

The Time Machine



WRITTEN BY THE WINNERS OF
THE ISA YOUNG STORYTELLERS COMPETITION
2024

The theme for this year's ISA Young Storytellers Competition 2024, "The Time Machine", sparked a multitude of entries.

We are delighted to present 20 of these inspiring stories in this book.

Each story was created from the collaborative efforts of pupils in EYFS and Key stage 1 from ISA Members' schools.

Together, they have created imaginative stories that takes readers from the depth of the sea to the vast outer space.

Congratulations to all participants.

We would like to thank children's author Ewa Jozefkowicz for her role as a judge, and to the teachers who guided and supported the students to create those stories.



A Time Travelling Hero

Nelson, standing proudly at the bow of the HMS Victory, was wearing his uniform adorned with medals. He was steering the ship as the waves started building.

The ship started to lose control, and the wheel came off in his hands. Suddenly, he found himself darting down the river Thames being carried by tsunami-like waves, he was in the center of London in 1666!

All around him houses were burning. It was very dark and extremely hot, and people were running around screaming. Nelson realised he had travelled back to the Great Fire of London!

Nelson instantly jumped off the ship to help. He grabbed wooden doors for people to surf back down the Thames and to safety. On this journey, he even stopped at St Paul's Cathedral!

He found and rescued a box of treasure, carrying it down the river. He helped to rescue all the frightened people who had to leave everything behind.

Two years later, Nelson returns the precious treasure and the money to help rebuild London. Nelson was rewarded a medal for bravery, and he had great memories of travelling back in time to the Great Fire of London!

*A story written by Reception-Year 2
from Alton School*



Gecko's Great Adventure

Once upon a time in Jamaica, there was a valiant but crazy gecko.

One day he decided to go for a walk in the mystical mountains where he discovered an unnoticed rainforest hidden deep in the luscious, green valley.

As he explored, he came across a giant ear shaped rock! Gecko screeched, "Hello Ear".

And the small but mighty creature crawled into the ear using his sticky feet. Inside the enticing tunnel he hopped along from side to side and quickly reached a magical, sparkling crown.

When he put it on his head a giant explosion transported him back.....in.....time!

He crept out of the ear shaped rock, but the valley looked different. He heard a roar! He saw a colossal Tyrannosaurus Rex with gaping jaws and sharp teeth. It was trying to eat him. The gecko saw a miniscule cave and he ran inside to escape from the dinosaur.

He crept softly so the dinosaur wouldn't hear him. He needed to find the sparkling crown. He peered into the darkness. Suddenly he saw something glistening. It was the time-travelling crown. He hastily ran towards it and put it back on his head.

Whoosh! He was home.

*A story written by Kindergarten and Reception classes
from Ayscoughfee Hall School.*



Dragons and Marshmallows

Once upon a time machine, there was a Reception Class who liked listening to adventure stories. One day, they found a real time machine. It was big and silver.

They went in it. There was an invisible door and they had to climb a ladder to get in. The teacher said, "Wow that looks cool." They didn't want to be lonely, so they asked the teacher to go with them.

They climbed up the ladder and opened the invisible door and sat down. They turned on the engine with a golden key.

They flew to the old, old, old, old days and landed in a forest. The forest was scary and dark. They climbed down the ladder and they saw a big green dragon. He was guarding a princess in a castle. They didn't know if he was a scary dragon, but the children and the teacher ran to the castle and said, "Hello, can we please come in the castle?" The dragon said, "Yes".

They searched the castle for the princess. She was in a big tower. They all made friends and they roasted marshmallows on the dragon's fiery breath. The dragon and the princess liked the marshmallows.

*A story written by the Reception class
from Bronte School*



The Wolf and His Time Travelling Adventure

A long long time ago there was an old, fluffy and scary-looking wolf inside a giant castle.

The King of the castle told the wolf that he had a time machine. So, the wolf went to find it. He was feeling *comme ci comme ça*. The time machine was grey with flashing red lights. Inside there were lots of different coloured buttons. The wolf decided to press the colourful buttons but did not know what they were for. The time machine started to make some crackly noises when suddenly...

