



Short Story Contest

Tails of Hope is a compilation of short stories featuring the work of 25 budding artists ranging from 5 to 12 years old. Children were asked to write a story about their furry friend and use their imagination to bring it to life. Tails of Hope demonstrates the love and appreciation that children have for animals of all shapes and sizes.

The Tails of Hope Initiative allows children to share relatable stories, helping to build awareness of their emotions, confidence, and communication skills.

Children are our next leaders, and as educators and professionals in the field, it is our goal to cultivate them to be kind, confident, and empathetic to animals of all kinds.

Special thanks to Pickering Animal Services, Pickering Public Library, and to HiFive Kids Dental & Braces for contributing to the success of the initiative.



Me and my Buddy



Written By: Ava Sampat

Illustrated By: Ava Sampat

Dedication

To my family who always supports me to be successful in what ever I try- Mommy, Daddy, Olivia, William and of course Buddy- My best Buddy. And my best (human) friend Kaitlyn who is so much fun and has taught me so much

**Biography**

Ava is 8 years old and will be going into Grade 3 in September at Valley View Public School. Ava enjoys school and seeing her friends there everyday. Ava enjoys being creative with drawing, painting, telling stories and Minecraft. Ava likes being active, swimming, riding her bike and bringing her volleyball to school to play with friends. Ava is always up for a challenge and has enjoyed training her new puppy. She will sign Buddy up for the Canine Good Neighbour Test soon to show off all what they have accomplished.

Hi! My name is Ava and I'm going to tell you about my experience raising a puppy.

I really wanted a puppy for a long time. I asked my mom all the time. I was good at school and helped at home too. After an amazing report card, my mom knew I was responsible and ready for a dog of my own. I could not believe when my mom said, "Okay, Ava. You can get a puppy."



Mom found out about a litter of puppies who were 10 weeks old. So, we went to see them. One little black fluffy puppy made my heart melt. He was soft like a teddy bear and had wiggly legs and a happy tail. I named him Buddy.



But oh boy—Buddy was a LOT of work.
He chewed my shoes, socks, and even my arm!



One day, Buddy chewed the stuffing out of my little sister Olivia's favorite teddy bear.
"Buddy, noooo!" I shouted. Olivia was super mad!

Buddy was learning to go potty.

Guess what? So was my little brother William!

One day I walked down the hallway, and I smelled something super stinky.

"Ew! What is that smell?!" I said.

My mom came and sniffed. She said, "We don't know if that was Buddy... or William."

Gross!

