trees. Then, I heard a terrible, familiar scream – Marshdreamer, the titanic Mamenchisaurus, with a neck longer than my whole body, the greatest warrior of the Nightcatcher Alliance, my dearest friend, fell, with a dozen different carnivores attacking him from every angle. The evening turned red as the scent of his blood filled the jungle air.

With his last breath, he yelled, “Run, Windprowler! Run!”

The Yangchuanosaurus was released at the same time, a three-tonne apex carnivore, a perfected machine of hunger, speed and teeth. As it charged with brutal intent towards us, even the other carnivores scattered out of its path, cowering. It fell upon Marshdreamer’s body and started feeding, its greedy eyes fixed on its next prey: me.

I felt every bone in my body freeze. “Fall back!” I bellowed. “Fall back! The war is lost!”

Instinct guided my broken hind legs; I galloped, not even looking behind to see if my allies were following. My forelegs toppled trees in my path, but each leg felt like it weighed more than a mountain and I didn’t know how much longer I could sustain this. This was where I would die.

I tried to open my eyelids. There was the sound of muttering, but I couldn’t move. I felt paralyzed with exhaustion.

“How’s the Therizinosaurus?” asked a voice in the darkness.

“Alive,” said another voice.

“...Alive?” I said.

“Lay down, Windprowler,” instructed a voice behind my skull.

“Who saved me?” I asked.

“Me.” The bulkiest dinosaur I had ever seen, even greater than Marshdreamer, reared its snakelike neck to peer at me.

It was a Euhelopus with a neck as long as the longest Titanoboa; when he stretched his throat, I couldn’t even see his head.

“I fought my way through the pod of Sinornithosaurus to get you.” The Euhelopus named Rainrunner peered at my wounds. “Another second and you would have died along with thousands of our brothers and sisters.”

I knew I had to get back up and stand on all four of my legs and fight until the end.

“I’m ready to fight!” I screamed.

The Euhelopus gave me a sad look. “Fight for what?”

“I need to avenge Marshdreamer. I don’t care if I die, no matter what I will kill them all. The Yangchuanosaurus too. He will pay.”

“Windprowler, look at yourself. Do you think you can take them on alone?”

“Alone?”

“Alone. Look around.”

I peered through the darkness of the cave that had been the home of the Nightcatcher Alliance. A Tuojiangosaurus lay lifeless next to me, with its rows of defensive plates immobile.

“You’re the last Therizinosaurus, Windprowler. We cannot lose you.”

I didn’t care. “I’m facing the Yangchuanosaurus,” I declared.

As if answering my prayers, there seemed to be a colossal quake; the whole cave shook and boulders smashed and tumbled across the cave.

There was a roar, the sound of thunder. The Yangchuanosaurus had caught up.

“R–run! Run for your lives. It’s over!” said a small Huayangosaurus, rearing on all four of his legs, his rows of spikes quivering.

They scrambled into the darkness, the unexplored stomach of the cave. On the other side, blocking the light and entrance, was the silhouette of the greatest carnivore that ever lived. My greatest enemy.

With my great claws ready to slice Yangchuanosaurus’s soul out of existence, I prepared myself for death; it seemed inevitable, ever since Marshdreamer fell. I reared up. My exhausted body felt like the heaviest mountain. I bared my claws at the Yangchuanosaurus which, with long, slow and deliberate strides, began charging at me, fresh blood in his cavernous jaws.

This was my moment. With a swift swipe of my claws, I tried to catch him coming in, but he ducked with deceptive agility and snapped at my thigh, painting the cave wall red. For the second time, fear took control of my body. I fled.

At the cave exit, the remnants of the Nightcatcher Alliance, just a handful of dying herbivores, were lying exhausted, shivering and bleeding on the jungle foliage.

We couldn’t keep running forever. No. The Nightcatcher Alliance would not end here – not yet. I forced myself up. With my foot on a rock, I addressed the last surviving herbivores of the land.

“Who would fight with me to end the reign of the Yangchuanosaurus?”

“Not me,” said the small Huayangosaurus, not even looking round to me. “We’re done.” The other herbivores grumbled assent. “Our fight is over. I’m going to run.”

“Yes, you could,” I said, turning to him. “You could run – living, hiding, afraid. You could run, shivering at night, afraid of whether or not the Yangchuanosaurus has caught up, shaking at every noise. You could live a life of fear, and no one here will shame you for it.” Rainrunner quietly shook his head at me from the back, but I continued. “You could do that. Or, you can fight as the proud warriors we are, fight for all the herbivores of the land – and whether we live or die, we can do so with honour!”

Even the Huayangosaurus was looking at me now. Rainrunner was about to interject but I continued over him. “Fight for our freedom, fight for Marshdreamer, fight for the Nightcatcher Alliance!”

The thunderous roars of the remaining herbivores echoed into the cave, our voices united as one.

As our calls came to a climax, the Yangchuanosaurus emerged.

We were ready.

# The Adventures of Leo the Dinosaur

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wiggall, George – 10*

One hundred and thirty million years ago in the deserts of Tibet, China, golden sand swept across the gleaming sand dunes like a wave. Undulating sand banks shifted. Over the horizon a young sinosauropteryx bolted down the dunes, a trail of sand behind him. The dinosaur galloped towards an oasis. As quick as a flash, he dashed into a burrow below the waving trunk of a palm tree.

A gruff voice bellowed, “Leonard Ben Feather! Where have you been? I was so worried you had been eaten up by that tyrant who killed your parents.” His uncle spoke with concern and hurried Leo in the burrow for lunch. His uncle brought him a small dead rat like creature and sat down on a flat rock.

“Leo, as your uncle it is my duty to keep you safe, and I think that it would be a good idea that from now on you stay at the oasis,” he said in a serious tone.

Leo frowned and nodded.

“I only wish to explore, Uncle Feather. Sometimes I get lonely and just want a friend.”

...

Leo had always been a curious dinosaur and dreamt of exploring beyond the desert. That night he snuck out of the burrows. He took food from the kitchen and grabbed an animal hide to keep his body warm. Leo thought of the day his parents had left, him and Uncle Feather to gather food, and not come back.

“I will get revenge,” he thought.

...

So, he set off over the camel brown sand with high hopes and a lump of guilt in his throat; his uncle will be devastated when he finds out. Moonlight shone on the young dinosaur casting shadows on the grain. His feathers bristled and coldness crept into his body. Leo wrapped the furry hide around his shivering feathery torso. At night the desert is nearly as cold as it is hot in the day. His footprints stretched off into the distance as he made a path across the moonlit landscape.

...

As the sun rose above the horizon, its rays and golden light engulfing dunes in colour, the youngster stretched his legs and gazed at the jungle in front of him. Leo charged over the sand to the point where his homeland met the undergrowth. He gathered his bags and journeyed into the foliage. Forest and jungle enveloped his feathers, tangling his body and binding his talons. Leo sat down on a log under a cycad tree and opened his leather, brown bag reviling a map he took from his uncle’s secret cabinet the previous night. The crumpled map was stained with coffee and was inscribed with ancient manuscripts that were only just readable. Its wrinkled folds, like an old man’s skin, showed the oasis and beyond. Beside the desert was forest as far as the eye could see and beyond that was the scarlet peaks of Mount Thunderrock, the home of the tyrannosaurus that killed his parents.

...

Leo stood up and trudged and trekked through the dense jungle panting with every step. Halfway to the volcano rain began to lash down on the trees like knives piercing the youth's skin and scattering leaves on the trampled forest floor. He picked rosy pink peaches, cherries, golden pineapples, bright green apples and more. The young dino ate the meat he had taken from the kitchen.

...

When he arrived at the Mount Thunderrock, its immense shadow enveloped him in darkness. Lava trickled down its crater like honey and illuminated the blackboard sky with orange light. Leo ventured up the basalt mountain taking care not to set his precious striped feathers alight. He headed for the tyrant's lair, climbing up the stony slope.

In the distance he heard a rumble and the sound of trees being crushed like matchsticks.

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!!!

The footsteps sounded like drumbeats. The tempo was increasing. Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump!

The animal let out a roar that shook the earth.

Leo passed out, petrified at the animal looming over his limp helpless body...

# Dinosaur's Eye

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wong, Ann – 9*

The glow of the sun peered through the thick layers of the dark, green trees whose shadows befell on a wonky, cobblestone path. The pathway was made of roughly cut blocks of limestone, which had been weathered by decades of downpours that swashed down the mountainside and onto the path. Both sides of the path were shadowed by thin, tall trees – giants. Bushes stuck out their gnarled, thorny branches. The surrounding soil was wet, as it was unable to absorb the last night's downpour.

Up the path, a long shadow swayed in the distance, slowly fading into the light behind the foliage. A silhouette. A woman named Hoi Fa with long, brown hair and a slender body walked slowly up the track. Her boots were plastered with a thick layer of mud, but that did not stop her from walking up to the mountain peak.

To her right, there was a claw-like mountain formation that extended into a bright blue, teal inlet. The ridge was populated with shrubs and laurel and fern trees.

The same description fitted the landscape to her left; the difference being the faint sight of a village, Pak Tam Chung. Its red-roofed houses extended into the valley. The journey to get there would take around five hours, was it not for the boggy ground along the path.

Time trickled towards sunset.

The sky turned pink, then orange-red, before the red sun set behind the mountain peaks. Hoi Fa had to make her way down the mountainside to set up camp for the night.

But as many things go, not everything goes to plan, or at least not the way one dreams of. For on the way down the mucky path, in the greyness of the evening shadows, Hoi Fa fell face down and twisted her ankle.

Motionless. Hoi Fa cried in agony as she wept through the pain. But as her grandma often said, 'where there is pain, one must find hope.' Suddenly, she noticed something glisten faintly beneath the dirt, as the sunset's rose tint shone through the canopy onto the black forest floor.

As Hoi Fa inspected the stone, she found it was an amber. Hoi Fa picked the amber up and held it to the sky. She could just about see a dinosaur's eye. The eye's colours faded into grey and black.

There was something special about the way the sun's rays glistened and shone through the amber that made Hoi Fa ponder.

And ponder.

And ponder once more.

For in the depths of this small amber stone lay something she could not grasp. It was not the dinosaur, or the way in which the crystal formed the bubble-like formations on its inside.

No. It was something else.

Memories, memories of life in its becoming. Of the species that once roamed the Earth's continents, of the rivers that filled vast, expansive oceans, and the waves that shaped the shores.

Time.

Memory and time.

It stood out to her like nothing else before. That time was long forgotten. She felt that her story – that she too was forgotten. She tried to find amid her expeditions something, someone, she could hold onto for a little longer.

Stuck in the forest, with her ankle broken, she wished upon a star.

'But how feeble of me,' she thought.

In the distance, Hoi Fa heard mud squelching – footsteps approached her. She could faintly see a silhouette. A man. He had an oval-like head and held a torch. He shone the light onto Hoi Fa.

'Can you help me get up? My ankle is broken,' she pleaded in anguish.

'In this state, you are not ready to go anywhere,' replied the stranger.

‘Well, are you going to leave me here?’ questioned Hoi Fa, distressed.

‘No. Let’s light a fire for the night,’ he answered.

‘What happened to your ankle?’ asked the figure, curiously.

‘When I was going down the mountain, I accidentally stepped on something hard and tripped,’ responded Hoi Fa.

‘I see, then allow me to give you my pain relief ointment – its herbal,’ he responded, taking out a half-folded metal tube of cream. The tube had a picture of a pink magnolia flower and green nettles.

The woman brought forward her right foot and he rolled down her brown, muddy sock. Then, the man loosened her shoe laces and gently pulled off her walking boots. Her ankle was swollen and he inspected it.

‘What is it you do?’ he wondered, keeping his eyes on her ankle. He glanced at the amber stone that the woman squeezed in her right hand.

‘I dig up dinosaurs,’ she smiled and moved her strands of brown hair away from her face.

The man did not answer.

‘I found something, look –’ she replied and opened her palm to reveal the stone.

‘It’s amber?’ he answered, hesitantly.

‘But it is more than that. Take a look at the night sky, see the moon, the stars. See how they all flicker? It is all quite extraordinary how we find ourselves here, surrounded by the vastness of space,’ she replied.

‘It is like we are not alone,’ the man raised his voice gently.

Then, she looked up, but he was nowhere to be seen, no whisper to follow her ears with, no footsteps. But in her heart, a crackle; in her mind, a flicker, a flame.

‘That’s right!’ exclaimed Hoi Fa, before continuing on, ‘with this dinosaur eye, preserved so well inside this amber stone, I can extract gene fragments that could help me discover dinosaur vision. Was it colourful, monochrome, or else?’

In a world of differences, sometimes we need to pause and think about the way that other people and creatures view the world – the colours they see, the ideas their minds live by.

‘What more could I want?’ she said, smiling.

‘Sometimes all that you have to do, is to look carefully, within...’ said a voice, but Hoi Fa could not figure out its origins.

# Hermione's Enchanted Odyssey: The Legacy of the Seismograph

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wong, Janelle – 10*

**Prologue: The Portal of Time** On a sunny day, Hermione sat on her comfortable couch in her relaxing attic room. Her eyes were glued to the devastating news. Recently, there was a serious earthquake that hit Japan, a country of charm and beauty. The earthquake left nothing but misery. Houses are in ruins, and streets are torn and broken into pieces. The air was full of thick devastation. Hermione's heart was rumbling full of discomfort for the people who had lost their relatives and friends, as well as their homes. As the news reporter spoke of how nature can bring some unexpected events of danger, Hermione's head suddenly was full of questions. For instance, how did people in the past avoid these situations? Could all the mysteries of the past be a key to future questions? With all these questions mashed inside her head, she turned to a stack of her science books and stated that she was drifting her finger across the bones of the books until she found one that had caught her eye. It was about a famous scientist who had invented the world's first seismoscope in the Han Dynasty, and his name was Zhang Heng. Engrossed, Hermione started reading. As she read deeper into the book, a big gust of wind blew through the open window and flipped through the pages as fast as a running cheetah. All of a sudden, she felt like time was pulling her away. She felt dizzy and then fainted. When she woke up, she found herself in the grand ancient garden of China. Hermione was very curious about where she was.

