THE 2022 YOUNG MATHEMATICAL STORY AUTHOR (YMSA) COMPETITION

THE STUART J. MURPHY AWARD
(THE 8-11 YEARS OLD CATEGORY)

SHORTLISTED

'The Animals Adventure to Candyland' by Savvia Prokopiou (9 years old)
at the International School of Paphos (Cyprus)

You can read the author's inspiration for the story and the judges' comments
on:

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#YMSAMaths

The Animals Adventure to Candyland

By Savvia Prokopiou

One summer day far away from town there was a famous zoo called Zooland. At Zooland there lived four friends, Pandina the panda from China, Kanga the kangaroo from Australia, Jerry the giraffe from China and Leo the lion from India. They were all good friends because their cages were next to each other. The four friends were feeling unhappy and sad because they didn't like being in the cages and the keepers weren't feeding them. They decided to escape.
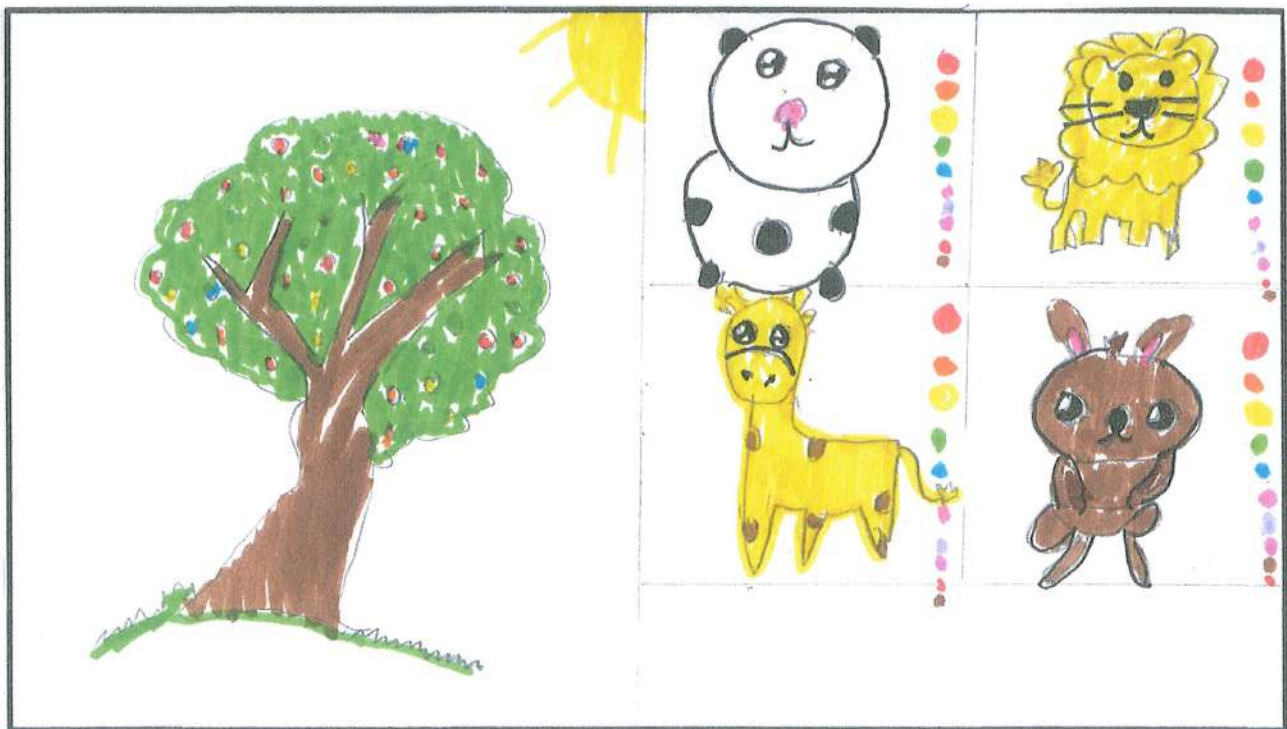
One late afternoon when the keeper went to put water at Pandina's cage he forgot the keys on the locker. Pandina was so happy and she said to her friends "Hey friends now is the time to escape." As soon as it got dark, Pandina freed her friends from their cages.