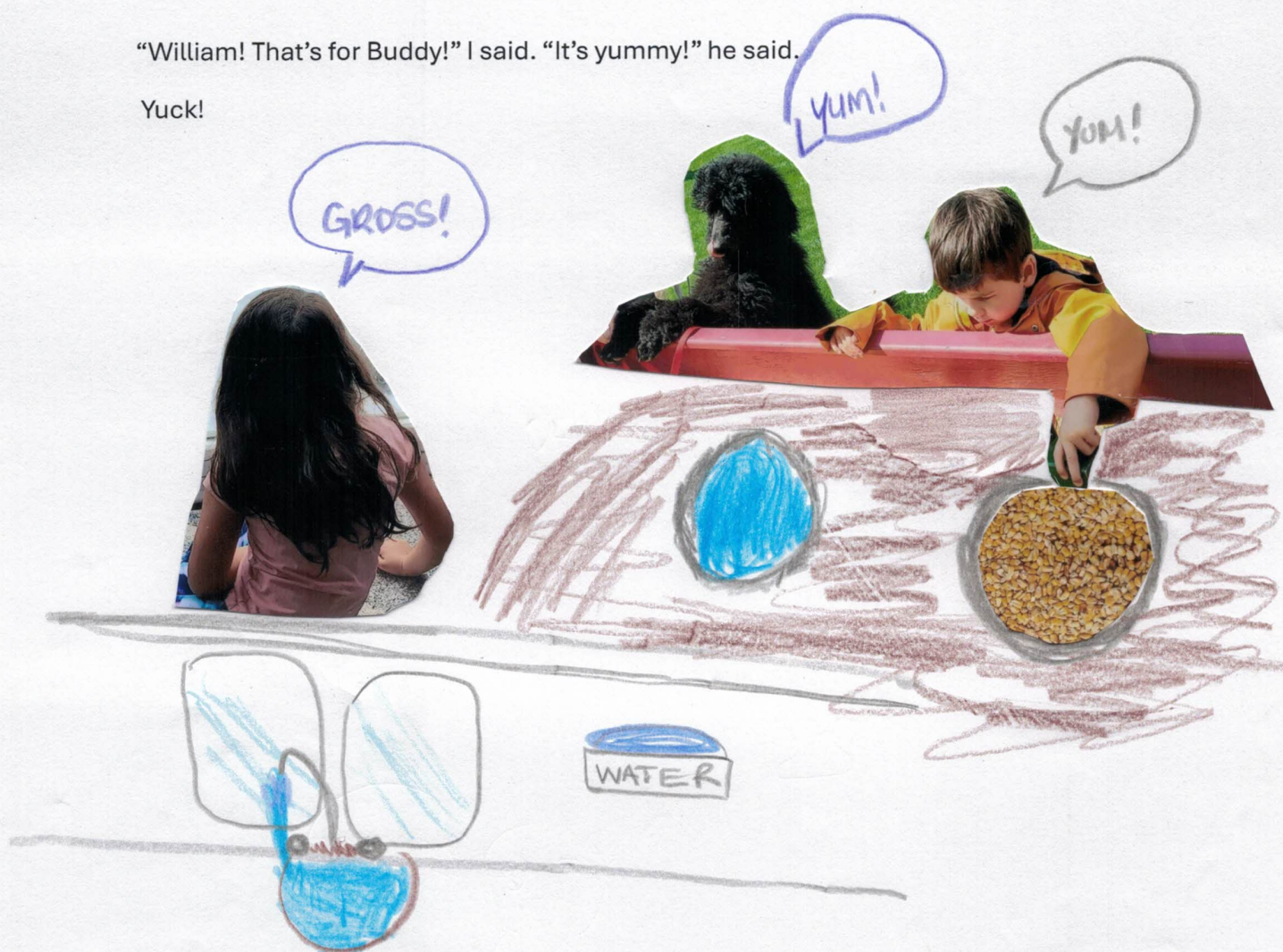
(And we still don't know who did it)



One morning, I was pouring kibble into Buddy's bowl. When I turned around to fill up his water dish, I saw that William ate Buddy's food.

"William! That's for Buddy!" I said. "It's yummy!" he said.