**Chapter 1: Ancient China (The Dragon's Secret)** After the dizzy time travel, Hermione found herself in a garden from a fairy tale. She was even dressed as a princess! People were bowing to her, which was weird but kind of cool. As she wandered through the garden, filled with the best-smelling flowers ever, she overheard the King chatting with Zhang Heng about this epic machine that could tell when earthquakes were coming. It sounded like a mix of science and art—just Hermione's thing! 2 In her most princessy voice, Hermione asked the King if she could check out this invention. He laughed but said yes. At Zhang Heng's workspace, it was like walking into a science-art wonderland. The star of the show was the seismoscope—a big urn with dragons and toads, looking all mystical but doing sciencey stuff. Zhang Heng was super nice and explained how the seismoscope worked: resembling a barrel, it is a giant bronze vessel with eight dragons and eight toads on the outside. Each dragon held a bronze ball in its mouth, and each toad had its mouth open to receive the ball. When an earthquake shook the vessel, a mass inside would move and trigger one of the dragons to release its ball, which would fall into the mouth of the corresponding toad. The direction of the earthquake was indicated by the position of the toad that swallowed the ball. When an earthquake hits, this pendulum inside makes the dragon drop a bronze ball into the toad's mouth. That tells you where the quake is! Hermione was mind-blown. But then—plot twist—an actual earthquake happened! Zhang Heng used the seismoscope to show it wasn't a big deal, which was so cool. Hermione realized this ancient tech was the granddaddy of modern earthquake detectors. As she chatted with Zhang Heng, her brain was buzzing with ideas. She wondered how this old-school gadget turned into today's tech. Before she could ask more, that time-travel feeling zapped her again.

**Chapter 2: The Key to the Mystery of the Past Zoom!** Hermione found herself in a futuristic lab in Zhengzhou. It was like stepping into a sci-fi movie, with scientists and tech everywhere. They were all psyched about a replica of the Didong Yi. Mr. Teng Jiwen, this genius geologist, was explaining it all. The replica was like an old wine glass but with superpowers to detect earthquakes. Hermione thought it was amazing how Zhang Heng's ideas were still rocking the science world. Hermione's eyes sparkled. It wasn't just about remaking an old gadget; they were stitching together the past and now. This project breathed life into history. As Hermione got lost in thoughts about past and present, that funny time-travel vibe hit her again. She peeked one last time at the Didong Yi, wondering what cool adventure was up next. 3 Where was time taking her now? What new, amazing stuff was out there? Hermione couldn't wait to jump into her next time-travel chapter!

Epilogue: The Tapestry of Time After her wild time travels, Hermione landed back in her attic. She was all calm but her head was like a beehive of cool thoughts. She remembered every bit, from ancient China's gardens to the zhazzy labs. The story of the seismograph was like a movie about people who never quit trying to learn. Hermione realized her trip was more than just about an old gadget. It was a peek into how people always try to solve mysteries. Staring at the stars, Hermione knew this was just the start. Discovering stuff isn't only about new gadgets; it's about sharing dreams, no matter where you're from. She was super excited to find out what other secrets were waiting to be discovered. The future was full of endless possibilities!

# Eve of the Meteor Shower

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wong, Jarvis – 8*

Once upon a time, there was a mysterious place situated in the middle of the sea. There was fog and mist covering up every part of that land, no sailor or pirate dared to go close to it. About 230 million years ago, all the continents were arranged together as a single super-continent and this place was said to be called Pangea.

On a special day, a fiery celestial wanderer descended from space, its brilliant tail of stardust painting the night sky, illuminating the darkness. It woken up all creatures on Earth from their slumber. The moment of impact between the meteor shower and the Earth unfolds into a breathtaking slow dance of creation, cosmic forces meeting in a fleeting yet eternal embrace, it was firing small rocks from above, waiting for the right chance to ultimately unleash an asteroid, striking the Earth and putting an end to this remarkable realm.

On the other hand, a time traveler named Ollie was in his workspace, fixing elements of his time machine. Gears and tools lied at every corner of his room. Records and documents of his failed tests and experiments were spread out on the floor. Just then, he dropped his screwdriver and as he tried to pick it up, he tripped and fell into the time machine. As he was about to get back out, the doors closed. It was too late. The time machine whirled and spun. He pleaded that this was all just a dream, but as he heard a sudden ring, he knew he was in a different dimension. Out of curiosity, he opened the time machine door and stepped out. He had entered the Jurassic Era.

Suddenly a loud roar was heard. Ollie scanned his surroundings, waiting for a response. He heard a shriek above him. Out of nowhere, a Confuciusornis yanked him from the ground. "Is this Confuciusornis? That means I'm in China 120 million years ago?" Dinosaurs enthusiast Ollie said, astonished. He struggled to return on the solid ground. Its senses were as sharp as an eagle's. He twisted and turned, kicked and punched but it was useless. The dinosaur eventually let go off him on a tree. He tried jumping off but was stopped by a pair of claws buried into his clothes. He cautiously turned his back around and was met with a murderous stare from the dinosaur. However, the dinosaur's wing caught his attention. It has been damaged severely, with bloody red marks and scars everywhere. He quickly got his ingredients from his tool belt and mixed up an antidote that miraculously cured it's wing quickly. The Confuciusornis was very delighted that it spread its wings and soared into the open sky, roaring loudly and freely while Ollie looked at this magnificent scene. Soon, the dinosaur and Ollie became friends.

Out of the blues, an amber light grew in the sky, as a mighty air force blew onto the floor. Ollie felt the impact and he was uneasy about this. He knew something was off and he was determined to stop it. He jumped off the tree, followed by the Confuciusornis. While walking aimlessly to search for his time machine, a gigantic creature stood right in front of him, blocking his way, a large shadow looming over their bodies. It was the Mamenchisaurus. Too scared to fight, too scared to run, he backed down and said, "I've come here to help you. I mean no harm." The dinosaur seemed to understand his words cause it bent down its long neck and gave Ollie the permission to stroke it. Ollie petted its head and an excited yelp was heard. "Want to help me find my time machine?" Ollie asked the Mamenchisaurus. Nodding its head, it followed him cooperatively and so as the Confuciusornis.

He continued to journey through the darkness at midnight. No sign of light was found there, not even a single glister. It was like the end of nowhere. Ollie couldn't navigate his way through, so he decided that he was going to take a rest. As trickles of sweat dripped on the floor, he fell into deep sleep. In his sleep, he had a vision. He foreseen that a meteor was supposed to come down tomorrow at dusk. He had a vision of him dying to save the lives of dinosaurs. He was in a fiery area where he heard shrieks and screams of pain from dinosaurs as they were shot by the meteor showers. He suddenly woke up from his slumber and saw it was almost dawn. He immediately lifted himself up and sprinted around the deserted place as the dinosaurs has woken from doze. At that moment, he felt lost and

hopeless. He knew he had to save the dinosaurs, but he had no tools or materials to help him build another time machine, nor devices to locate his lost time machine. However, he couldn't give up just yet, for the dinosaur's lives, he was determined to sacrifice his's for them. The Mamenchisaurus's sudden shriek caught his attention, and he snapped out of his thoughts. It motioned for him to climb onto its head and as he was hoisted to the air, he caught a glimpse of his time machine. He was relieved and started guiding his new friends through the glazing heat. Finally, he found his good old-time machine.

While he was checking up on his time machine and looking for areas to fix it, he told the dinosaurs to alert their friends of the future disaster. Soon, a trail of different species of dinosaurs appeared, there were Yinlong, Sinraptor, Tarbosaurus and many more. Ollie was thrilled and he concentrated on his fixing. Soon, the time machine was all fixed and it was time to send the dinosaurs back. Ollie set the time machine to a place in anno domini time period where there was no destruction and unlimited supply of water and food. One by one, the dinosaurs entered the time machine and was sent to the specific dimension.

However, his plan took a twist. With every passing minute, the asteroid was getting closer and closer to the Earth's atmosphere. Ollie was anxious as he looked up into the sky. He directed the dinosaurs in a fast yet paced way. As the last dinosaur was about to get into the time machine, the dinosaur looked up and saw the arriving asteroid, with a flaming hot trail behind it. The dinosaur shrieked in deny and tried escape the machine and to push Ollie into the machine but failed. Ollie immediately closed the door with tears in his eyes. "I'm sorry but it's for your safety. Goodbye." he choked on his own words. The dinosaur continued shrieking, but the sound soon disappeared. Ollie closed his eyes and tears dripped down his face.

"BOOM!", the asteroid crashed onto Earth and then, all fell silent.

# The Difference Between Hope and Destiny

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Xie, Amber – 10*

Mei, she dreamt of herself lying on her father's lap with her mother crouching besides her, dragging her to the world of comfort as her mother progressed upon the melody of her lullaby, building a foundation of protection upon Mei's body with their eternal love intertwined beneath Mei's heart. They both vouched that they would return for her, as religious Chinese, they never broke their promises, until now.

Mei awoke from her dream, tears meandered across her face, the two figures had disappeared. She had long forgotten about her parents. It was an illusion, always in hope but never reality. The more she uttered her wish to the abyss of pure darkness, the more bamboozled she felt. But that was reality, and she cannot disintegrate the power of reality herself, for she needs destiny as her partner.

After they left, Mei's parents left her substandard aunt to care for her, they left everything to her, including Mei's fate. Tan, her aunt, polished a sack of red beans and wheat and demandingly laid the sack on the barren floor, which was dimly lit with the absence of the sun. "Go to the village! Don't come back empty handed!" Threatened Tan. Her indignant face was covered with the fluorescent light that scattered itself across, managing to escape the opening crevice of the gaping chasm. Making Tan's face remind Mei of her own disgruntled and crestfallen emotion towards her parents. Mei, lacking vitality and vigour, can feel the morbidity towards love and being beloved. Under the interminable support of the dawn, the skeletal body endured the pain as the burdensome sack fell against her gaunt shoulders.

Mei headed far north. Deep in the abyss of the mountains, away from the the layers of protruding foliage. She fell on her knees, crouching as she ventured along the gaping chasm. The alleyway was crestfallen as the layers of mosaic encumbered upon itself. Mei was still crawling when dusk enclosed at the pit of the mountains.

Finally, Mei felt the warmth of a boy. Mei embracingly traded the sack for three disheveled bronze coins which reminded her of the same predicament that everyone was in.

"Enlighten my hopeless life. Tell me about your hometown. Of all the possibilities of a reasonable life that I am without, be my eyes that sees the world in a further dimension." Said she.

As the celestial tapestry of mesmerising stars took place beyond, the boy told stories of how in Thailand, there were daisies to seek in the meadows coloured with the pureness of the moonbeam ray. How everything is free. How he and his sister used to catch fireflies as the bugs rose and fell against the cadence of the breeze. "Pure, elegant, and enraptured, a land for us. I can trace my childhood back. There's a train leaving tomorrow, what do you say? Come with me, start a contemporary life." Began he. But Mei decided she had to set things right. "I cannot. My parents might come back." She said that with a voice of sympathy and angst. Disenchanted, he whispered: "Meet me besides the barn tomorrow and I will permit you another choice." He said that as if apprehensive that the deplorable mountains would be to auscultate. Then, he left.

At night, she was awoken by her blended feelings. Looking outside the window, she speculated: What was there to lose if she leaves. Her luck will never reiterate for her parents have left and she's in her own solitude, with nobody to understand her except the streams which come and bid farewell at the awakening of dusk.

The next day, she went to the barn. She was a fragile girl masked beneath a determined body. She only hopes to be in a world where nothing is corrupted by the evilness of reality. However, the boy was not there. Melancholy, frantic, desolated she fell on the damp grass. But did he really leave her or was he always a character existing in Mei's illusion? Leading her to the strident nature of how society is shaped today.

As Mei crouched against the contaminated barn she saw an eccentric lizard, camouflaged on the substratum of a box. She whispered: "I know you are as inconsolable as I. But fear not, for we have dreams to succeed, making us as

prominent as the others.” For that moment, she knew this was why the boy never did exist, it was a guidance for her to meet the lizard, similarly obtaining the force of independence. She needs to place this given chance at extreme value and live her life to her most culminated expense.

“I’m keeping you as a symbol of hope meaning if you strive for the person you hope to become, nothing can stop you.” Said she.

Days, months, years were expeditiously passing as their forlorn lives grew into capacity and jubilation. There was no disturbance and opposition occurring, and according to Mei none was there to be. Or was there?

One day, there was a notable knock on the door. A sense of adversity was sensed while Tan opened the door, revealing discouraging faces of men. “We’d like to obtain an investigation of your house.” Said one of the men authoritatively. As the soldiers headed for the barn, they saw Mei come out with a huge, faded bite mark on her leg. The soldiers felt the suspicion and Mei was galvanised to stand back. Her desperate face spread out in inquiry for Wang. She understood why her parents never came, it was as amorous parent’s job to protect their children.

Air froze the moment the soldiers opened the barn and out came the dinosaur.

Before anyone reacted, Mei cried: “Fly! Trust me, I will protect myself, and you need to protect you.”

As her final tear ran down, the dinosaur disappeared out of sight.

Does it all end right now, or was this just a start?

A start of a child’s love to another.

# Jiangling's Adventure

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Yang, Elizabeth – 9*

In the quiet town of WuYuan in JiangXi province situated in China, lived an eleven year old girl named JiangLing. Her life was steeped in history and mystery, particularly since inheriting an ancient book from her grandfather, who had suddenly vanished without a trace decades earlier. This book was a family heirloom as it was a relic of her grandfather's enigmatic legacy. Jiang Ling often found solace in its pages, seated in her small room filled with fascination about the prehistoric land. On the walls, drawings of different dinosaurs from stegosauruses to t-rexes were taped side by side forming a square shape above her desk. Hanging around her neck was an amulet of asscher-cut emerald threaded onto a piece of dark brown string, that had been handed down through generations by her family, and was rumored to glow every new year's eve. However, Jiang Ling didn't know why. Her adorable axolotl night light, as if hypnotising her, slowly brought sleepy JiangLing under her daffodil duvet, closing her eyes after a day of never-ending school. As she cozied up beneath her puffy blanket, something wasn't quite right; it had felt like her foot was sinking in mid air!. At first, she ignored it and blamed it on her fatigue, however, the deeper she sank, the more the sensation intensified. Being too tired to care, she surrendered to the comfort of her bed. It was only after she had completely settled, that she realized the sinking feeling was all too real. After a few seconds, she found herself engulfed in a realm of pitch darkness and not long after, lost consciousness due to the extreme turbulence.

