



Inspired by Inga Moore's [Six Dinner Sid](#), a story about an animal that teaches many themes, these fourth graders created their own stories about animals. Each story, like Sid's story, has a theme that the students thought of before writing. Read each story and discuss it with a partner so that you can determine what theme each writer was trying to teach you with her story.

Robert the German Shepherd

by Catherine, fourth grade writer

One sunny day a German shepherd named Robert went to the dog park. He saw his friends and ran over to them. "Hi guys!" "Do you like my new collar?" Robert asked.

"It's okay," said Robert's friend, Spot, who was a Dalmatian.

"Let's play tag!" said the Great Dane, Speedy.

"I'll be it!" volunteered Speedy's brother, Pedro.

After a couple of hours of playing, Quinn the Labrador came over to the group. "Like my new collar?" Quinn asked.

Everyone loved it, but it was almost exactly the same collar as Robert's!

"Hey, that is just like my collar!" cried Robert.

"We don't like your collar because you're not as cool as Quinn," said Spot.

"A true friend would never say that," said Robert.

"If you think that then you can't play with us anymore," said Spot.

Heartbroken, Robert ran away from the dog park. His owners couldn't catch him; he was too fast. He eventually went home, but for five days he didn't want to go to the dog park. His cat friend, Button, suggested that he should go back to the dog park.

The next day Robert's owners made him go to the dog park; he needed some exercise. Once he got there, his friends spotted him and came over.

"I'm sorry I hurt your feelings," said Spot

"We like your collar," said Pedro.

"Will you forgive us?" asked Quinn.

Should I forgive them? thought Robert. "Yes," said Robert.

Then they played tag together. Spot learned a lesson. He learned that if you ask for forgiveness you will be forgiven. Robert also learned to take Button's advice.



Thor and Gargantuan

by Abby, fourth grade writer

Gargantuan is a very smart, wimpy, plasticgetarian (doesn't eat wood, only plastic), and he *always* gets picked on by Thor, the school bully. Gargantuan (or Garga), Thor (the school bully), and all the other termite kids who live in New Tork--the biggest termite mound in the country--go to the NEST (North Eastern School for Termites) and all eat wood. Garga gets picked on because he is wimpy, small, and doesn't eat wood too. He says that it hurts the trees and he wants to treat them with respect, so now he only eats healthy plastic. Every day after school while they are waiting for their parents to appear through a tunnel, Thor beats Garga up on the playground, which is entirely made of



plastic. Unfortunately for Garga, his parents are usually the last ones to arrive. This had happened every day since Garga and his family moved to New York from Texas.

Gargantuan only had one friend, Strong, who was the biggest crybaby in the school. When Strong cannot find his pencil, he starts to weep and moan until someone finds his bitten, ruined, and puny pencil. Strong had been to the school counselor many times and had been suggesting that Garga go there too. The only problem was that the school counselor was big and scary; his name was Tiny. Garga's dream was to have Thor stop bullying him, and to do that he had to talk to Tiny.

One day everything changed. Garga was feeling very triumphant that day because he had won the spelling bee, got an A+ on his math test, and finished reading the nearly impossible book to finish --*Parry Hotter and the Foblet of Gire*, which is 4,936 pages long. After school on the playground, Thor was about to punch Garga in the face when Garga, feeling very triumphant after that day asked, "Why do you bully me?" This was a very good question but the wrong question to ask person when they are about to punch you in the face. Garga's answer: a punch in the face and a loud grunt in the ear.

The following day, Gargantuan finally decided to swallow his fear and go to Tiny's office and ask for help on bullying issues. As Garga walked nervously toward Tiny's office, he saw Thor walking back from the lockers. He didn't want him to know what was going on there.

"Where are you goin', punk?" Thor asked.

"To the bathroom," Garga lied.

"Oh," Thor said.

"Phew!" thought Garga. "That was close."

As Gargantuan shuffled quietly toward the counselor's office, he thought about how much he wanted all of the bullying to end. When he finally was at the doorway of Tiny's office, a squeaky voice said, "Come in and let's talk." And there he was: the big, scary school counselor, Tiny! Garga's heart pounded, his breathing quickened, he started to get dizzy, but as he thought about his dream to overcome Thor, he calmed down and sat in a comfy chair. "I knew you would come," squeaked Tiny. "I have been watching you and knew it would just be a matter of time before you came in."

Gargantuan started to get a little nervous, but he calmed down again and started to talk about Thor and how he was bullied every day. When Garga finished talking to Tiny, the counselor squeaked, "I think I know what will help but you cannot tell even your closest friends."

"Really?" Garga asked. "Ok, fine I won't tell anybody."

"OK good, let me whisper it in your ear." *Pspspspsp*.

"Oh my gosh! I thought he had a *bunch* of them already!" screamed Gargantuan.

"Now what do you think you should do?" asked Tiny.

"I think... I should ask him if he would be *my* friend!"

"Good job, high five!" screeched Tiny, as Garga skipped out the door with a twinkle in his eye and a spring in his step.

The next day after school on the playground, before Thor had the chance to beat him up, Garga asked the bully, "Will you be my friend?"

Thor's expression softened, his anger disappeared, his bulked-up shoulders relaxed, his ready-to-punch-hand glided to his side, and he shuffled to the nearest bench. "I'm surprised you asked that," Thor replied softly. "I've never had a friend before so I bully people instead, but I'd be happy to be your friend as long as you don't tell anyone that I've never had one before," Thor explained.

"That is fantastic!" shouted Gargantuan. "I'll ask my mom if you can come over to my house for dinner. Tonight we're having fake-wood pizza with plastic on top!"

"I've never had that before, but I want to try any kind of pizza," Thor said excitedly.

Thor and Garga waited for their Moms, who thankfully arrived almost at the same time. They asked if it was all right for Thor to go to Garga's house for dinner.

And that, my friend, is the amazing story of Thor Thunder and Gargantuan Small, but it is only the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

A Bear with a Dream

by Beth, fourth grade writer



Once there was a bear who lived in a cave in the middle of the forest. The bear's name was Allie. Allie had a dream of being the best painter in the world. The only thing standing in the way of making her dream come true was that in the forest where she lived there were no paints or paintbrushes.

One day when Allie was with her friends she told them about her dream.

"What a foolish dream," said one.

"You know that's impossible!" said another.

"Well, if you think my dream is silly, then I will just give up," Allie said sadly.

For the next few days, Allie was sad and lonely. As she watched her friends giggle about each other's dreams, it made her heart break. Even though Allie knew her friends were right, she wished they weren't.

One afternoon when she was walking in the woods, she stepped on a berry. It looked kind of like paint. At that moment she had a great idea. Allie picked all kinds of berries--blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries. She put each kind of berry into a different bucket. Allie grabbed a big stick and mashed them. It really did look like paint. Then she found a stick and attached a bunch of small pieces of grass to the end of it to make a paintbrush.

As soon as she was ready, Allie started to paint straight away. She painted for hours. Exhausted, Allie stepped back to admire her work. In front of her eyes was a beautiful painting of the small cottage she used to live in when she was little girl.

When her friends saw it, they were very impressed. They all agreed that they were wrong and that she should have never given up on her dream. Allie was so happy she was able to accomplish her dream that she made paintings for all of her friends, even for those who doubted her.

What animal would you write a creative story about? What theme will your story teach to your reader?