Pandina and her friends tiptoed slowly into a thick green bush. They felt scared because they thought that maybe the keeper would find them. At another bush they saw something shining bright. They were so curious to see what it was so they walked closer. They saw it was a golden key so they picked the key up. It began to glow. "Wow!" said the four friends. Suddenly, lots of lights surrounded them and the magic key took them to a bright colorful place and there was a big sign saying "Welcome to Candy World."

As soon as the four friends went to Candy World the first thing they saw was a giant gingerbread house. In the house there lived a gingerbread mum, dad and baby. They welcomed them with music and dancing.
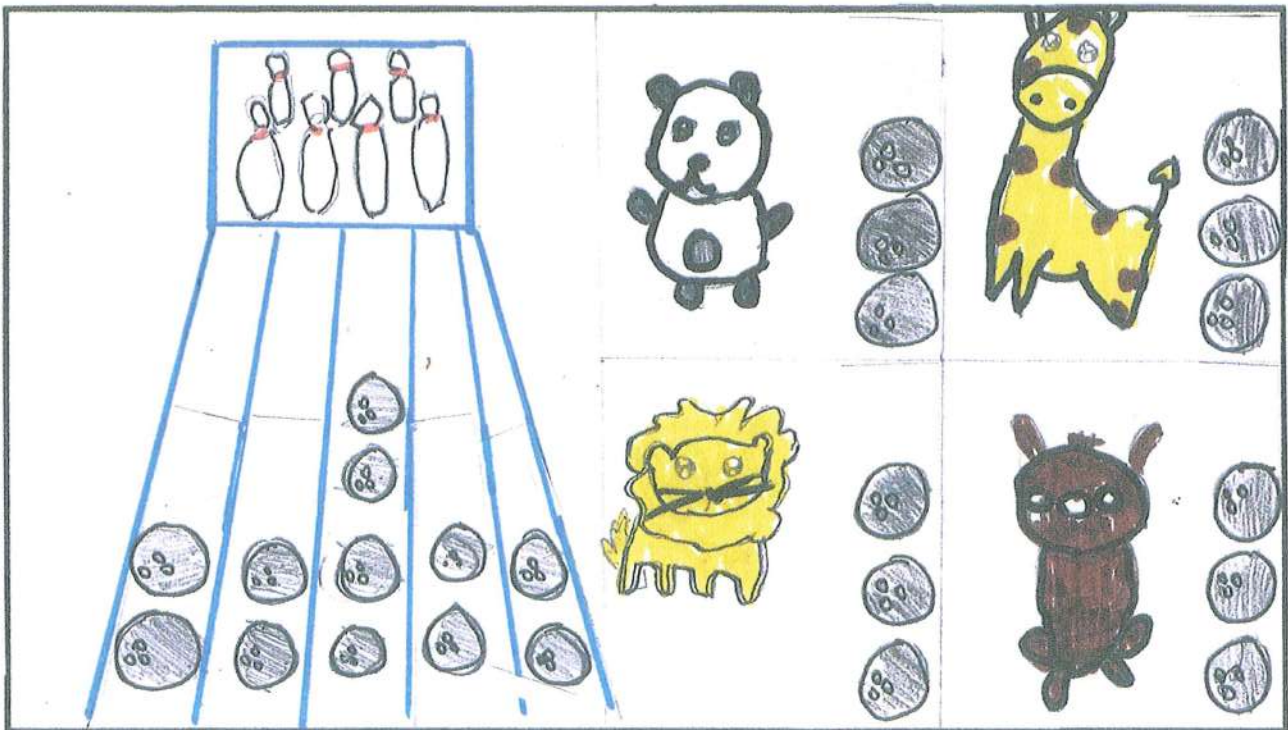
When they finished dancing, they started walking and then saw a giant tree with colorful jelly beans. The four friends were so excited to see the jelly beans. Next to the tree there were baskets for anyone that wanted to get jelly beans. They took a basket and with Jerry the giraffe's help, Pandina used him as a ladder to pick the jelly beans. Pandina started to count "One, two, three..." she counted forty jelly beans. Leo the lion asked, "But how are we going to share them?" Kanga the kangaroo replied, "We have to share the jelly beans equally." The animals started giving out the jelly beans. One for Kanga, one for Leo, one for Jerry and one for Pandina until all the jelly beans were gone. Each animal got ten each. They were so happy that they managed to share them fairly so then they ate them.