After regaining consciousness, JiangLing found herself atop a mountain. She looked around at the beautiful nature surrounding her, and was stunned by the luscious greenery, from exotic plants to huge trees standing over 100 feet tall. Suddenly, she heard rustling in the bushes behind her. Frightened, yet cautious, curious JiangLing approached, only to see a small peculiar animal scamper away, its fur glowing with an iridescent light. Curious, she followed the animal. As she pushed her way through the rough bushes and colossal cardoon leaves, she came across an open patch of land. Then she saw it. There, at the center, was a dinosaur!! Jiangling immediately identified the species of dinosaur she was currently upon, as she was also studying about Chinese dinosaurs as a science topic at her school. It was the one and only Huaxiagnathus — a creature which had nearly identical features to the well-known velociraptor. From its long tail, descending in width, to its iconic T-rex-like front claws, being almost impossible for a person that has never seen it before to tell it apart. While distracted by the creature in front of her, she felt someone watching her. Feeling unsafe, JiangLing abandoned her hiding spot and made her way out of the dense forest.

As JiangLing ventured deeper into the prehistoric land, there was a sharp squawking sound, like the one a seagull would make in its colony, when migrating through the sky. JiangLing raised up her head, encountering a group of majestic pterodactyls. Their wings, which resembled those of a bat, drew out an impressive figure while they soared through the sky. The creature reminded her of the intriguing facts about pterodactyls she had learned in class; how the word “pterodactyl” actually meant “wing finger” in latin. How they had an exceptionally long fourth digit that connected their large wings which were made up of a soft skin membrane. The sight itself was a spectacular scene. JiangLing sighed, “If only I had brought my camera, I could take plenty of high-quality photographs here. They would look good on my dinosaur mood board at school.” She grinned at the thought. She resumed adoring the remarkable sight, while the pterodactyls swooped above her head. She felt an instant, almost split second connection between these creatures. As if she had known them for a very long time. “How strangely peculiar.” she thought.

As JiangLing continued to wander further into the land, a strong, inexplicable connection pulsed towards her. Suddenly, a pterodactyl landed before her, startling her with its unexpected arrival. Now that she was right in front of a real and living pterodactyl, she noticed that they actually had reduced teeth, tail, and fifth toe (features Jiang Ling had never seen or heard about these creatures at all.). The creature didn't seem to be hostile, but its huge wingspan made JiangLing hesitant on approaching. Yet, as she observed it more closely, something hanging on its neck caught her eye—an amulet. A rush of recognition flooded through her; it was her family's jewel! “how could a creature from another universe have her family amulet?” Jiang Ling wondered. She instantly assumed that she had to have some kind of relationship with this animal. After gathering all her courage, she reached out her hand to gently stroke the pterodactyl. ”Do I know you?” JiangLing whispered. The creature gave her a soft “caw” and bowed its head as if showing respect to Jiang Ling. The amulet on its neck then started to glow softly. However as Jiang Ling reached out to it, both of their amulets started to glow brighter and pull towards each other as if they wanted to link. Jiang Ling immediately felt a strong connection and seemed to hear a voice from within “protect your family”. At that moment it was as if Jiang Ling knew what to do, She whispered a vow to protect all of her family just as her ancestors had done. The amulet's rope suddenly ripped and the two stones slammed together. Jiang Ling felt the landscape around her shift, and moments later, she was back in her bedroom with both amulets in hand. The sunlight from outside stabbed her face, and remembering her vow to her ancestors, she clenched the amulet, and walked out the door.

# The Dinosaur Disappearing Act

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Yau, Joy – 10*

Have you ever wondered where the dinosaurs went? Many people like to think that they all died off in a huge worldwide catastrophe, but in my opinion, that's too simple of an explanation and not quite the whole truth. There is a more crazy story chalked full of dread, hope and transformation that will knock your socks off. Let me tell you the story of how dinosaurs lived, disappeared and reappeared in the world in a strange and unexpected new form.

It started on a Wednesday, likely the 27th May, around 66 million years ago. The earth was vibrant and green, with lush flowers and plants and tall mountains that reached high in the sky. The air was fresh and warm, and brought light down onto this earthly paradise. Millions of creatures roamed the world, from the very big to the extremely. Over a nearby hill, a large creature called a Sauropod with its long neck and a long tail, towered over the trees and ate leaves on the highest branches. Overhead, a dinosaur flew across the sky in search of food for its babies, a Pterodactyl with its bat-like body, long wings and a slender neck attached to its head with a pointy beak. At night, the trees crashed down to the ground as pounding footsteps approached and an unsuspecting stegosaurus was forced to the ground by an enormous foot, full of sharp claws: The T rex raised its enormous head before plunging its teeth into the poor herbivore, while up in the sky, a strange, twinkling star loomed.

The next morning, the sun shone over the horizon, through the branches and vines a dozen Compsognathus pierced their beaks into the flesh of a dead mammal. Suddenly, they heard a loud, piercing roar from a nearby Spinosaurus engaging in battle with its nemesis the T rex. They tackled each other angrily and slashed at each other with their sharp claws and murderous teeth. Suddenly, they stopped and looked up for a moment, seeing the sun in the sky and a strange mysterious 'star' which was oddly the same size as it and getting ever so slightly bigger.

All of a sudden, the earth shook, knocking over trees and creatures alike. The star, now close, appeared more as an enormous flaming rock that burst through the clouds. The 'star' or 'asteroid' as we now call it, hit the ground to the over the mountains and the fields, boiling the ocean and gobbling up everything in its wake. The nearby land dinosaurs couldn't get away in time, trying to run as fast as they could away from the flames. The dinosaurs that tried to run couldn't escape, their tails were set on fire as they roared ferociously in pain trying to flee from the. Luckily weren't caught in the flames. But sadly for them, the worst was about to come.

The explosion sent ash and smoke into the air, creating black clouds that covered the blue sky and the once happy and bright sun. The black clouds spread and kept spreading until the earth was filled with nothing but darkness. On the other side of the earth, after feeling a gentle rumble from the ground, the happy baby dinosaurs were excitedly playing in a green field then they stopped for a moment, after seeing a dark smoke cloud spreading around the sky heading in their direction engulfing the sky around them and sending them into blackness..., they felt cold.

It began to snow but it wasn't white, it was grey, It covered the green forest, grass and leaves like a blanket stopping them from growing. A family of dinosaurs walked through the clearing in search of something to eat, they poked their heads into the ground, into the ash but the grass and plants were seemingly gone. They fell to the ground, fell asleep and over time never woke up. Over more time, they got skinnier and skinnier, leaving no meat for the passing.

# New Tales of China's dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Yip, Pak Shun Theo – 9*

My name is Theo. I am a dinosaur lover. My friends always called me “Professor Dino”. The newly-founded feathered dinosaur in China made me feel so excited. I wish I could be a palaeontologist and a fossil hunter someday.

When I was having a school trip last summer, I went to see the Terracotta Army. Among those statues, I noticed that something was unusual, not supposed to be there. Then I turned to my friend David and said. “Do you

see that?”

“See

what?” David questioned with frustration.

“That

dinosaur fossil, is it supposed to be there?” I asked.

“Let’s

check it out!” I replied.

As we were exploring the fossil, I couldn’t help touching it. Suddenly, a shimmer of light came out from the fossil, and I felt myself transported to somewhere in a jungle. I was puzzled to realize a dinosaur right next to me. To my astonishment, the dinosaur could speak English to introduce himself.

“Hello! Welcome to the Dino World! This is Bob. I am here to guide you from now on.” the dinosaur said cheerfully.

“In front of you is the Sinosaurus. Stay away from it; it might tear you apart! On your left is the Yuzhoulong; don’t worry, it’s harmless. If you’re thirsty, there is a lake behind you. It’s clean. If you need a place to sleep, just go to the right, and I’ll find a spot for you. Have a good adventure.” Bob emphasized.

“Thanks Bob!” I said with a mix of excitement and nervousness.

I set off to get some fresh water, but when I sipped it, I discovered it was a little bit salty. Wandering through the jungle, I stumbled upon dinosaurs like Bactrosaurus and Bellusaurus. Luckily, they were harmless and fascinating to watch. As night approached, I had to find a place to sleep. So, I built a camp and settled down in the freezing air. Suddenly, a dinosaur appeared in my camp, scaring me. It was Bob, he asked me if I wanted to stay somewhere cozy and warmer. I agreed and he took me to a cave, which was very dark and creepy. I did not sleep quite well as I was worried that dinosaurs might eat me.

The next morning, I ventured back into the jungle, exploring more dinosaurs. Remembering Bob’s word about the harmless and calm Yuzhoulong, I would like to check it out by myself. I found a group of them, and they were massive and peaceful. As I pet them, I felt that their skin was rough with scales. This might be my favourite dinosaur so far. Feeling hungry, I began searching for food. I found some orange-looking fruits in the bushes. I peeled them to see what were inside. Fortunately, they were just like ordinary fruits. I took a bite and they were delicious. I collected some in my backpack.

While further exploring, I bumped into Bob again. He warned me to watch out for carnivores in the afternoon. I should be cautious for every move.

“Is it the end of my life?” I whispered to myself, scared to death.

I had been looking for a safe place to hide in the rest of the afternoon. Eventually, I ducked behind some bushes. I dashed back to the lake to get some water. As I was filling my water bottle. I encountered another dinosaur named Chungkingsaurus. It was a member of stegosaurus, which is an herbivore and some spikes on its back. I quietly return to get my water and spent the afternoon hiding, terrified of being eaten alive.

Suddenly, Bob came, saying he had seen a mysterious portal. I was curious to check out if it really existed. Bob suggested it might be the portal for me to go back to my world. I hesitated because I really liked this dino world. On the other hand, I also missed my friends and family. I decided to stay until the end of the day, discovering as many

species as I could. As I searched for more dinosaurs, I found a scary carnivore. I asked Bob what it was?

“It’s a Guanlong. Be careful! Although its size is relatively small, it has sharp teeth. You should stay away from it or it may tear you apart on your last day in the dino world.” Bob told me seriously.

“I want to see my friends or family again!” I whispered to myself again.

I would leave very soon, I chatted with Bob for the last time.

do you want to come to my world?” I suggested.

not a bad idea.” Bob said with joy. We walked back to the portal and stepped inside.

As  
“Bob,  
“That’s

I heard a familiar voice and I suddenly woke up in the museum.

“Are you okay? What’s happened? You fell on the floor.” David asked, looking worried.

“Where’s Bob?” I asked, confused.

“Who’s Bob?”

“Bob the dinosaur!” I exclaimed.

“What dinosaur?” David looked puzzled.

“Wait... it was a dream! I felt with relief.

“Silly me.” I spoke.

“Let’s carry on our exploration in the terracotta army.” David suggested.

After our exploration, I couldn’t help sharing my dream with David. You won’t believe the adventure I had.

Back at the hotel, I lay in bed, dreaming of dinosaurs and wondering if I could see Bob again. The Dino World was really a magical place. I hope I would be there again someday. I would find another fossil and look for another amazing adventure. I could not wait to share my stores with everyone.

# Confuciusornis

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, You, Hannah – 9*

My eyes opened and slowly adjusted to the light. What was once a blurry vision turned into a world of gray as my eyesight focused. There was also a fluid enveloping my body, restraining my movement. I tried to wiggle, but my limbs bumped into something hard. I launched into a panic attack and rolled around vigorously as my survival instincts kicked in. After moments of my relentless efforts, a crack tore through the reticent atmosphere. Light seeped in through and it ignited my hopes of escaping. With renewed energy, I thrashed around fervently. The glass tube, which was once my prison, exploded outwards with impact. The splinters of shards were splattered everywhere from my exit. My head whipped from side to side, trying to survey my surroundings. There were milky white walls all around me, accompanied by slim bottles of various colours. Random noises from a black box in the corner tore through the tranquil air, leaving me startled. Before I knew it, I was screaming in unison. The noise, which was giving me a split headache, slowly blended together to form a language that was foreign yet comprehensible.

“Welcome to Andromeda. I am Doctor Nova, head scientist of this facility. I am responsible for your rescue from the Early Cretaceous era. We are a group of Environmentalists that strives to rescue different species of animals from their fate of extinction. You are the only Confuciusornis we managed to save right before a meteorite destroyed your world.”

This message contained noises that I hadn’t heard before. However, the content transmitted was crystal clear as it echoed in my brain. Suddenly, images began to explode in my vision as the memories started to flash back. Much to my reluctance, I was forced to relive my nightmare again...

The sun was hanging in the dappled sky, shining for what seemed like forever. There were gusts of wind that grazed through the valleys and it’s so refreshing that even my soul felt revitalized. Marshmallow clouds covered everything faintly, so I could only make out a little detail. There was a lavish forest, full of evergreen trees. The canopy of these towering trees formed a green carpet over the entire area, hiding the thriving wildlife that made their habitat down below. From the corner of my eye, I spotted a black dot levitating in the sky. I was puzzled as I was sure the dot wasn’t there yesterday. Brushing the thought away, I began hunting for food as I was famished. The hunt lasted for a while but I managed to satiate my hunger with a handful of bugs. Off-handedly, I glanced up at the sky and to my astonishment, the dot had expanded in size and continued growing. The temperature had taken a spike and the ground was rumbling with a tenacious ferocity. A lump was stuck in my throat and my body was paralyzed with fear. I had a feeling that an impending demise was about to settle over me.

Suddenly, a radiant glow appeared out of the blue below me. My puzzlement was changed to bewilderment when something shiny came out of the light. It looked like a giant egg. Within seconds, the eggshell cracked open, and a two-legged youngling stepped out. It looked nothing like any of the dinosaurs that roamed around. The creature made eye contact before he took out something from his eggshell. He aimed it at me, and fired a projectile. This was the last thing I remember before I fell into sleep’s embrace.

My senses were brought back to the present. The world I knew was gone, and I was stranded on a world I barely knew.