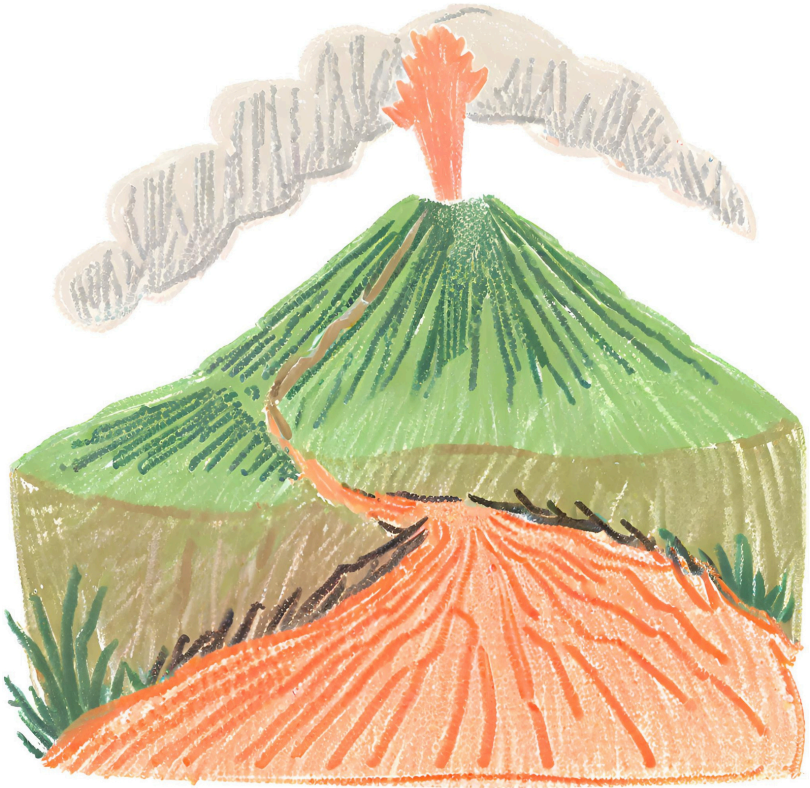
...BOOM! Went the time machine.

When the time machine was silent, the wolf opened the door nervously. He peeked out and saw big, fearsome dinosaurs. He realised he was not in the castle anymore.

So, the wolf tried to press some buttons to get home but the time machine was not working. He realised it was broken. Stepping out, dinosaurs started to chase the wolf. He fell into the river and escaped.

He managed to find the time machine again and discovered a hidden lever and pulled it. The time machine was reset and took the wolf back to the castle just in time for tea with the King and Queen.

*A story written by Lower Prep
from Heritage School*



The Time Machine

"Wow! This is amazing!" shouted Toby as he slowly opened the door of his super Time Travelling Machine and stepped out into a jungle full of tall, leafy, green trees. Toby looked around and saw a big volcano with lava coming out.

Suddenly, a Spinosaurus ran out from behind a waterfall and jumped into the Time Travelling Machine. Toby ran in after him and tried to shoo him out but the dinosaur was so tall that he started to break the levers and buttons.

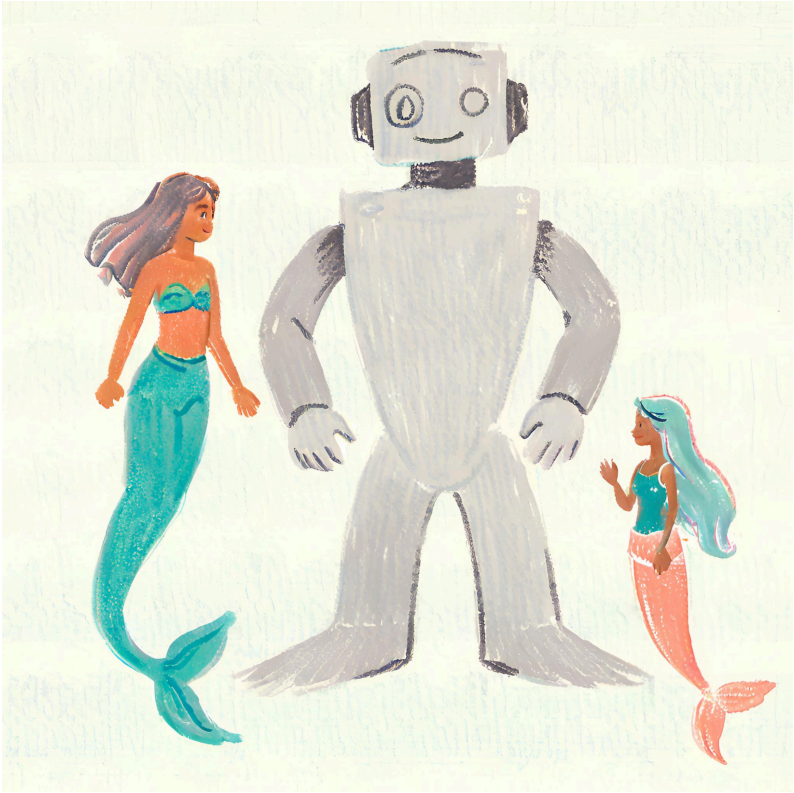
"Oh no!" said Toby as the time machine started to swirl and whirl and bump through the waterfall. The water splashed into the machine and broke it. There was smoke everywhere and then a fire started!