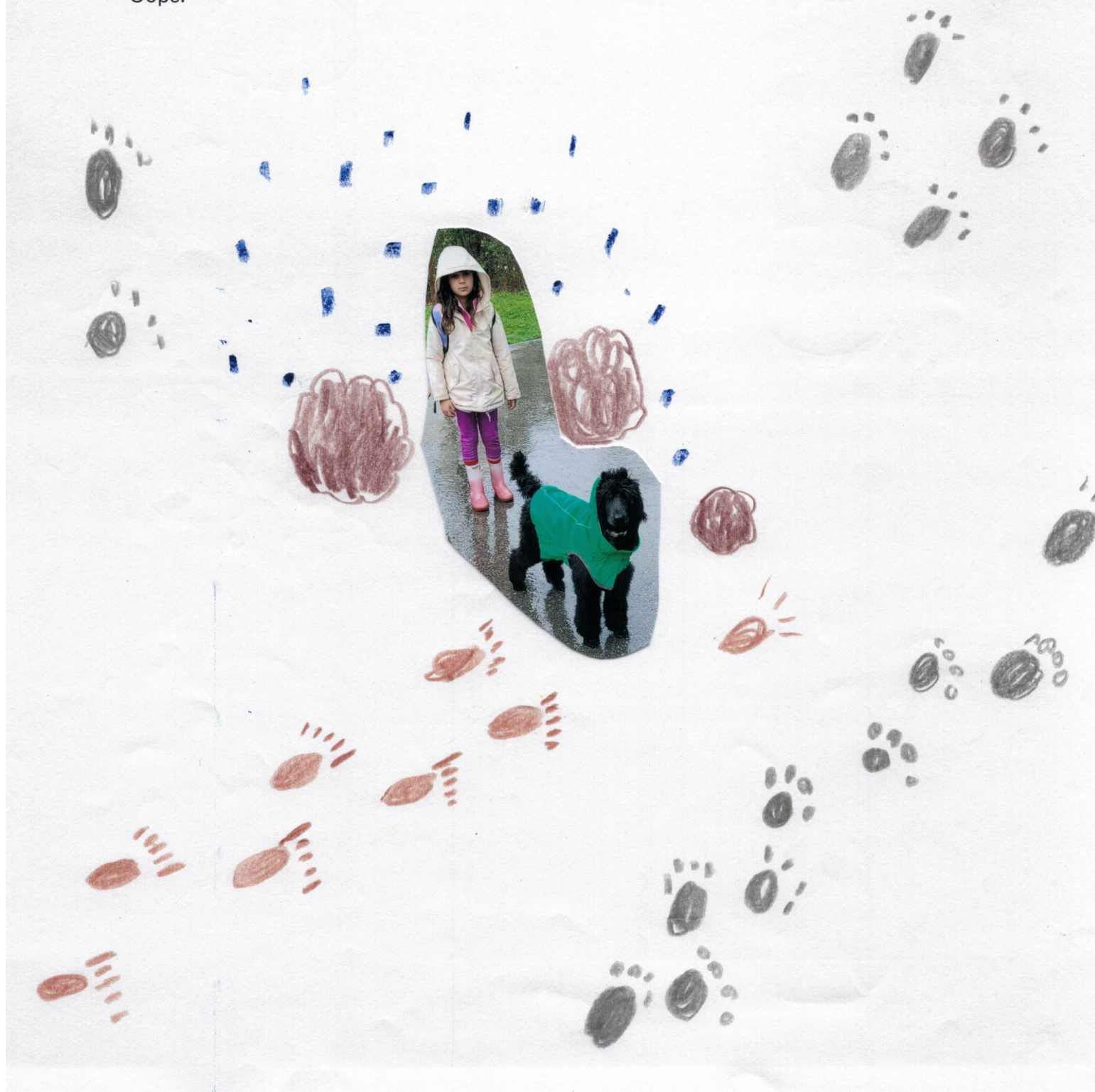
Yuck!



One day it was raining, and I took Buddy for a walk. It was very muddy outside.

When we came inside, we had six muddy feet—two mine and four Buddy's! My mom looked at the floor and said, "NOOOOOOOOO!"

Oops.



One day, when I was coming off the school bus, Buddy was so happy to see me, he jumped up and knocked out my 2 front teeth!

"Thanks, Buddy! Now the Tooth Fairy is coming!"



We went to puppy school. Buddy learned to sit, stay, and stop chewing stuff.

After training Buddy for a few months, we went to a festival called Petapolooza to socialize Buddy with other dogs.

Some how we got the courage and signed up for the dog talent show!



Buddy Showed off his talents right on cue and ended his performance with a big kiss on my cheek! The judges loved it and we won 1st place!

Buddy is my best friend. But he needs food, walks, baths, play time, and lots of love. Having a pet is a big job—but it's worth it.



Getting a pet is not just fun and games. It takes love, time, and care. Pets are family. If you want a pet, be ready—just like I was for Buddy.