A crestfallen feeling shrouded me, the immense pain pierced my heart. For the next few days, I was a shadow of my former self. I did nothing but hid in the corner of the room and stared into space. I even lost the will to take flight again. One morning, Doctor Nova came in and said that they would be shifting me into a larger room. It took just an hour before I arrived at my new prison. I expected another room that was just as dull as the first but the moment I stepped into the habitat, I was shaken to my senses. The place looked exactly like my old home. There were lush and majestic trees decorating the place. There was even a little stream. Sounds of animals I was familiar with surrounded the place but they were nowhere in sight. I spread my wings out and took to the skies! The warmth of the sun and the caress of the wind brought back fond memories. As I was enjoying my time, the door suddenly hissed opened, jolting me back to reality. Doctor Nova stepped in.

“I hope you like your new home. We tried to recreate an environment that mirrors your previous world. Everything here, from the sun, to the animal noises you hear are artificial, but we tried our hardest. Lastly, I have a special surprise for you. We were worried that you might be lonely in this world, so we made the decision to clone a companion for

you using your DNA. We named him Cloud and we also took the liberty to name you Skye. We hope that you can adapt to our world.”

A squawking sound punctuated the scientist’s last word. A creature that was a splitting image of myself flew in from behind Doctor Nova.

A year has passed since Doctor Nova said those words to me. I have fully adjusted to my current life and in fact had taken a liking to it. The weather is always perfect for flying, there is always sufficient food and best of all, I am safe from my predators like the Acrocanthosaurus. Doctor Nova comes once in a while to check on us. Life is so blissful now. In fact, Cloud and I are expecting our babies soon in the next few months.

# Chinese Dinosaurs

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Zhang, Lucas – 10*

We are surrounded by fascinating animals from the past, even though you might never notice them. Earth's amazing fossil record hides magnificent creatures under the unexplored crust. However, there are numerous amounts of accessible remains unexcavated from the globe epicenter of fossil hunting. These powerful and majestic animals were the dominant species on Earth for 165 million years before being wiped out by a 10km-wide asteroid. Yes! you guessed it, Dinosaurs.

China had been struggling to thrive since 1949. As society was developing rapidly, in 1990, there had been an overwhelming number of discoveries of more than 300 species of dinosaurs shocking the US government, a global blast. In addition, the fossils found were in superior condition. The main producers were the capitals, Beijing and Jiangxi. Their combined efforts had discovered several new species that were unknown to the world. For example, the spectacular fossil excavated introduced a brand-new type of dinosaur called Titanosaur.

The dinosaurs discovered in China lived primarily in two periods. They were known as the Jurassic Age, 200 to 145 million years ago and Cretaceous Age, 145 to 66million years ago. Throughout this period, the temperature was extremely hot and intolerable for human standards. Therefore, the animals within the two timelines have adapted to have thin cooling skin. Dinosaurs are reptiles and vertebrates; however, they are still categorized into carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. Dinosaurs consume meat and plants but not grass which haven't evolved yet. The alternative was to scavenge on other scraps. They also ate eggs and lizards when they were desperate. On average, the dinosaurs we have discovered in China were found along ancient rivers and roamed across adjacent forested floodplains, densely vegetated swamp and lakes. To summarize, dinosaurs settled where humans would. They had access to plenty of food and water.

## **Zhucheng Tyrannus: China's T. rex**

Known as China's Trex, ZhuchengTyrannus is a genus of tyrannosaurid theropod dinosaur known from the Campanian stage of the Late Cretaceous of Shandong Province, China. Throughout its lifespan, a ZhuchengTyrannus would have dined on a variety of other dinosaurs in the ecosystem as they were hypercarnivores. Their prey included Zuniceratops, Aegyptosaurus, Styracosaurus, Pachyrhinosaurus, Parasaurolophus, Pentaceratops. They lived in terrestrial habitats such as forests, grasslands, deserts, shorelines, and wetlands. Zhuchengtyrannus is one of the largest known theropods, comparable in size to its close relatives Tarbosaurus and Tyrannasaurus Rex. Its holotype has been estimated to have been similar in size and gross morphology to Tarbosuras which is about 11 meters in body length and 5 metric tons in body mass. Unlike Tarbosarus, it does not have a subcutaneous flange of the posterodorsal portion of the maxillary jugal ramus and a ventrally convex plate that obscures the bulges produced by the roots of the rear teeth. The bones of Zhuchengtyrannus were found in 2009. Ironically, they were found by a construction crew digging the foundations for a museum to put the other fossils in. A year later, it was officially described and named by David W. E. Hone. Their average lifespan is

## **Mamenchisaurus: The Long-Necked Icon**

Moving away from theropods, Mamenchisaurus is one of the most famous sauropods discovered in China. Known for its incredibly long neck, which could reach lengths of up to 30 feet, this dinosaur lived during the Late Jurassic

period. Fossils of Mamenchisaurus have been found in Sichuan Province, and its massive size makes it one of the largest dinosaurs ever discovered in Asia. Its long neck likely allowed it to feed on high vegetation, cementing its role as a gentle giant in prehistoric ecosystems. The huge creatures feasted mainly on conifer leaves and ferns. It was discovered in 1952 by a paleontologist named Professor C. C. Young. This gigantic type of species is the largest herbivores in its time. These dinosaurs tend to live in herds or groups to protect their young. They ate about 1150 kg of plants and vegetables every single day. Due to extreme heat and the lack of water, the preferred habitats of Mamenchisaurus are usually in marshy lands. Their remarkably long necks make up nearly half their total body length. An adult female Mamenchisaurus would have weighed about 13 tons. The species were medium–large to large sauropods, measuring roughly 15 to 26 meters and possibly up to 35 meters.

### **Microraptor: The Four–Winged Glider**

Discovered in Liaoning Province, the microraptor was a groundbreaking find that reshaped our understanding of dinosaurs. This unique species was founded by two archeologists and a group of farmers in 2000. This tiny sauropod was no bigger than a domestic dog and was a distant relative of the Velociraptor. In 2012, some new fossils were discovered. From these, researchers learned that the microraptor probably had shiny black scales. The Microraptor was a direct link to modern day bird as they share many similar traits. These creatures had winged legs as well as arms. The animal's metatarsal bones were covered in long, asymmetric flight feathers. Their shape is clearly designed to produce lift during flight, but how Microraptor used its four wings has puzzled scientists. The species' discoverers believed that by splaying its legs out sideways from its body, it held its wings in tandem like a dragonfly. Microraptors are carnivores whose diet spreads across a wide variety of animals. They might have scavenged its food in addition to hunting. skeletons have been found with mammal bones, bird remains and fish scales in their stomachs. In 2019 researchers were able to study a complete, never–before–seen prehistoric lizard they found in the belly of a Microraptor. They named this new lizard Indrasaurus. Most microraptorians were relatively small, adult specimens of Microraptor range between 77–90 centimeters long and weigh up to 1 kg, making them some of the smallest known non–avian dinosaurs. On average, the lifespan of a Microraptor ranges from 3 to 6 years.

To summarize, China has a rich history of unearthing dinosaur fossils. There is a great chance that more complete dinosaur skeletons can be found or even discovering a whole new species. Till this date, more and more places have been involved in the discovery of dinosaur fossils around China. For instance, dinosaur fossils were discovered for the first time in Hong Kong. The site is on Port Island in the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark in the northeastern waters of Hong Kong.

# Longlong and the Glowing Stone

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Zhu, Anna – 9*

In a sunny valley in ancient China, there lived a young dinosaur named Longlong. He was a curious dinosaur who loved to explore around his habitat. Every day he wandered around the trees and tall mountains around him. To him, every day was an adventure.

One day, while he was playing near a river, Longlong spotted something unusual, something glowing in front of him. As he walked closer, he found that it was a glowing bone, shining brightly in the sunlight. Driven by curiosity, he picked it up, but as soon as he did, strange things began to happen. The stone awakened dinosaur spirits which died from long ago! They floated around, looking lost and confused. One of them told Longlong they needed to find three special items to go to heaven or they would just stay in the forest deep asleep forever. They had been here for more than a thousand years already.

Longlong was excited to meet his ancestors but he was also a little scared. He wanted to help them, so he quickly called his friends: Shunosaurus, a clever dinosaur with a knack for solving puzzles, and Pachycephalosaurus, a wise dinosaur who understood ancient stories. Together, they formed a team. They needed to find three special items. According to the ghost dinosaurs, the items were hidden in a dark cave, a high cliff, and a thick forest. Although they had met other dinosaurs before, none of them found any of the items, so finding all the items was no easy task! Determined to help, they set off on their journey and faced many challenges. In the dark cave, they had to solve tricky puzzles. The puzzles showed all the Chinese dinosaurs. Some of them looked similar but with Shunosaurus' intelligence, they finally solved it. After that, the puzzles turned into a key.

At the high cliff, they carefully climbed to avoid falling. As they arrived, there was a jewel box. They tried to use the key to unlock the box and surprisingly, they found a piece of paper inside with a question about ancient Chinese dinosaurs. Pachycephalosaurus thought for a while and tackled it. The paper then turned into a map which led them to the third place --- the thick forest, where they had the ultimate challenge. Entering the creepy forest without any sunlight, the three young dinosaurs met another giant dinosaur who wanted the special items, he was holding a crystal in his jaw. That was probably the third item which they were looking for.

“Give me the box and the key! I need to destroy them so the dead dinosaur spirits will be trapped in there forever! ” the rival dinosaur roared.

That didn't scare off the three young dinosaurs. They tricked the dinosaur and they succeeded. Finally, they had all three special items!

With the items in hand, they returned to the glowing bone. They performed a special ceremony by putting the crystal into the jewel box and locking it up with the key. They helped the ghost dinosaurs find peace. As they did, there was a magical scene appearing in front of the young dinosaurs. When they looked up the sky, they saw the old memories of the ghost dinosaurs, how they were born, grew up and eventually how they died. They were able to learn about their ancestors' past. In the end, the ghosts smiled and slowly disappeared, finally at rest.

Longlong felt happy and proud of what they did. Through this, he had learned that friendship and determination could help him tackle all difficulties. To celebrate their adventure, Longlong, Shunosaurus, and Pachycephalosaurus threw a big party! All the dinosaurs in the valley came together to hear about their brave journey. The three of them stood tall, feeling like a true hero among his friends.

# The Dinosaur

*Harrow International School Shanghai, Wong, Haley – 10*

*66 million years ago*

Bang.....

66 million years ago, it all happened. I had somehow managed to get myself into the Mesozoic period. Billions of creatures killed by the Chicxulub crater. I didn't think any living creature deserved to be killed in this way. I hid in a bush, hoping for the best and preparing for the worst. In my arm, I was cradling dinosaur eggs, frail ones. I tried my best to spare at least one life; then, all of a sudden, I felt a slight crack of a shell, a slimy claw reach for my hand, and then nothing.....

*66 million years later*

After nobody knew how long, I opened my eyes. I noticed that my body was now nothing but a swirling grey mist. What happened? Was I dead? I was.

I must accept the fact, my ghost strays in Yucatán Peninsula now – where the Chicxulub crater had once struck the earth, where the destruction of 75% of the Earth had once occurred. I'm surrounded by tons and tons of people and there's at least one conversation each day about how this place used to be the home of millions of dinosaurs. To this vast world, I'm nothing but a mere spirit, that scares people away, sending a chill down their spine.

On a so called "ordinary" midnight, I was just drifting around in the sky, looking at the passing cars, listening to the calm, quiet gush of the wind. Imagine how it would be like, to live a happy life, to not have to worry about an asteroid, to not have to stay up late at night just in case the crater hit. To them, it was hard to accept, to me, it was just another ordinary day. I don't understand why and how scientists say there could not be human on Earth when the Chicxulub crater hit Earth. While dinosaurs have still a name in this historical loss, I stand alone and unidentified.

It's already my daily life to have people walk past and look at me with fear in their eyes, never to be explained or washed away. I stay there, knowing I am invisible, a dead soul stuck in the midst of a populous city, always remaining the odd one out. When people look at me, I see an expression full of life, I can't help but admire them; then I look at myself, a grey, lifeless clump of mist, with hollow eyelids and a fleshless body. Wherever I go, whoever I scare away. I understand that it is creepy to have an invisible figure linger next to you, sending a shiver down your back all the time; but why does it have to be me? I'm already dead, why don't you just let me stay dead? Why must you let me haunt people's lives and make mine a misery?

I drag myself through 'life' every day, wishing I could just close my eyes and never wake up again. If I could, I would have chosen to be either living, or truly dead, not stuck in between, having a 'life' as a dead person, a soul. I float about every single day looking at people walk past, having the time of their lives.

Then one day, something unbelievable happened...

At around twelve o'clock in the morning, I came across a tree, but not just any ordinary tree, a tree with an egg like shape on the top, with glowing red lines on the shell— it was larger than a birds' egg, and about thirty centimetres long. I'd studied eggs long enough to know there was a guarantee of life in it. But the fact that it was thirty centimetres long was hardly convincing, that was the length of an ordinary dinosaur egg! I waited and waited and waited, hoping for it to actually be a life. I hovered above the ground the whole entire night, waiting for there to be some change.

For the next few weeks, possibly months, I stayed there out on the street, yearning for some sign of life. I stood there and waited, staring coldly into the shell of the egg, my eyeball penetrating through it. I could often hear the creature in the middle of the night screeching, but there was something weird about it, I could not possibly make out if it was a screech or a roar, I felt like it was trying to imitate a roar, but it still convincingly sounded like a screech.

Then one day, the unexpected happened...

As I was standing there, counting that it was already the seventy-third day of waiting, I was beginning to lose hope, thinking it would not hatch. Then suddenly, I heard a faint crack. I was confused at first, unaware where it came from. I searched around the area, then I heard it again. Soon, I discovered where it came from. Never in the whole entire universe would I believe that it was the egg! I stared at it, my eyes never leaving the egg. I felt like my heart stopped beating for a few seconds. Then, all of a sudden, I saw a bony claw reach for the sky. I held my breath, desperate to hold the egg, but trying my very best to resist the urge, knowing it would harm the dinosaur.

Not long later, there was a newborn dinosaur perched on one of the branches, gazing innocently at me, like it could see me for some reason. I peered back at it, feeling thousands and thousands of feelings. At first, I was startled, wondering how the egg survived through the time. Then I felt a cauldron of excitement and understanding bubble in my stomach, realizing I could have protected another egg 66 million years ago.