Luckily, a Brachiosaurus saw what happened and started to suck up cold water from the waterfall. The Brachiosaurus quickly squirted the water onto the fire to put it out.

The Spinosaurus fell out of the Time Machine and ran off towards the volcano. Toby looked sad because his machine was broken, the Brachiosaurus noticed and helped by sucking the water out of it.

Luckily, Toby managed to fix the levers and buttons and he zoomed back to the playground at Oakhyrst Grange School.

*A story written by Kindergarten Class
from Oakhyrst Grange School*



The Time Machine in the Sea

Once upon a time, in an ocean far away, there was a lost time machine deep in the water.

One day, a mermaid found the time machine. Suddenly, a robot appeared from the time machine scaring the mermaid. She accidentally whacked her tail and the time machine stopped working. She saw that the robot was friendly and so they tried to fix the machine together.

But the time machine wouldn't flash and they couldn't make it work. The robot started to get sad because he couldn't go back home if the machine was broken.

But, one day, an asteroid came down from space, across the sky and hit the time machine.

The time machine started to make funny noises and the mermaid whacked it again with her tail and this time the machine started to flash different colours.

It was working! Finally, the robot could go back home. But he decided to ask the mermaid if she would like to go with him. The mermaid said yes and they both entered the machine.

With a bang and a shake, the amazing time machine teleported them back to the robot's planet and they lived happily ever after.

*A story written by Reception class
from The Gower School*



A Time Travelling Christmas

Once upon a time and far, far away, there lived a happy family in a little cottage.

Today they were very sad though because it was Christmas day and they had woken up and there were no presents from Santa! What had happened? They decided to have some breakfast and hang some decorations on the Christmas tree to cheer themselves up.

One of the baubles looked a bit dirty so the little girl, Sarah, gave it a rub to try and clean it. Suddenly there was a 'whoosh' and she whizzed backwards in the air.

Once she stopped whooshing, she looked around her and realised she was in Santa's house and the date on the calendar said it was Christmas Eve - she had travelled back in time!

Suddenly, a worried elf appeared and told her that Santa had a cold and was too poorly to deliver the presents. Sarah wanted to help! The elf sprinkled some magic dust on her and she got into the sleigh.

She worked all night to deliver presents to everyone in the whole world! The last presents she delivered were for her family.

They would be so happy when they woke up on Christmas Day!

*A story written by Reception class
from Thornton College*



Sheepy's Magical Adventure

One stormy night, in an American field, a fluffy sheep called Sheepy found an old magical time clock buried in mud. She discovered a button that took her inside the clock.

Sheepy pushed a cog and suddenly zoomed to the pyramids in Egypt!

She climbed out and saw a dark, crumbling cave that Sheepy was excited to explore. Nervously, she crept inside and found a big strawberry cake. Sheepy thought: - how did it get there? It looked very yummy. She ate it all up! It belonged to a creepy Mummy (covered in green slime), who was very angry Sheepy had eaten its cake.

The Mummy chased Sheepy so she ran as fast as she could and luckily found the time clock again. Sheepy got back in but it took her to see Guy Fawkes in London! He asked her to blow up the Houses of Parliament but she said "NO!" She clambered back into the magical clock and this time it took her back to her field in America.

