

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE WINNER**  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**



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Dear Spencer,

I just landed on a planet that I will name Planet Sillk. I decided to call it that because the ground here feels like silk and is very soft. It has a dusty surface about 2 feet deep. If I jump in the air, I'll stay in the air for about 15 seconds. There are lots of holes and craters on this planet; I counted the ones I passed and I'm on 74. There are lots of hills, too. If you dug into one it would make a nice home. I move slower on Planet Sillk than on Earth; If I move 50 feet it will take at least 1 minute. Isn't that amazing Spencer!

There are lots of little insects flying around so I thought it would be okay to take off my mask. When I took off my mask a huge wind blew in my face and then suddenly it stopped. All of the insects looked like they were rag dolls when they were in the wind because it was so powerful. It blew me back a bit, too. I walked a bit and I saw a large animal that looked like a lion except it had wings. The winged beast ran the other way and then soared through the air. When the beast leapt off the ground it shot out a huge gust of air. After the beast flew away I saw a red glow coming from the east side of Planet Sillk. As I walked closer I saw a river of red liquid. Just then an alligator-type reptile crawled out of the red liquid. Its whole body was covered with red scales and had eyes that were dark green. It was about ten feet long and two feet wide. As I walked closer to the reptile I saw that it had wings. In a flash, the lion type winged beast came flying through the air and let out a huge howl. The river creature jumped back into the red liquid letting out a huge gust of air. I think the beast scared the reptile into quickly jumping back into the red liquid river. The beast landed by the red river and looked in and stared for a few seconds then flew away. I think he was trying to hunt the reptile creature. I have to admit I was pretty scared myself. I thought the beast was going to hunt me!

When I was walking I noticed these small circular blue things. A smell drifted through the air and it made me hungry. When I touched one it was very soft and I figured that maybe I can eat one. As I was chewing, the taste was almost like American cheese. After I swallowed it I walked on to find more. For about thirty minutes I looked for more of the blue circle food but couldn't find any. Suddenly a chill ran down my spine. It reminded me of the gusts of winds I was feeling ever since I landed on Planet Sillk. At that moment I looked up and saw the lion-type beast flying over head followed by a gust of wind. With that I knew that the beast was causing the wind gusts. I realized that I was only moving a short distance while the animals where moving faster than me because they had wings. I suddenly realized that all of creatures of Planet Sillk were up in the sky so they could see more of the food. If they didn't have wings they wouldn't be able to find much food, they would be moving slow, and they would have a hard time escaping predators.

It is very exciting to be the first one to ever step on this planet. I hope that someday humans can live on it, but don't do all sorts of experiments on the creatures. When the people come here I hope they do not harm the creatures because this planet is their natural habitat and their home, not ours. I will see you when I got home.

Your Buddy, Ethan