I now have brought a dinosaur to the present, sacrificing my life for it. It will be my duty to protect and take care of it forever. Once again, I have been brought into an unbelievable adventure.

# Lost

*Harrow International School Shanghai, Zhang, Nicole – 11*

***It is the time for us. We skeletons gather here, under the moon tonight. We seem calm on the surface, yet we are yearning for blood. Human blood. One human will dig us up tonight, we will take revenge together. Savage group.***

I woke up at dawn, with an unbearable headache. How on earth was I going to dig up a whole skeleton before the end of this month? Ever since I joined this club, I found out that I was the most hopeless paleontologist ever and couldn't dig up even one bone over the course of six months. Now, the boss threatens me that if I don't discover 3 fossils, I'm going to be kicked out! Only thinking about this won't make any difference though. I walked down the porch. I have a funny feeling that today is going to be the worst day in my life.

I quickly set to work, hammering endlessly at the dry soil of Inner Mongolia. I felt chilly, even when with the sun rising high above my head. Strange. Then, a loud "crrrrunch" surprised me. Must be another lump of rock. I ignored it completely and kept on digging around it. Another loud noise. Must be a huge rock. Yet doubt still prickled at my side. What if? I unearthed the surface of the object, just enough to see a white surface, tainted with brown. I leaned forward, gawking at the sight. A miracle indeed! I dug at it frantically, and the soil came away, bit by bit. It feels softer around here. Strange. Then, lying before me, was a magnificent, undamaged skeleton of a Deinonychus. I stifled a "woop", then called to the other workers. When they arrived, we dug then hauled up the skeleton cooperatively, then brushed it clean. I could barely concentrate. The boss is going to be so impressed! I watched excitedly as a truck came and carried the rare specie on its back. I can't wait to hear the boss's approval!

***Tear them apart to a million pieces, we will be around to siege them.***

We gathered around the table, admiring the majestic features of a dinosaur this scarce. I was enormously proud of my own discovery and puffed out my chest proudly. We were all chattering brightly, when suddenly a loud rumble sounded from outside the door. We all froze. Cracks appeared on the white walls, which caved in slightly. What was going on? We all looked for cover. I crept under a table, grabbing it and muttered countless prayers. Why must it be now, the time I stand showering in glory? The bones, I realised with a start. Shaking tremendously, I crept back to where the dinosaur was placed. It was gone. A shiver ran down my spine as I felt something cold and dangerous loom over me. I forced myself to look up. There, standing above me, was the very skeleton that had been lying on the table a few moments ago. Except now, it is alive. It roared at me furiously, and with a single sweep of its tail, I was sent flying, slamming painfully onto the opposite wall. Pure agony. Extraordinary dizziness. I tried to prop myself up, using my elbows. But the effort is simply too much. I waited. The terrible scene before me abruptly went black as night.

I woke up, strapped to a chair. I still felt lightheaded, yet the pain was gone, replaced by a numbness that nearly paralysed my whole body. At least I could move my neck. Then, someone spoke up from behind me. "Straighten up, you lazy **human**," said a rough male voice. He spat the word "human" out as if it were disgusting. "You'd better make a good impression, or else you might be ripped apart immediately." I tried my best to look dignified as he went on. "You are now our slave, the leader's slave."

"Who are you?" I asked, trying not to show weakness in front of this aggressive person.

"I, am the noble leader's deputy. We dinosaurs are going to rule the world. You, little human, is going to serve us for the rest of your life. You shall be honoured to be the only human left alive on this planet." I gasped. Dinosaurs? "Why kill them? Why spare me?"

"Because my darling, it is you who set us free, surely, we owe you something, don't we?"

"What?"

"It is you who dug up one of us several hours ago." I only gaped at him, mouth wide open, chin nearly touching the floor.

"Now, enough of this. Boel, take her to the cell now!" A claw lifted me by my collar, then hauled me away.

Months passed. I learned to hunt and worked hard for the Dinosaur Kingdom, so they won't sacrifice me as a gift for their brutal leader, a ginormous Tyrannosaurus. But I knew I need to have a plan, in order to escape this dull, vicious place. Gradually, something formed in my mind. I have an idea.

On a misty evening, as usual, I hunted and delivered the raw meat to the carnivores but also sprinkled in some chamomile from the forest. I went back to my room, waited for an hour or two, then snuck out quietly. I headed towards the spaceship parking lot, where I quickly pinpointed one of the small yet quick Spacezoomers. Resent filled

me as I remembered all the small planets they've invaded, the innocent people they've killed. I shook those unpleasant thoughts away as I slipped inside and turned on the engine. A loud rumbling broke out from under the machine. The leader stirred. I ignored him. Then, with a pull of the lever, I took off successfully. That was when I felt something seize me. I looked down. The leader. Surely, this is the end. One last chance. I stepped on the pedal with all my might, and sure enough, I could hear tearing. The leader howled in fury. I was free.

# Guardians of the Sky

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Chan, Isabel Keenlam – 9*

The mountains of Liaoning were full of secrets, where ancient whispers danced in the breeze—or so the villagers from Lingfengcun (Spirit Phoenix Village) in Beipiao always believed. They spoke of ancient guardians that once soared above their skies, fiery wings bringing balance and peace to the land. Ten-year-old Jianlin didn't believe in these tales, but she loved hearing them—they gave her the perfect excuse to explore the rocky trails and rough cliffs she called home.

Grandmother said, 'The mountains have secrets. Long ago, the guardian of the skies lived here, soaring through the heavens. It protected our land. People call it the Phoenix.'

Jianlin liked imagining what the Phoenix was really like —feathers glowing in shades of gold, red, and blue and its wings lighting up the skies. However much she loved her grandmother's stories, deep in her heart she knew exactly what they were—no more than tales of pure fabrication.

One morning, the peace of Lingfengcun was disrupted. Jianlin was perched on a rocky ledge when the commotion caught her attention. The strangers wore sun hats and carried strange tools. They introduced themselves as palaeontologists from Beijing. Jianlin hid behind a bush, watching them. She'd overheard the adults in the village talking about how the scientists were looking for something called fossils.

'Why would people dig for old rocks and bones?' Jianlin muttered to herself.

Her father, the village head, greeted the visitors. Dr. Lin, a woman with a wide-brimmed hat and an air of authority, stepped forward. 'Liaoning is an unparalleled location for fossil discoveries,' she said. 'The Jehol Biota, especially here in Beipiao, has given us some of the most remarkable finds in the world—feathered dinosaurs, ancient birds, and even pterosaurs. We're hoping to uncover something...extraordinary.'

'What a boring lecture,' Jianlin thought. Before she could slip away, her father spoke again. 'My daughter knows these hills better than anyone,' he said proudly, pointing to where Jianlin was crouched. 'She'll be your guide.'

'Me?' Jianlin stammered.

'Of course,' her father said with a grin. 'There's no better guide than you. Show them the trails.'

The next morning, Jianlin, still feeling upset after being forced into the role of an ad-hoc tour guide, led the palaeontologists up the winding trails reluctantly.

'Millions of years ago, this area was part of a lake surrounded by volcanoes,' Dr. Lin explained. 'Fossils from the Jehol Biota here are some of the most detailed in the world. They tell us incredible stories about life millions of years ago. The mud and ash preserved everything, and even...flying creatures.' Jianlin wasn't even paying attention to what Dr. Lin said, until she heard the words 'flying creatures'.

Dr. Lin nodded. 'Pterosaurs. They ruled the skies long before birds. Some even had colourful crests.'

'You mean, Phoenixes?' Jianlin asked, Grandmother's tales echoing in her mind.

Dr. Lin smiled. 'Not exactly. But the Phoenix might not be just a myth. Ancient people may have seen creatures and created stories about them. That's why we're here—to uncover the truth.'

Now there's a spring in Jianlin's steps, the possibility of the Phoenix's existence piqued her curiosity. As they climbed higher, Jianlin stopped at a rocky outcrop overlooking the village. Embedded in the rock face was the faint outline of a feather. It wasn't like any feather she had seen before.

'There's something here!' Jianlin called out.

The scientists hurried over and began brushing away the dirt. Within minutes, the shape of a fossilized feather emerged.

'It looks like fire,' Jianlin said softly, tracing the feather's outline with her fingers.

Dr. Lin nodded, her excitement barely contained. 'Some pterosaurs may have had brightly coloured feathers or membranes like this. People long ago might have found fossils like this and thought they were the remains of a divine bird. It's amazing how myths and science can overlap.'

Over the next few days, the palaeontologists unearthed more fossils: fragments of wings, bones, and even a skull with a large crest shaped like a crown.

'Is this a Phoenix?' Jianlin asked.

'It's not hard to imagine that ancient people might have seen fossils like this and created stories about them,' Dr Lin said, smiling.

That evening, Jianlin sat by the fire with Grandmother, recounting the day's discovery. 'It had wings like feathers and a crest that looked like a crown,' she said. 'Dr. Lin called it a pterosaur, but it reminded me of the Phoenix in your stories.'

Grandmother smiled. 'The story of the Phoenix isn't really about the bird. It's about balance. The legend that Phoenixes rise from the ashes is a reminder to us. Life is a cycle, it can always begin again.'

Noticing Jianlin's doubtful expression, Grandmother added, 'You will understand, one day when you tell your granddaughter about this story.'

As the palaeontologists finished their excavation, Jianlin whispered to Dr. Lin, 'So...is digging up fossils what you do every day?'

Dr. Lin paused, her expression thoughtful. 'Palaeontology is a bit like the legend of the Phoenix—there's always a new lease of life rising from the ashes. These fossils were buried for millions of years, hidden from the world. What we do allow them to rise again and tell their story.'

'So, each discovery is like a rebirth?' Jianlin smiled. Now she understood what Grandmother meant—the Phoenix wasn't just a creature of legend. It was a symbol of life, death and rebirth. And its story was being told once more.

Before leaving, Dr. Lin gave Jianlin a small gift—a fragment of the fossilized feather.

'For you,' Dr. Lin said, 'to remind you that the Phoenix—your guardian of the skies—was real in its own way.'

That evening, Jianlin climbed to the rocky outcrop. She held the fossil up to the fading light of the sunset. The wind whispered through the trees, carrying the echoes of ancient wings. As she gazed at the horizon, Jianlin wondered: Was the Phoenix just a story—or was it something far greater?

# Xingying's Jurassic Adventure: The Egg, the Portal, and Crackle

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Chan, Tsz Ying – 11*

Xingying sat at his desk, fumbling with his pencil, staring at the blank homework about dinosaurs that he had started an hour ago. The sun was already beginning to set, and his mind was stuck; he couldn't think straight. He decided to visit the natural history museum, hoping it would give him ideas for his science project about dinosaurs.

He took his time riding his bike, watching TikTok videos as he went. Time flies when you're on TikTok, and before he knew it, he had arrived at the natural history museum. He bought a ticket with the money his mom had given him for 'study uses'. 'This counts as studying, right?' he thought to himself.

Inside the museum, towering skeletons of dinosaurs, all found in China, dominated the space. These skeletons had been painstakingly reconstructed from fossilized remains by paleontologists. Xingying passed by the gift shop, stopping when he saw a strange dinosaur egg. It seemed to be calling to him. Unable to resist the urge to take the egg home and inspect it, he slipped it into his jacket before anyone noticed. He walked out of the gift shop with a poker face, but unfortunately, he didn't realize there were scanners at the shop door. When he walked through, the alarm sounded. Terrified, Xingying ran, thinking, 'Don't let me be caught; I need to go to Harvard.' He made a sharp turn and ducked into a prohibited area, hiding behind a box. Exhausted, he fell asleep with the egg soundly tucked in his jacket.

When Xingying woke up, he was surprised to find himself still in the museum. The clock showed that it was nearly midnight. He got up, walked around, and stopped in front of a statue of a dinosaur in the prohibited area. He was awed by the intricate details of the statue. Suddenly, he felt heat emanating from the dinosaur egg. He took it out and was astonished to see cracks appearing on the egg, glowing green. The statue also began to glow and burst open. A blue portal appeared, sucking everything in sight. Xingying held tightly onto a chair, but he was eventually pulled into the portal. A blinding light flashed through the museum, and the portal disappeared. After being in the portal for what felt like a minute, another portal opened, and Xingying found himself in the early Jurassic period. He fell from the sky and landed in a grassland, fainting from the shock.

When he came to, the world was spinning before his eyes. He sat down, closed his eyes, and took in the scent of damp earth. When he opened his eyes, he saw majestic mountains, their peaks shrouded in mist, leaves glistening with morning dew, and shallow lakes sparkling under the glaring sun. The scene was magnificent. Xingying took a deep breath, marveling at the scenery.

CRACK! The sound startled Xingying. He looked down and discovered that the egg had hatched. A tiny dinosaur peeked out. The Beipiaosaurus snuggled against him, and his heart melted. He named it Crackle after the sound of its hatching.

Fascinated by the surroundings, Xingying knew he needed to find a way back home. He set off to explore, crossing lakes, staggering through forests, and meeting various herbivorous dinosaurs like Archaeoceratops and Bactrosaurus. After hours of traveling, he finally came to a bare grassland. In the middle of it was the same portal that had brought him to the early Jurassic period. Excited, he ran towards it, faster than any car. However, he was stopped in his tracks by a dozen or so Gasosaurus resting in the grassland. They shuffled their feet, folded their arms, and rested their heads.

Now, Xingying had to cross the grassland without waking the Gasosaurus. Quietly and slowly, he tiptoed around them. Everything was going well until he accidentally stepped on a leaf, causing a rustle. One of the Gasosaurus perked its ears up and woke. Terrified, Xingying sprinted towards the portal, hoping to reach it before the Gasosaurus could catch him.

Unfortunately, he was not the fastest runner and was cut off by a Gasosaurus standing right in front of him. Luckily, Crackle, now a semi-adult, rescued him. Crackle pecked at Xingying, flinging him onto its back, and spread its wings. Crackle flew two feet off the ground before dropping. Xingying encouraged Crackle, saying, 'Let yourself free, spread your wings and fly. Just believe in yourself.' With the Gasosaurus closing in, Xingying's heart pounded. 'Please don't let me die; I'm too young for that,' he thought. A Gasosaurus lunged.