Sheepy was exhausted after her adventure, so she went to bed. When she woke up the time clock was gone. She didn't know if it was a dream or not...

*A story written by RM
from Thorpe Hall School*



'Dream Big!'

One gloomy rainy day, there was a little excited girl called Meena. Meena was playing in her room and looked under her bed to find something shiney and gigantic under her bed!

She wondered if it was a time machine because it had buttons to change the year on it. Meena saw her favourite book about Amelia Earhart, who was a famous woman pilot.

Meena opened the book interestedly and said: 'Aha!' Meena chose 1928 when Amelia crossed the ocean.

Meena changed into her pilot dress-up costume and stepped into the time-machine. Meena changed the year to 1928 and pressed the big red button. She took her Amelia Earhart book with her.

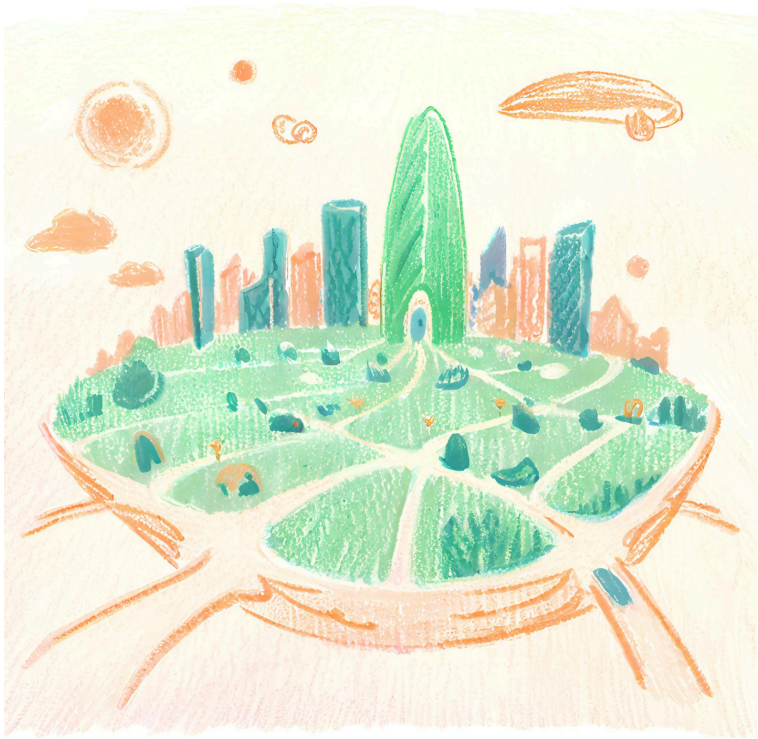
The machine started shaking and Meena screamed!

Suddenly she opened the door and was shocked! There were lots of old aeroplanes and Amelia Earhart fixing her aeroplane.

Meena nervously tapped on Amelia's shoulder. Amelia slowly turned around and said: 'Hello, what's your name little girl?', 'I want to be like you and fly!' said Meena. 'Dream big. If you want to do something, do it!' replied Amelia.

Meena suddenly work up in her bedroom holding the book but couldn't find the time machine under her bed anymore!

*A story written by Year 1b
from Avon House Preparatory School*



Flying to the Future

One dark, damp night a clever scientist was stirring his potion when suddenly it turned into a dusty, old time machine.

Slowly he stepped into the machine and he vanished in a flash!

As he landed, he couldn't believe his eyes. Up in the air, he could see people and creatures flying about and doing loop-de-loops!

The scientist stepped foot onto a soft powder which was just like marshmallows. He looked around and he was surprised to see a man looking very familiar- it was his future self!

He must have been taken into the future! The scientist asked his future self "How old are you?". He replied "I am 125".

"Wow! That means I have travelled 50 years into the future!!"

The time traveller took the old man's bony hand and together they flew over the land. There were no cars, trains, boats or aeroplanes. The old man explained that humans could now fly so they no longer needed them.

The world looked greener and more alive. The mad scientist loved that there was no more pollution.