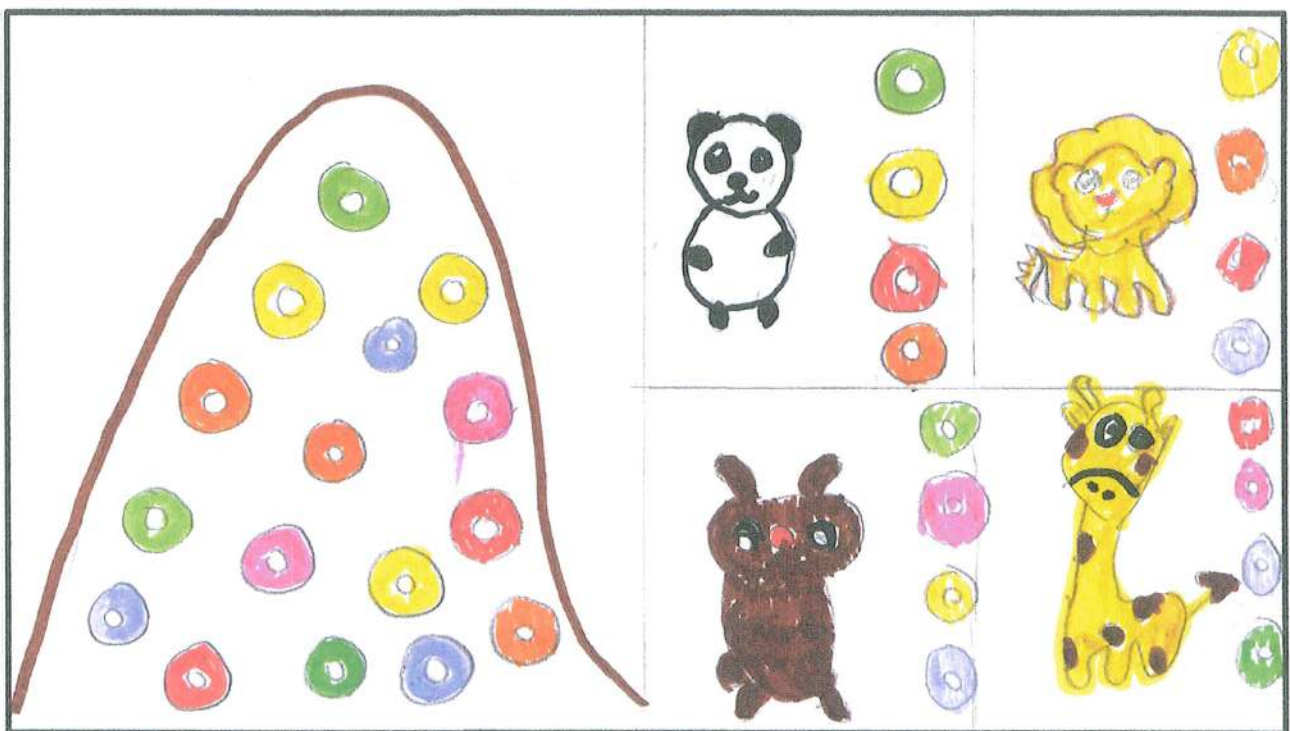| 40 Jelly beans | $40 \div 4 = 10$ |
| 4 Animals | Jelly beans each |

As the four friends finished eating the jelly beans, they wanted to explore Candy World more so they kept on walking. On their way they saw a bowling area and wanted to play. They all wanted to have a fair go so they started to count how many balls there were. Leo started to count "One, two, three..." and he counted twelve bowling balls all together. Leo said, "We have to share the bowling balls fairly." The animals started giving out the bowling balls. One for Kanga, one for Leo, one for Jerry and one for Pandina until all the bowling balls were handed out. Each of them got three bowling balls each. They started to play. They had lots of fun until they got tired and went to sit on a bench so they could have a rest.