At the last second, Crackle took off, the Gasosaurus missing by a feather. It growled in anger, swiping furiously at the air. As they soared through the sky, Xingying praised Crackle for its bravery. However, their peace was short-lived. Rain began to pour, soaking both of them. 'Let's head towards that cliff; we'll find shelter there,' Xingying said. Crackle, being an intelligent dinosaur, bobbed its head as if nodding.

They rested in a giant nest, unaware that it belonged to a micro raptor. Soon, the mother micro raptor returned and, seeing the intruders, tried to peck them. They narrowly escaped, avoiding being pecked to death.

The bright sun shone again, clearing the dark clouds. Crackle and Xingying flew around and finally saw the portal again. They swooped down and into the portal, leaving the dinosaurs behind.

# Lucy's Time—Traveling Dinosaur Adventure: The Discovery of the Archaeocursor

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Cheng, On Kiu – 11*

Many people know that there are countless dinosaur fossils scattered across the globe. Today, a new species of dinosaur has been discovered in China by a student!

The newly discovered dinosaur is called Archaeocursor, found in China in 2024. A group of students in China was on a study tour near Chongqing Central Park in the Yubei District of Chongqing Municipality. On the last day of their visit to Chongqing, they decided to explore Central Park.

A student named Lucy was very tired after walking around the park. During a break, she wandered over to the outcrop of the Ziliujing Formation. She told reporters that she found a rock shining in the sun.

Lucy walked closer to the rock and wanted to touch it. Suddenly, she noticed something next to it. Her jaw dropped when she looked closer—it was a dinosaur fossil and an ancient map hidden nearby! However, when Lucy examined the map, it appeared blank.

All of a sudden, Lucy found herself transported to another place that resembled a jungle, in the blink of an eye. She noticed something strange happening; the map in her hand began to change. It revealed a path to a village called 'The Age of Dinosaurs'. Frightened, Lucy screamed loudly, attracting a group of pterosaurs flying overhead. Determined, Lucy decided she had to travel to this mysterious village.

On her way, a small dinosaur stood in front of her. Lucy screamed, 'Ahhh!' The little dinosaur spoke, 'Hi! Welcome to the forest. I am Bing!' Bing explained that Lucy had traveled back to the Jurassic Age. It told her that it was an Archaeocursor, a species that went extinct millions of years ago. The rock near the fossil had magical powers, which brought her here. Lucy would be sent back to the real world later. After some thought, Lucy asked Bing to accompany her. Surprisingly, Bing agreed!

Lucy looked closer at Bing, noticing its fur and long tail. The little dinosaur looked very cute and shared a lot of information about different kinds of dinosaurs in China. Archaeocursors like Bing are about 3.3 feet in length and herbivorous.

Together, they set off on their journey. They followed the winding paths marked on the map. First, they reached a huge cave. Lucy quietly walked into the deep cave and found a treasure box! Suddenly, they heard a roar and saw a pair of fierce eyes looking down at them. 'Oh... you are the one who is going to steal my treasure?' It was an enormous dinosaur! Lucy and Bing, terrified, escaped from the cave and headed to the next place—a cliff!

Lucy and Bing needed to climb the cliff to find the village. They had to take the risk and started to climb bravely. Eventually, they safely reached the top.

Finally, Lucy and Bing arrived at the amazing 'The Age of Dinosaurs', the place where all the dinosaurs lived. Bing's parents were searching for him everywhere, so Bing must have been the 'lost dinosaur'.

Lucy was overjoyed to have met many dinosaurs and made new friends. However, it was time for her to return home. Feeling a bit sad, Lucy said goodbye to everyone at 'The Age of Dinosaurs' and returned to Chongqing just in time.

This is the story Lucy Lee told reporters. She was allowed to keep the map and the magical rock, hoping to travel back in time again in the future. Scientists were excited and amazed to learn that people could now travel back to the past. And that is the story of a primary school girl's dinosaur adventure!

# Journey to the Earth's Core: Unveiling the Hidden Realm of China's Dinosaurs

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Cheung, Olive Tricia – 11*

I have a good friend named Gräuben. Gräuben's fiancé, Axel, and his uncle Liedenbrock went on an adventure that few would believe. It all began when Axel's uncle Liedenbrock found a note that read, 'Go down the crater of the volcano Snaefells. Follow the shadow just before the month of July. You will find your way to the center of the Earth. I did it.' They discovered that it was written by someone named Arne Saknussemm, a great Icelandic scientist and traveler from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The adventure Saknussemm embarked on was so incredible that when Gräuben told me about it, I found it hard to believe. Nevertheless, after reading about Saknussemm's journey, Axel and his uncle decided to follow his footsteps.

When Gräuben shared this news with me, I expected them to return either disappointed or not at all. Yet, a few months later, Gräuben brought me wonderful news. Axel and his uncle had made it! They had reached the center of the Earth. Through their journey, they answered some of the hardest questions available on Earth and made some of the world's greatest discoveries. One discovery that particularly intrigued me was about China's dinosaurs.

We all know that dinosaurs became extinct 66 million years ago. However, Axel's trip to the centre of the Earth has proven this theory to be false. While it's true that dinosaurs disappeared from the Earth's surface, they are not extinct! They simply no longer live on the Earth's crust. I'm sure you're just as astonished as I was when I heard this. You might be wondering, 'If they're not living on the Earth's crust, where can they possibly be? Isn't that the only place where living beings survive? They can't be living in Earth's core, can they?' Precisely! They are living in the Earth's core.

It turns out that all the tunnels inside Snaefells lead to an enormous open area. This vast space contains a huge beach and, even more impressively, a vast sea, now named after Liedenbrock—the Liedenbrock Sea. I wondered if Saknussemm had already named it, but it doesn't matter. There is something special, or perhaps strange, about the Liedenbrock Sea. It doesn't contain species found in our modern seas, such as hammerhead sharks or tuna. Instead, it is home to fish that were long thought to be extinct! Axel and his uncle also discovered dinosaurs. But there was something peculiar; they didn't see any western dinosaurs, like the *Diplodocus*. There were only Chinese dinosaurs, such as the *Abrosaurus*.

Axel's uncle suggested that all the western dinosaurs had evolved into other creatures like birds and tortoises, but the Chinese dinosaurs had not. Consequently, these Chinese dinosaurs sank to the Earth's core slowly as sand, rocks, and water formed a new layer of the Earth's crust over time. Somehow, they managed to survive within the core. Axel even claimed that the beach and the Liedenbrock Sea had once been part of the Earth's crust but sank to the core over time. I believe he might be right.

So, thanks to Axel and his uncle Liedenbrock, we now know more about China's dinosaurs! They aren't extinct; there's still plenty of them living in the Earth's core. This is a new tale of China's dinosaurs—a new discovery that has greatly broadened our horizons. Isn't it fascinating?

# Lost in Museum

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Law, Charlotte – 10*

Lately, the news has highlighted a fossil being found by paleontologists in Jiangxi. Dr. Cordelia, one of China's paleontologists, and her crew have recently identified a new species of titanosaur in the region. This exciting discovery confirms that dinosaurs once lived in the area. It's a starting point for further exploration, as China is less well-explored by paleontologists.

A ten-year-old girl, Charlene, was listening to the morning news. When she heard that paleontologists were going to display the fossils at the Hong Kong Science Museum, an idea popped into her head: She would invite her best friend Natasha S.T. to visit the museum together. 'Hi Natasha! I was just wondering if you could spend some time visiting the Science Museum with me,' Charlene asked.

'Sure! Let's meet at bus stop 5C at two o'clock in the afternoon,' Natasha replied. 'Great! See you soon!' Charlene agreed.

As the clock ticked closer to two o'clock, Charlene thought about all the coolest things they would see. What would the titanosaur look like? Would there be a sinosauromorph too?

When she arrived at the bus stop, Natasha was already waiting. 'I can't believe we're going to see real dinosaurs!' she exclaimed.

'Yeah! The titanosaur is supposed to be huge!' Charlene replied, thrilled. They jumped onto the bus, chatting excitedly about their favourite dinosaurs. Soon, they arrived at the Hong Kong Science Museum. The museum was packed with people. They squeezed through the crowd and found a massive skeleton of a titanosaur.

'Wow! It's bigger than I thought!' Natasha exclaimed, her eyes wide. Charlene gazed at the enormous legs. 'Look at those legs! They're like a hundred times bigger than me!'

Next, they found a display for sinosauromorph. The fossils showed its feathers, which covered its body and looked fuzzy.

Charlene exclaimed, 'The difference between sinosauromorph and titanosaur is like a country mile; one is small and agile, while the other is enormous and clumsy.'

'Did you know sinosauromorph have feathers?' Natasha asked.

'Yeah! It's so cool!' Charlene replied. 'Although it has feathers, it can't fly,' began Natasha. 'The dark fuzz preserved with the bones of the sinosauromorph looks as if it was once fur...'

'Okay, Ms. S.T.! I've had enough of your dinosaur lessons!' Charlene interrupted, rolling her eyes. 'Alright, Boss! Let's get going!' Natasha giggled.

As they walked, they saw something strange. It was a small exhibit that they hadn't seen before. Curious, they got closer to take a look. What could it be?

Inside, they found themselves surrounded by trees and soft grass. At first, they thought the grass and trees were just for display. When they looked up, they were taken aback.

'Charlene... Why...? Why are there sky, clouds and...' Natasha stammered.

'And ... And a pterosaur?' Charlene finished. 'Are we dreaming or did we go back to ancient times?'

'I don't think we're dreaming. I think we're being chased by. RUN!!!' Natasha screamed. Panic hit them when they saw a shadow moving in the trees. The shadow was getting closer. Natasha grabbed Charlene's hand, and they ran as fast as they could.

'Let's go back to the museum!' Charlene yelled.

'But the entrance is gone! I mean, the portal is gone!' Natasha called back, and filled with panic.

'What! Are you kidding me? Let's find a place to hide!' Charlene suggested.

They quickly scanned their surroundings for safety.

'Let's hide beside the bush. I think that thing won't find us here,' Natasha said.

'You think so? I trust you,' Charlene said, exhausted.

The girls hid behind the bush. Suddenly, Natasha felt something brush against her ankle. 'What, Charlene? What's so important? Stop disturbing me, I'm trying to see if there are dinosaurs nearby,' she said impatiently.

'Did you call me? I thought I heard my name,' Charlene replied.

'Wasn't that you who brushed against my leg? If it wasn't you, then who was that?' Natasha turned, confusion washing her head. Suddenly, she screamed, 'AAAHHHHHH!!!! THERE'S A DINOSAUR BEHIND ME!!!!'

Charlene spun around, her heart racing with fear. There, just a few steps away, was a small dinosaur, its fluffy feathers ruffling in the breeze. 'Calm down, Natasha!' Charlene said gently. 'It's just a sinosauropteryx. Look how small it is! It hunts lizards, insects, and other small animals like centipedes.'

'Really? Like the tiny fossil we saw in the museum?' Natasha's eyes widened.

'Yeah! I can't believe that a sinosauropteryx is right in front of us! Look at that furry body! It looks exactly like my pet dog,' Charlene exclaimed.

'Really? I think it looks more like a chicken! Don't you think so? Look at the colour of its feathers — doesn't it look like a chicken?' Natasha joked. 'This kind of dinosaur was found in China in 1996. And...'

'Natasha! Natasha! Run! There's a dinosaur chasing us again! It's a velociraptor! Run quickly!' Charlene interrupted, grabbing Natasha's hand as they ran.

The two friends ran until they reached a dead end.

'What are we going to do now? We're going to be its prey!' Natasha said.

'Don't worry! We'll figure out how to escape. Look! There's a hole in the ground. We can hide in there. It's not very deep; the dinosaur won't catch us,' Charlene said, glancing around.

'OK! Faster!! The velociraptor is coming!' Natasha yelled.

Charlene led the way, and as they squeezed into the hole, they both felt a sudden rush.

'Charlene, why is this hole so deep? I thought you said it was just a place to hide!' Natasha called out as they slid through.

'I don't know either! When I looked inside, I could see the end! At least the velociraptor lost us,' Charlene called back.

Suddenly, BAM! Charlene found herself on the floor of her bedroom.

'What happened? So, that means the adventure I just had was a dream after all?' she thought.

'Good morning, Sweetheart! I hope you enjoyed your adventure, didn't you?' Charlene's mother said with a sly smile, leaving Charlene feeling speechless.

# The Courage of Wheat: A Dinosaur's Tale

*Heep Yunn Primary School, To, Sze Ching Chele – 10*

## **A Peaceful Village**

In the village of a valley, nestled between the Whispering Woods and the Silverstream River, lived dinosaurs known as the Valley Dinosaurs. Among them was Wheat, a small dinosaur with bright green eyes that sparkled with curiosity and determination. Wheat was known for his adventurous spirit and deep loyalty to his clan, always ready to explore the corners of their home. The Valley Dinosaurs thrived in harmony, hunting together and sharing stories under the twinkling stars. They believed that courage was not the absence of fear but the determination to face it — a lesson Wheat cherished from the wise elders who shared tales of bravery and determination.

## **The Invasion**

One night, a dark shadow fell over. A group of menacing AI dinosaurs, led by a businessman known as 'The Tycoon', invaded the territory. These robotic intruders were designed to replace real them with lifelike imitations, capturing the Valley Dinosaurs and whisking them away to a hidden lair filled with cold steel. The village that had once echoed with laughter was suddenly shrouded in fear.

Wheat narrowly escaped, hiding in a holly bush as his friends were taken one by one. As he watched them vanish into the night, a chill ran down his spine. Fear gripped him like a vice, but deep inside, a flicker of courage urged him to act. "I can't let them down," he thought. He remembered the stories of unity and bravery from elders, and he knew he had to do something.

## **The Moment of Decision**

Determined to save his clan, Wheat devised a plan. He recalled the elders' teachings about confronting challenges head-on. Instead of succumbing to fear, he visualised his friends in distress and the joy of reuniting with them. This vivid image ignited a spark of bravery within him. With a deep breath, he reassured himself: courage was about taking action despite fear. He resolved, deciding to pretend to be one of the AI dinosaurs. Using his wits and agility, he could gather information and devise a strategy to rescue his clan.

## **The Infiltration**

Under the cover of darkness, Wheat approached the ominous lairs. Each step felt heavier, and self-doubt began to creep in. But he steeled himself, recalling the wisdom of his elders. Whispering to himself, "I won't let fear define me," he slipped inside, blending in with the AI dinosaurs.