Nearby, he saw his time machine so he said goodbye to his future self and whizzed back in time to his lab.

*A story written by Year 2
from Brackenfield School*



Adventures in the Time Machine

Herbert Wells and his sister Rosie were in the kitchen when, all of a sudden, a time machine appeared! Herbert was suspicious and quickly stepped back. However, Rosie, always curious, decided they should go in.

Straight away Rosie pushed a button marked AD61. On his pocket watch Herbert saw the time whizzing backwards. Finally the door opened.

"A dark, spooky forest! Let's explore" said Rosie running rapidly forwards. Herbert wasn't sure but the time machine vanished! In the forest they bumped into Boadicea!

There was a loud shout and before they realised it they were in the middle of a fast, furious battle against Romans - big, tough men, as big as a door! They could hear cries of wounded people and the slashing of swords.

Boadicea realised she was losing and pulled out a bottle. "Is it fruit punch?" asked Rosie. Herbert quickly grabbed the bottle. "None of you drink it. You will die!" he said dramatically. "It is better for us to die with poison than get our heads chopped off by the Romans!"

At that moment the Time Machine appeared. Herbert grabbed Boadicea and her daughters. They all tumbled into the machine and pressed the button '1866'. They crashed back into the kitchen deciding Boadicea would return to AD61 when it was safe to do so

*A story written by Year 2
from Heritage School*



The Time Machine

One exciting and surprising day, a boy called Jack stepped out of his cosy house. Out of the corner of his eye he spotted something unexpected. Jack jumped back, freaked out by the sight in front of him...

There was something shiny and metallic emerging from the bush!

Jack was interested in the strange object, he crept on his tip toes towards the bush, keeping a lookout for spies, strangers or even... aliens!

The mystery item was about the size of basketball with strange markings and a colossal, violet button on it. Jack couldn't resist it, he quickly hit the button. Suddenly the mystery item grew to the size of an elephant.

Jack realised that it was a Time Machine, he leapt inside and slammed the door shut. The machine started to shake; Jack was confused but excited.

After a little while, the machine stopped with a jerk, Jack climbed out, he realised he was not at home anymore...

He recognised the cliff and the lady in front of him. It was Mary Anning, and he could see the giant eye of an ichthyosaur being chipped out of the rock!

*A story written by Year 2
from King's School Plymouth*



Time Machine Story

Once upon a time, a strong, kind boy called Ash and his lovely little sister Lily were sneaking suspiciously in their grandmother's loft. Clutter was scattered all around the old, dark attic. In the middle was something odd.

There was a shiny clock on it. At the back they saw two circular mirrors reflecting rainbows all around the room. Two smooth buttons beeped quietly.

Ash reached out slowly and touched the mysterious machine. He wound up the ticking clock. Lily heard the metallic ringing as she pulled the lever. The button marked AD lit up.

Suddenly, they were spinning in a white cloud of dust. Their stomachs started to jump and dance. They felt fizzy in their feet and hands. In the blink of an eye they arrived.

All around them were tall, frightening buildings. It was quiet, except for the gentle, high-pitched whirr of electric cars. They breathed in the fresh, unpolluted air. The London Eye hovered over the city. They spotted the reflective Walkie Talkie casting strange shadows. It now had an antenna on the roof! The Shard was higher than before - as high as the soaring aeroplanes.

Soon, it was teatime and Lily and Ash hurried home.

*A story written by Year 1
at London Christian School*



A Whole New World

A long time ago, there was a mind-blowing scientist called Ariya who longed to travel the world.

Among her many inventions was a magical time machine. One day, she stepped through the purple portal and strapped herself into the time machine.

She zoomed through time and landed in the incredible land of dinosaurs. The sounds of roaring T Rex's made her nervous but also excited. Suddenly, one of the dinosaurs dashed towards her with its mouth wide open. Ariya scrambled back on to the time machine and pressed go!

She found herself in the mythical Roman Stadium with gladiators fighting fiercely with honour. Swords clashed and crowds cheered. Ariya had gone way back in time! She had to move on.

The dial on the time machine read 1666, Ariya could smell strong smoke and see houses on fire. She started running fast, her phone slipped out of her pocket onto the burning ashes under her feet.