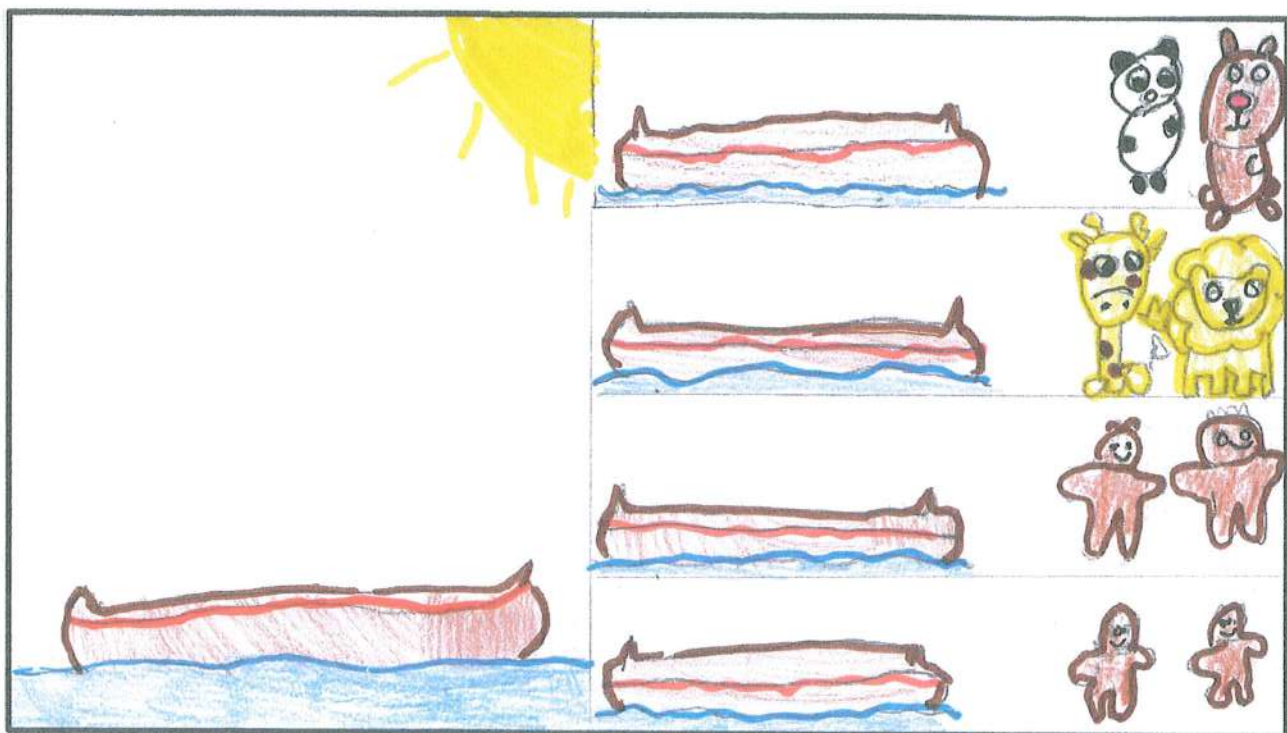| 12 Bowling balls |
|:---:|
| 4 Animals |

$$12 \div 4 = 3$$
Bowling balls each

As soon as they had a rest, they were getting hungry and wanted to look for candy. On their way they found a big cave. They were so curious to see if there were bats in the cave. They went in and saw that the cave had many donuts. The donuts were so colorful and looked very tasty. There were red, orange, pink, yellow, green and purple donuts. They started counting all the donuts and found sixteen. Jerry said, "Guys, we have to share the donuts equally." Jerry counted one for Pandina, one for Leo, one for Kang and one for himself. He shared them until they were non left. Each animal got four donuts. They wanted to enjoy their donuts at the river so they took their donuts and went to eat them near the relaxing river. It was the perfect place to relax.