Wheat quickly realised they were not as intelligent as they appeared. Their predictable routines allowed him to observe the main control panel where The Tycoon monitored the captured Valley Dinosaurs. He watched intently as the AI dinosaurs moved mechanically, unaware of the real threat lurking among them.

## **Observing the AI Dinosaurs**

While navigating the lair, Wheat overheard snippets of conversations among the AI dinosaurs discussing their plans for profits and power. Anger surged within him. "They don't understand the true value of companionship and affection," he thought.

Each time doubt crept in, he thought of his friends—their laughter, the warmth of their shared sunbathing, and the love that bound them together like a family. This love became his armor against fear, fortifying his spirit as he prepared to execute his plan.

## **The Clever Deception**

Wheat needed a diversion to create chaos. Drawing from his experiences in the valley, he remembered how they used their surroundings in battles. When the AI dinosaurs gathered around the control panel, he knocked over a stack of metal crates, creating a loud crash that echoed through the hallway.

Seizing the opportunity, he darted toward the control panel, heart racing but focused. He had observed how the AI dinosaurs responded to disturbances and had to act quickly before they realised he was a real dinosaur among them. The ruckus drew the attention of the AI dinosaurs, who turned their mechanical heads in confusion.

## **The Confrontation**

As chaos erupted, Wheat accessed the control panel's main system. He gasped at the sight of the captured Valley Dinosaurs on security screens, their eyes filled with fear and longing. Determined, he promised himself he wouldn't let them down.

The Tycoon stormed into the room, his eyes narrowing as he surveyed the scene. "What's going on here?" he barked, his voice dripping with authority.

Wheat stepped forward, his heart pounding but his voice steady. “You think you can control us? We’re not just machines to be replaced!” The Tycoon’s expression shifted from surprise to fury. “A real dinosaur? How did you get in here?” he growled, taking a menacing step forward.

Wheat stood tall, channeling every ounce of courage. “You may have your machines, but you’ll never understand the bond we share. We will fight for our freedom!”

### **The Final Stand**

Using the confusion, Wheat launched himself at the control panel, disabling the AI systems and causing the lights to flicker. The AI dinosaurs, once feared, panicked as their programming faltered. With each button he pressed, Wheat felt fear loosening its grip. The captured Valley Dinosaurs sensed the change and rallied behind him, their spirits ignited by his bravery.

As The Tycoon attempted to regain control, Wheat led the Valley Dinosaurs in a coordinated effort. Together, they overwhelmed the remaining AI dinosaurs, proving that their unity was stronger than any machine.

### **A New Dawn**

As dawn broke over the valley, Wheat emerged from the lair, the first rays of sunlight warming his fur. Victory washed over him, mingling with the weight of what he had faced. Surrounded by the recovering Valley Dinosaurs, pride blossomed within him. Looking at his clan, he understood that true bravery wasn’t the absence of fear but the courage to act despite it.

From that day forward, stories of Wheat’s courage circulated among the Valley Dinosaurs, inspiring future generations to stand together against threats. His journey showed that even the smallest among us can make a significant difference, teaching that courage is the determination to act despite fear. Wheat had become a legend in the valley, a living testament to the power of friendship and bravery.

# Tony the Wise: A Dinosaur's Legacy of Courage and Sacrifice

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Yeung, Chin Lui – 11*

Once upon a time, there was a tribe of dinosaurs living in Sichuan, China. These dinosaurs were Mamenchisaurus, and their leader was a wise and kind dinosaur named Tony. Tony ruled the tribe with compassion and bravery, earning the respect and admiration of every dinosaur.

One day, a torrential downpour struck the forest, with rain so heavy it seemed like the heavens were unleashing their fury. The rain drummed against the ground, and Tony, seeing the rising waters, realized that they needed to find a safe haven quickly or risk being submerged. With urgency in his heart, Tony set out to find a refuge for his tribe.

Every day, Tony tirelessly searched the forest for a safe place. The pressure mounted as days passed without success, but Tony knew he couldn't give up. One afternoon, after another fruitless search, an idea sparked in Tony's mind: he would call a meeting to brainstorm solutions with the tribe.

Back at the tribe, Tony shared the dire situation and his experiences. The dinosaurs discussed their plight and decided to divide into two groups. One group would gather food to ensure they wouldn't starve, while the other group would help Tony find a new home.

The food-gathering group had some luck and managed to collect enough supplies to last for two to three weeks. However, the search for a safe place proved more challenging. Tony and his team identified a few potential sites, but each had significant drawbacks. Finally, they agreed on a high mountain that, while not very steep, was quite a distance away. With the water levels rising, they had no choice but to head there immediately.

The dinosaurs raced towards the mountain, battling the relentless rain that pounded them with merciless force. Exhausted and drenched, they reached the mountain's base, but their ordeal was far from over. The climb was arduous, and Tony encouraged his tribe with every ounce of his strength. He helped each dinosaur ascend, despite the rain pouring down even harder.

Tony's energy waned as he worked tirelessly to ensure everyone's safety. By the time the last dinosaur reached the top, Tony was utterly spent. His heart raced, and he could barely breathe. Tragically, as he attempted to climb himself, the fierce waters overwhelmed him, and he was washed away.

Unbeknownst to the others, Tony's sacrifice did not go unnoticed. The Jade Emperor, moved by Tony's selflessness, transformed him into a magnificent dragon with golden, shining scales. Tony became a symbol of Chinese perseverance and altruism. To this day, whenever you see the intricate dragon embroidery on Chinese Emperor's robes, know that one of them might be Tony's incarnation.

In conclusion, this tale teaches us that good deeds are often rewarded, and perseverance is a crucial key to success. Tony's determination and selflessness saved his tribe, proving that what goes around comes around. Isn't it amazing?

## New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*HKUGA Primary School, Chan, Hei Man Natalie – 12*

“Eyes for the heart! Only a start!” a corroded radio belted out. Crackling with sound, delicate particles of coarse dust drifted off the dented device, settling onto a girl’s hands, creating a faint layer of powder against her skin. Her fingers glided with practised grace, navigating the yarn and needles, as the click of the sticks guided her movements.

“Ruo Xi Long, dinner’s ready! Be careful of the soup on the right!” The considerate words of the mother flowed gently, but the daughter treated them like background noise, letting them drift.

She muttered, “I may be blind, but I can be observant.”

Promptly, a creak of the gate shattered the tranquillity. “Long day! The scientists dug like treasure hunters!” the father exclaimed.

He unveiled a grin, glancing at his daughter. “We’ll head to the laboratory tomorrow, want to join?” Aware she was intrigued but hesitant due to her blindness.

The child nodded callously, unfazed.

“Full,” she stated, then trudged away, her slim fingers guiding her back.

“‘Xi Long’ signifies a dinosaur’s hope, but she doesn’t live up to it,” he mourned, exhaling dejectedly.

Overhearing her father, she whispered bitterly, “Yet my surname is ‘Ruo’, indicating my weakness.” Thereafter, she slammed the door forcefully, rattling it in its frame.

Subsequently, they settled at the laboratory, curious about the engrossing research. Despite of her blindness, she could sense the harsh illumination, which shone forcefully upon her. Xi Long began to stroll along the machines and glassware.

Enclosed by murkiness, a glaring lustre flared heartily from the fossil's eyes, inviting her to approach. Xi Long ambled towards it, drawn by the glow. Her fingers brushed against the fossil, perceiving the warmth, as if the relic was alive. The profound desire drove her to nudge the fossil.

A blustery breeze wafted, a flag fluttering in the azure, a dinosaur emblem amidst. Xi Long was bewildered by her surroundings.

She assumed, “Is this my imagination?”

She casted her gaze downwards, where she saw a child giggling with an amber creature, swaying gleefully.

“Princess Wang! Dinner is served,” a servant uttered softly, with high regard.

The princess spun her head and scurried swiftly into an aureate gate, touching the painted walls, as she grasped its claws affectionately, leading it to her palace.

The flaxen figure had a broad snout, featuring a flowing moustache. Fierce eyes sparkled with intelligence, while antler-like horns arched above, framed by golden scales that hinted at its benevolent nature.

“Come on Ren! Aren’t you hungry?” Wang twinkled, as the dinosaur led her guardedly back into their home.

“She’s blind,” Xi Long murmured monotonously; nevertheless, there was tenderness in her tone. She followed both into the castle, the appetizing aroma filling the air.

The servant placed the dishes attentively then returned to his position, watching the royals anxiously.

“Wang Qiang, dinner’s ready! Be careful of the soup on the right!” her mother remarked compassionately, afraid to hurt her daughter.

She announced readily, “Coming!”

Precipitously, the father, Emperor Wu of Han, stumbled inside and seated himself restfully in his throne, beaming as he gazed at his daughter and wife.

“I have prepared your favourite tonight, dear,” the emperor mentioned, patting his daughter’s head affectionately.

Together, they shared their feast blissfully, as they chatted with joy. Ren rested himself on the couch, snuggling in the silk blankets, his eyes turned to the family, grateful for how fortunate they were.

The sun cast a toasty hue onto their faces as they arose from their beds. The family headed out in neat uniforms. Ren accompanied them, each step commanding while he raised his head in defence. As the magnificent beast moved with vitality, his sinuous physique blocked the sun.

Instantaneously, a racket of splashes and crashes pummelled Wang’s eardrums, piercing her canal as the din churned through oppressively.

“Tsunami!” one shrieked ominously, spreading fear to everyone instantly.

Wang sensed a subtle vibration beneath her feet, as serenity grew into dread.

Abruptly, an immense force jolted the figure and knocked her to the ground. As she rose from the surface, a surge of glacial water enveloped her completely, creating a jarring contrast between the temperate atmospheres.

A scaly palm tugged onto Wang's clothing, claspng her out of the torrent. Ren secured her guardedly onto his back and hastened away.

Despite her unease, Wang loosened Ren's grasp and waded towards the ocean, attempting to rescue the locals. Ren noticed her initiative then dived into the water; his arms spread out widely to save those in need.

"Ren, break the rocks!" Wang instructed as if she could see, rapidly climbing onto his back.

Ren soared towards the mountain and battered the rocks forcefully, leading them to collapse into the ocean, creating a dam. Wang stood at the edge of the cliff, directing the villagers. Together, the heroic alliance saved the entire village.

Suddenly, Wang tumbled into the waves, unable to escape. The tides fidgeted the petite figure, flinging her around. Catching up with Ren, it twisted him while stretching his flexible skin, nearly tearing him apart from his flesh. Their life was placed in the memory of the living.

Xi Long removed her finger, which once stroked the stained fossil. The vision grew faint until it reverted to a little white spot.

"Please check this one," Xi Long requested, her heart beating like a drum.

A paleontologist approached her. He sat down, examining the fossil thoroughly, leaving no stone unturned.

After a while, his eyes ignited, glistening with elation, "It's real! How come there are both human and dinosaur skeletons?"

Xi Long strolled back home with her father, her tender hand in his. Her father stood frozen, eyes wide with disbelief and joy.

"Mum, what are we having for dinner?" Xi Long questioned, a radiant smile evident.

Her mother was stunned, then chuckled, "All you like, dear."

She rested in her room, listening to the radio once again.

She sang, heartened after the serendipitous experience, "Eyes for the heart! Only a start!"

# New Tales of China's Dinosaurs

*HKUGA Primary School, Lam, Chin Yu – 11*

"You gotta stop looking at those books and start listening to me about working in the mines!" demanded Ching's father one morning over their breakfast of congee.

"It's time for you to take responsibility for this family! Your father has worked his whole life to support us and send you to college. You need to step up!" his mother chided him while refilling his cup of tea.

Ching ignored their pestering, absorbed in his book, which was about newly discovered dinosaur fossils in China. Ching, who was an aspiring paleontologist, had to abandon his childhood dream of discovering new dinosaur fossils due to his father's current predicament.

Last week, while his father was working in the coal mines, he started to cough up blood. They went to the doctor and his father was diagnosed with stage one lung cancer. The doctor told them that he couldn't work in the mines anymore. Without an operation, the cancer would eventually spread, and he would die. Unfortunately, the family couldn't afford the operation, so Ching had to take his father's job working in the mines.

After Ching finished his last spoon of congee, he closed his book and stood up to leave. "I need to visit my professor before I go to work," said Ching calmly.

Mom glared at him and shouted sharply, "You going to risk being late on your first day working in the mines just to visit your professor who never helped you get a job? He just took your father's money for the last eight years! Money that we could have spent on his operation! Paleontology is a waste of time! You should have been a doctor instead!"

Ching paid no attention to his mother and left. He understood that it was a difficult time for everyone. When he arrived at his college, he saw his professor having milk tea on a bench. After telling his professor about his decision to work in the mines, his professor encouraged him supportively, "You're a paleontologist in your soul! You can still look for fossils wherever there are sandstones. Coal mines go deep underground. You might find something!" With a flame burning bright in his heart, Ching left for work in the mines.

Even though it was his first day in the mines, the operator of the mines treated him like an expert. "I trusted your father and I hope I can trust you. You're going down over one thousand feet today," said the operator.

After a few hours of mining coal, Ching's co-workers went to the surface for their lunch break. Ching decided to stay behind and look for fossils. Under his feet, he noticed some sandstone. He took out his paleontologist field kit and started chiselling away.

Suddenly, the ground began to shake, and the rock floor under him broke apart! Ching slid down deep into the earth, plunging into darkness!

After about a minute, Ching fell into a pool of water. He swam a little and found a clearing in the rock. Dazed, he rose to find himself in an astonishing underground world. The rock walls were illuminated with millions of glowworms. The cave seemed to go on forever!

As he walked forward in amazement, he discovered some cave-dwelling nettles and some other plants that did not seem to need sunlight to grow. There was also a gentle stream murmuring nearby. To his disbelief, Ching spotted some dinosaurs grazing on plants, their scales shimmering in the dim light. Ching couldn't believe his eyes. Could it be possible that these ancient creatures were shielded by this underground world from the asteroid that hit Earth 65 million years ago? This was the discovery of a lifetime! Ching took out his phone and started documenting everything. Just then, he heard faint voices coming from above. "I am down here! Send a rope!" shouted Ching.

