

Neil Gunn Writing Competition 2016/17: Primary school section

Commended: Jake Sessions, Spean Bridge Primary

The legend of Marlos

Once upon a time there was an old wizard called Marlos, he looked after all the magical creatures on an island hidden on a giant cloud. One day whilst visiting the Griffin enclosure to feed them he forgot to close the door. One by one the Griffins escaped and started freeing the other creatures from their enclosures. The speechless Marlos panicked as they spread out and made themselves at home. Some water Dragons went to visit their distant relative Nessie, whilst Medusa went into a forest to let her hair slither on the trees.

When Marlos stopped panicking he formed a plan. "Aha, I will find another planet and make it perfect for the creatures". Once ready Marlos would use sleeping spells before transporting them to their new home "Magictopia". Marlos created a magical air bubble that let him search the universe for the perfect planet. Eventually he found one and returned home to prepare his spells. After his long search he was exhausted and fell asleep. Later, he was wakened by a loud knocking on the door, he put on his robes and answered it to find a man in military uniform who explained they planned to utilise their power to exterminate the dangerous creatures.

Marlos was shocked and tried to explain they were just misunderstood. He told them of his plan to move the creatures to a new planet but the military man was not interested and returned to his unit leaving Marlos horrified, "I have to save them," he thought.

Meanwhile, the military were having a hard time with a baby dragon and a griffin that were playing. The dragon was playing *dodge ball* with the tank's shells thinking, "I'm extraordinary at this." While the Griffin was playing *hot potato* with the infantries grenades but moved on to play *tag* with the helicopters because the men kept running away.

Marlos followed the infantry squad until he saw them take cover. Shortly a barrage of artillery screamed overhead landing with a deafening boom. Marlos immediately heard the angry cry of a Phoenix and ran to see if she was injured. She was okay but her new nest had been destroyed and she was angry. The Phoenix used her wings to push rubble and debris in front of herself for protection whilst preparing to attack. Marlos realised this was getting out of hand and he needed to act quickly before people or creatures were harmed. Thinking fast, he realised he would have to pull off the biggest teleport spell in history. Concentrating hard he lifted his wand into the air and chanted the mystical words "teleporticus maximus".

As the smoke cleared the military forces stood looking about in confusion, the creatures and the old wizard disappeared without a trace.

Far away on a distant planet an old man devoted his life to caring for his beloved magical creatures whilst on Earth they slipped quietly back into the pages of myth.