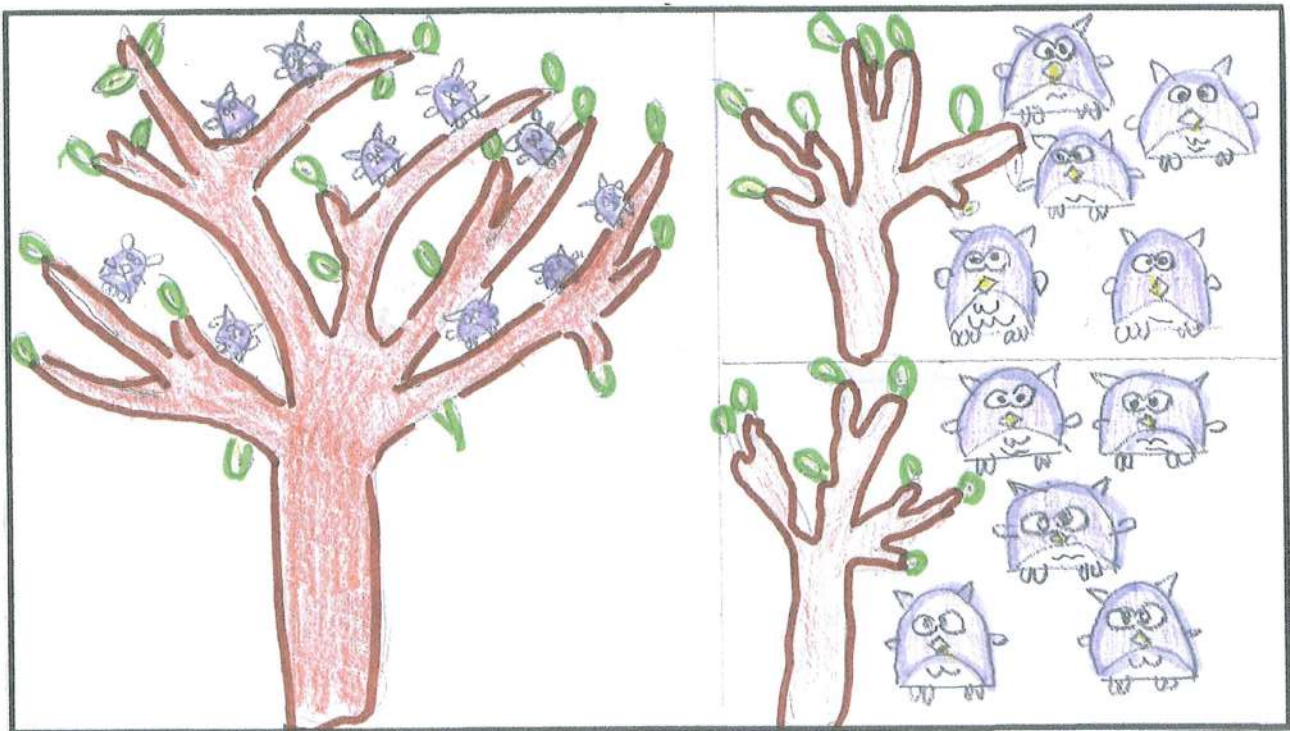| 16 Donuts | $16 \div 4 = 4$ |
| 4 Animals | Donuts each |

As they were relaxing, four more gingerbread men passed by and asked the four animals if they wanted to go for a ride in a canoe on the river. They thought it would be exciting and adventures so they agreed. When they went close to the canoes in the river Pandina said, "Oh no, there are only two seats in each canoe. We won't all be able to fit in one canoe." They all realized that they were going to need more canoes as there were four animals and four gingerbread men. Kanga said, "I and Pandina will be together in one canoe, Leo and Jerry will be in another canoe, the other two gingerbread men in another one and the last two gingerbread men in another one. That means we need four canoes for our trip." They all split in two's and went on their trip in the river. They were so excited to see what would happen next.