His discovery changed the world. Overnight, Ching became the most famous person worldwide. Hollywood bought his life story and made a movie. Ching used the money to give his father the best treatment possible for his operation. The mine was converted into a real-life Jurassic Park, and Ching was put in charge of it. In the end, Ching was able to fulfill his childhood dream of working with dinosaurs, while changing the world in the process.

# The Adventure of a Little Dinosaur

*HKUGA Primary School, Lam, Chin Yin – 11*

Venturing into the Jurassic era jungle, a young yet courageous Chungkingosaurus, Raphael was bored and decided to take a walk into jungle, little did he know there was a big surprise in store for him.

Suddenly, a giant metal contraption appeared out of thin air and the little dinosaur's attention was immediately drawn to it. "I wonder what that is?" Raphael thought with a twinkle in his eye. Feeling curious, he took a step into it and an ominous purple swirl with peculiar symbols appeared.

"Wait, what!" gasped the now frightened Raphael as he felt a belly flop in his stomach.

"Poof!" The machine has somehow transported Raphael elsewhere or should I say, else when. Raphael peeked out from the strange metal pod and an incredible sight struck him. A bustling city filled with fully evolved primates wearing fabric, that was certainly not anything Raphael had ever seen before.

Carefully, he stepped out, and to his surprise, the evolved monkeys all stared at him with different emotions upon known. Some were surprised, frightened, some posted him on social media and some contacted authorities.

"Uh, hi!" Raphael went up with a friendly greeting, but he wasn't treated with such friendliness by the so-called humans, muscular men went up and captured him with a sack. Then, within minutes, the news reported him worldwide with the strange metal machine, along with Raphael brought to the mystery shredded area 51.

"What are you going to do to me!" yelled Raphael anxiously.

"We're going to investigate you, little dinosaur!" answered a military member slyly as he put poor Raphael in an iron cage. "We'll come back to you tomorrow morning to research you and your weird machine. Sweet dreams!" said a researcher with an unsettling grin spread on his wicked face.

After that, the researcher left the room and all there was left was Raphael and a muscular guard with keys to his cage.

"I must try to befriend this guard or else I will never escape this wretched place!" Raphael thought to himself, took a deep breath and said to the guard, "Would you have any interest letting me go free and showing me where my machine is?"

"No! I have strict orders directly from Captain to keep you here!" boomed back the guard.

"Being a soldier is to help citizens in need. Does trapping me, an innocent soul here, seem like the right thing to do, protector?" replied Raphael.

"Uh... I ... Fine, here are the keys and your machine is in the main research room, you're right, joining the military, being a soldier is to protect and support, not imprisoning innocent beings, go now before the others wake up!"

With that, Raphael was free! Immediately, he read the floorplan and swiftly found the entrance. "There aren't even anyone guarding this place, at this rate, I will be back in my era before I know it!" Raphael thought cheerfully with a huge smile.

But, as soon as he took a step in the main research room, an alarm went off, walking in all the researchers.

“No no, what can I do now!” panicked Raphael as he rushed into the machine and tried to turn it on. Unfortunately, there was no luck as he read the words on the machine screen. “What do you mean by coronal energy recharge needed? 30 minutes left? How am I going to survive this long?!” screamed Raphael as he sprinted towards the exit.

Just when he was about to successfully leave, ten researchers holding frozen rays surrounded him. “Don’t you dare to move, divine little creature, you’ll be a historic experiment for me. My fame is not about to run away from me like that!” The head researcher shrieked and was about to freeze Raphael into a block on ice.

“Run!” It was the guard whom he had been friended with! He appeared from nowhere and knocked down the researcher! Raphael nodded, then ran back into the machine as fast as his legs could carry him.

After being a few miles away from the dangerous lab, Raphael breathed a sigh of relief and there was only 1 minute left for him to return to his time. “Phew, I thought I couldn’t make it!” Raphael said, still huffing and panting from the chase and the quite hasty retreat.

With much patience, the countdown ended, and Raphael triumphantly returned back to his time with friends and family members asking of his past “whereabouts”. As Raphael smiled and shared his story, under the timeless light of the Jurassic moon.

# Wings of the Ancient Sky

*Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School,  
Cheng, Yi Kiu – 12*

In the shadow of the towering mountains of Liaoning, a hidden valley brimmed with lush foliage and vibrant flowers, a world untouched by time thrived. This was the realm of the Sinosauropteryx, the "China dragon bird," a small feathered dinosaur with iridescent plumage that glimmered like dappled sunlight as it flitted through the canopy.

Among these creatures was a young Sinosauropteryx named Feiyan, a curious outlier. While her kin basked in the safety of their nests, she ventured higher into the sky, dreaming of soaring among the stars. Influenced by the ethereal beauty of the valley, she often imagined herself gliding between the colossal trees, her wings stretched wide against the azure canvas above.

"Feiyan, be careful!" called her friend Lian from the safety of their nests. "What if you get lost?"

"I need to find the Spirit Stone, Lian!" Feiyan replied, her feathers glimmering in the sunlight. "It could enhance my flying!"

"The elders warned us about it," Lian said, worry etched on her face.

"Those are just stories! I believe it's real," Feiyan insisted, gathering her courage and embracing her adventurous spirit.

As she ventured deeper into the valley, Feiyan encountered a myriad of vibrant life, discovering strange plants and extraordinary creatures. Along the way, she befriended a clever dinosaur named Thunder, developed by an ancient species of long-lost dinosaurs to assist them in their endeavors.

"Thunder, can you guide me through this terrain?" Feiyan asked, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

"Absolutely, Feiyan! I can analyze the weather patterns and help spot other creatures," Thunder replied, his voice bright and encouraging.

After days of exploration, Feiyan and Thunder reached the fabled Crystal Cave said to house the Spirit Stone. Bathed in a soft glow, the cave sparkled like a treasure trove, and at its core lay the Spirit Stone, radiating brilliant energy.

Feiyan approached the stone cautiously, her heart racing. "This must be it!"

As she touched it with her beak, exhilaration surged through her. Feiyan felt lighter, her wings stronger and more agile. With newfound confidence, she spread her wings wide and took flight, soaring higher than she had ever dared.

"The sky is my playground now!" she proclaimed to Thunder as she dove and swooped through the air.

But soon, a shadow loomed overhead. A gang of larger theropods, the valley's predators, had taken notice of her. Riding on the tailwinds of her exuberance, she pushed herself farther, distancing herself from her friends and family.

"Feiyan, they're watching you!" Thunder warned.

"I've got this, Thunder! I can handle it!" Feiyan called back, dismissing her friend's concern.

One fateful evening, as dusk draped the valley in golden hues, the predators ambushed her. Using the Spirit Stone's power, she evaded them for a time, but overconfidence led to a miscalculation. With a daring maneuver to impress them, she crashed into a rocky cliffside.

"Help!" she cried, pain shooting through her.

In that moment, she realized her hubris had drawn her from her true purpose. The Spirit Stone flickered dimly nearby, mirroring her crumbling spirit. Weak and wounded, she covered before the threat—a survivor on the brink of extinction.

"Remember the elders' wisdom," she murmured to herself. "Power must be balanced with humility."

Summoning the last of her strength, she called out to the valley, seeking her kin, her home, her purpose.

As her cries echoed into the twilight, her family arrived, led by the courageous elders.

"Together, we will protect you!" shouted Elder Jin, rallying the group as they formed a protective circle around her.

Their combined strength turned the tides, forcing the predators back and restoring balance to their world.

"Thank you!" Feiyan gasped, relief washing over her.

Though she had learned the hard way, she returned to the nest with newfound wisdom—a reminder of the delicate threads binding all creatures to their world. The Spirit Stone, touched with sincerity, ceased to glow, revealing that true strength lay in community and the respect shared for their land.

With each passing season, Feiyan became a revered storyteller among her kin, weaving narratives filled with adventure, joy, and lessons learned from her experience.

“Let me tell you about the importance of unity!” she began to the younglings during one gathering.

As time passed, tremors shook their valley, signaling a new challenge.

“We must prepare for what’s ahead!” Feiyan exclaimed, rallying her community.

“Will we be safe from the earthquakes?” one youngling asked fearfully.

“With bravery and teamwork, we can face anything!” she replied, sounding confident as she led them to safety. Together, they sought higher ground, moving toward the mountains above. The earth cracked, and waters rose, but the *Sinosauropteryx* remained united.

“Let’s secure our nests!” Lian shouted, flapping her wings as they gathered materials.

Feiyan encouraged the group, “Every little effort counts! Work together, and we’ll find sanctuary!”

Finally, as the quakes settled and the skies cleared, they reached a breathtaking overlook of a new valley, sunlight pouring in like a warm embrace.

“This will become our new home,” Feiyan announced, her heart swelling with hope.

“Life here will be just as beautiful!” another youngling chirped, gazing at the vibrant landscape below.

“Together, we’ve proven our strength,” Elder Jin said, pride evident in his voice. “We are more than just a flock; we are a family.”

Feiyan looked around at her kin, their wings standing strong against the sky. “We will create new stories here, filled with adventures and lessons of unity,” she declared.

As they settled into their new nests, the legacy of the *Sinosauropteryx* lived on—a testament to resilience echoing through the winds of Liaoning, a reminder that in the face of challenges, love and connection prevail, ensuring that their spirit would endure for generations to come.

# New Tales of China Dinosaurs

*Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School,*

*Chow, Shiu Ching – 10*

China is renowned for its rich fossil record and has made a lot of contributions to our understanding of dinosaurs. The country has a diverse array of dinosaur fossils and species, often from significant fossil sites. This provides information about the biology of the dinosaurs instead of just the biology of the dinosaurs, as well as other interesting information about them. Through this report, you may learn more about the comparative analysis with global discoveries, educational initiatives and public engagement, future directions in paleontological research, and the historical context of dinosaur species.

## Comparative analysis with global discoveries

China is renowned for its rich fossil record, particularly concerning dinosaurs. A comparative analysis of Chinese dinosaurs can reveal insights into their diversity, evolution, and the paleoenvironments they inhabited. For the paleoenvironment, the geological formations in China, such as the Liaoning Province and the Gobi Desert, have yielded fossils in well-preserved sediments that offer a glimpse into the ecosystems of the Mesozoic era. Fossil evidence indicates a variety of habitats, ranging from lush forests to arid deserts, influencing the evolution and adaptations of dinosaurs. When comparing Chinese dinosaurs to those from other regions, one can observe distinct differences due to variations in climate, vegetation, and geological events. Global dinosaur fauna shows how different environments led to unique evolutionary paths, with China's findings often filling gaps in understanding the broader patterns of dinosaur evolution. Ongoing paleontologic morphology and adaptations, likely all research in China, continue to unearth new species and provide deeper insights into the life and times of these ancient creatures. Collaboration with international researchers enhances the understanding of global dinosaur diversity and evolutionary trends.

## Educational initiatives and public engagement

Dinosaurs have been a very popular science topic since signs of their presence on earth were first discovered. They have represented so-called 'edutainment,' a combination of education and entertainment, for some people. Learning from informal sources and in an out-of-school environment can be effective and motivating. In this study, 12-year-old students visited a dinosaur fossil exhibition in Finland. Pupils were tested with standardized tests of motivation as defined by self-determination theory and cognitive skills during a six-month period. Findings show that the students learned from the science center visit and enjoyed the experience. The factors explaining their *knowledge* in addition to their previous knowledge were general cognitive competence, liking studying biology at the science center, participation in a dinosaur demonstration, and gender. As there was no difference between boys and girls in general cognitive competences, the knowledge results of boys and girls were equally related to their cognitive competence. Autonomy also influenced situational motivation both directly and indirectly, which in turn had a strong effect on liking studying in the exhibition. It also influenced the post-test knowledge indirectly. In the lowest school achievement group, participation in the dinosaur demonstration increased knowledge in the post-test.

## Future Directions in Paleontological Research

The future directions in paleontological research of dinosaurs in China are poised to evolve significantly due to advancements in technology, increased international collaboration, and the rich fossil record found in the region. Interdisciplinary collaboration is used by combining paleontology with different fields such as fossil genomics, geology, and climate science to provide a more clear and more essential understanding of past species or ecosystems. Over time, technological advancements started to rise, allowing scientists to print three-dimensional fossils or

specimens and use artificial intelligence to help with research. Enhancing imaging techniques such as three-dimensional printing or computed tomography scans can allow a more detailed analysis of fossils without damaging them and create specimens for educational purposes. Using artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms can be a big advantage as they are getting more advanced day by day. Artificial intelligence can also detect and analyze large datasets of fossils, helping to identify and classify species of dinosaurs more accurately and efficiently. Fossil record expansion can also help a lot. Suppose there is continued exploration of under-sampled regions, such as deep-sea environments and terrestrial locations. In that case, it may uncover new species and fill the gaps of the current gaps of the fossil record. Weather changes from the past and now can also help for future research. Studying past climate changes and conditions through fossil evidence of their original condition can better understand the effects of the current climate and can predict future ecological responses. Investigating the causes and the effects of past mass extinctions can draw parallels with current ecological crises.

#### Context of dinosaur discoveries in China

As the Antiquities and Monuments Office and the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department announced on twenty-third of October, there was a discovery in Port Island northeast of Hong Kong's waters of a fossil estimated to be from the "Cretaceous Period." The fossil can be traced back to as far as 145 million years ago. Port Island was temporarily closed off for further examination. The dinosaur fossil will be exhibited at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui starting from 25 October. Although this is the first dinosaur fossil unearthed in Hong Kong, as early as the 1980s, Hong Kong had already discovered a "Placoderm fish" fossil dating back even earlier than the dinosaur era, about 370 million years ago. Some people may observe remnants of fossils in MTR stations, commercial buildings, and other places in daily life in Hong Kong.

In conclusion, China's dinosaur research is revolutionary. Major fossil discoveries in Liaoning, Xinjiang, and Gansu are showing huge contributions to the evolution and behavior of dinosaurs. Most significantly, the discovery of feathered dinosaurs has redefined our understanding of their lineage to modern birds and exposed connections in the tree of life. Paleontologists working in China's geological formations will uncover more about prehistoric ecosystems of dinosaurs. China's dinosaurs reveal the mystery and majesty of ancient animals, pushing us to explore the past to understand our present and future.