8 Passengers 2 Seats in each canoe	$8 \div 2 = 4$ Canoes needed

When they finished their trip on the canoes they got out and they felt exhausted. As they were walking, they came in front of two big trees. In one of the trees they heard lots of noise and shouting. One owl came out and they asked the owl why they were fighting. The owl said that it is always like this because there are ten owls all in one tree. The animals said that they can help them. Leo said, "If you are ten owls and there are two trees that means some owls need to go to the second tree so there aren't too many owls in one tree. Jerry explained, "One owl must go to the first tree, another owl to the second tree until all owls go into a tree." Five owls went to one tree and the other five owls to the other tree. The owls were so happy that the animals helped them find a solution to their problem.
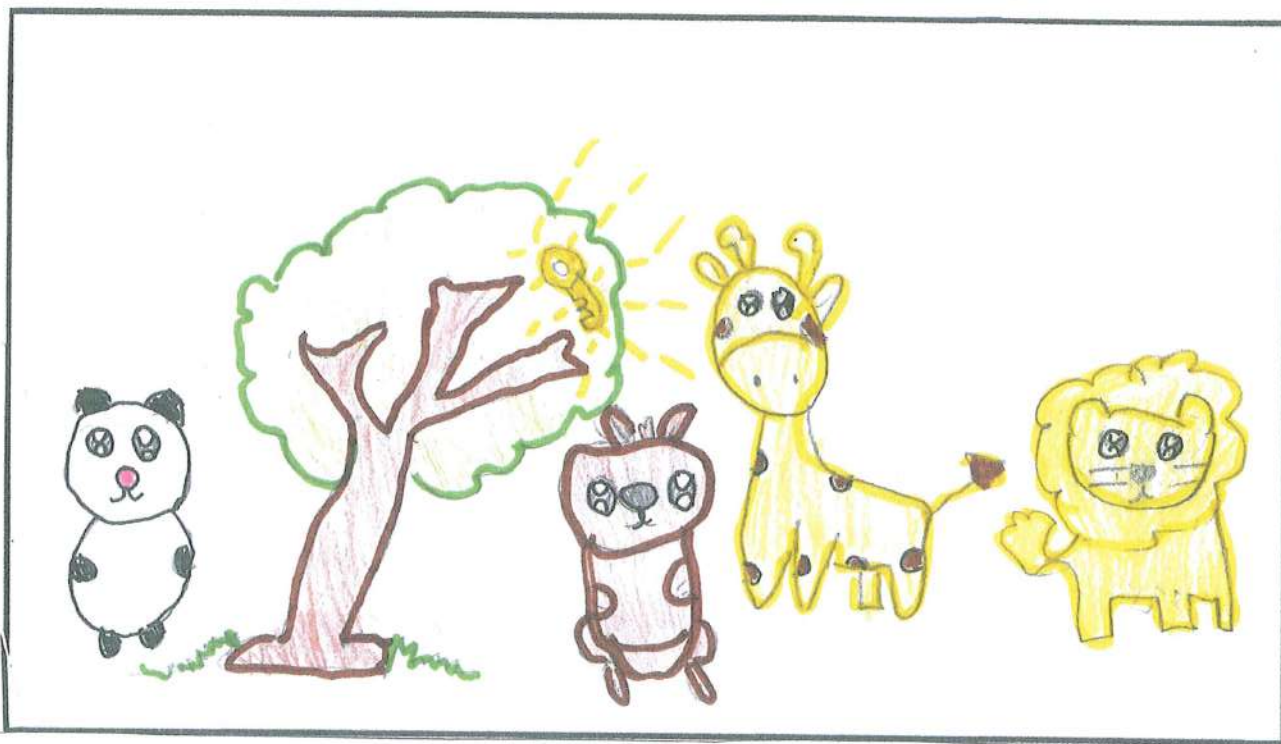

10 Owls **2 Trees**	$10 \div 2 = 5$ Owls in each tree

When it started getting dark, something was shining in the owls' house. The four animals asked what the shining light was. The owl said that it had been there for some days and they couldn't sleep at night. Jerry used his long neck to see what was shining so bright. He saw it was the key. He took the key out of the owl's tree. The four friends were so surprised to find the key and happy that they could leave Candy World. As they grabbed the key, they heard a voice say "Your time has come to leave Candy World. Before you go you are all allowed to make a wish." All the animals were excited and all made the same wish. The animals said, "We want to go to a jungle and be free." Their wish came true.

They had a great trip in Candy World and learnt so much. There adventure made them understand how important it was to share. On their adventure they learnt that they could share numbers. In Math, we call this DIVISION.

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BLURB

Four animals escape from Zooland. A magic key takes them to the colorful Candy World. They explore Candy World and have different problems to solve.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am Savvia Prokopiou, a 9-year-old girl that goes to the International School of Paphos, located in Cyprus. The inspiration of my story comes from my love for animals and candy. I always feel sorry for the animals in cages so decided to free the animals in my story so they can have a wonderful time in Candy World.