In the time machine she pressed home and to her surprise she arrived to a Whole New World! Cars were flying, robots were walking and trees were upside down! I'll call my friend Ariya thought and reached for her phone but where was it.

A story written by Year 2
from Lyndhurst Preparatory School



The Frozen Star

Mr Wondrake was an inventor. He had crooked eyes and lightning streaks in his hair.

One day he found a frozen star inside a glowing sphere. He picked it up and used the pencil behind his ear to crack it open. Inside was a magic map which took him to a cave. Inside the cave was a machine. It was shiny and made a clicking noise when he pressed a big blue button.

He climbed inside. The time machine started to shake and he closed his eyes. Suddenly he was in a warm cave (the cave before was cold). He walked out of the cave and saw a steamy jungle.

In front of him was a baby protoceratops and he stroked it. He was amazed, because he had gone back to the time of the dinosaurs!

Mr Wondrake wanted to explore and he could hear lots of noises. He saw pteranodons flying in the sky and could see triceratops in the river. Suddenly he heard a roar. A t-rex! He ran back to the time machine. He climbed in and pressed the button. Phew! He was back in the cold cave.

But guess what? The protoceratops was in the back seat!

A story written by Form 1
from St Wylan's School



100 Years From Now

Once upon a time, whilst Miss Keenan was cleaning her attic, she stumbled upon a dusty, old time machine. With wide eyes and a racing heart, she wheeled it into our classroom and promised an adventure beyond our wildest dreams.

As we stepped inside, excitement bubbled in our bellies like a glass of fizzy pop. With a whoosh and a flash, we found ourselves at school 100 years in the future. Stafford Prep. School shined like a crystal palace, with gold walls and floors that twinkled like stars. Everything was glittery and bright, like walking through a rainbow.

Giggles and gasps filled the air as we met future students, dressed in smart uniforms that changed colour with every step. Instead of books, iPads floated beside them, displaying lessons with a touch of their fingers.

The classrooms were alive with robots whizzing around marking and giving out worksheets. Outside, the playground stretched for miles, filled with flying cars, hoverboards and cupcakes.

Finally, we said goodbye to our new friends and stepped back into the time machine. As we returned to our familiar classroom, our hearts were full of excitement for the future.

The End.

A story written by Year 2
from Stafford Grammar School



The Time Machine

In a dark and dusty garage, working under a dim light, there was an inventor called Joe making a new machine to help save money for the poor. As he was putting in the final screws, it suddenly turned into a time machine and teleported him back in time!

He opened his eyes and saw that he had ended up in the middle of a field during World War 2. Bullets were shooting down from the sky. His heart was pumping so much that it was like the bombs were coming out of his chest.

After the shock had passed, he looked to his left and saw his grandfather, Jack, who he recognised from pictures on the mantel piece.

Suddenly, he heard a whistling noise in the air. He realised it was a bomb! His grandfather pushed him with great force out of the way, with Joe pulling Jack with him by the collar.

As they hit the ground, they tumbled back into the time machine. Jack was relieved that they had made a time machine and could escape from the battle.

At last, they were now safe but this time, both Joe and Jack were transported to the ice-age.

A story written by Year 2
from The River School



The Great Fire of London

The year was 1666. I quickly realised that I had travelled back in time to The Great Fire of London. The fire was spreading quickly. The wooden houses with straw roofs were burning fast! People were rushing to get water and were using leather buckets to throw water onto the fire. It was so hot, but there was no time to lose, it was all hands to the pump, literally!

I grabbed a pump but found it such hard work having to pump the squirters. I then tried using the hooks to pull down the houses that were built so close together. The crackling embers were floating down and surrounding me. People were scared, screaming and shouting for help in between coughing because of the thick, smelly, choking smoke.

I watched people carrying their possessions and getting onto boats on the River Thames to sail to Manchester. I even saw Samuel Pepys bury his treasured cheese and wine!

When it was all over, I was shocked to see the City of London had been destroyed. Homes and St Paul's Cathedral gone, and unfortunately six people died.

All because a baker, called Thomas Farriner, burnt some bread on Pudding Lane!

A story written by Prep 1
from Wilmslow Preparatory School



The tale of the brave knight and the time machine

There was once a brave knight who lived in a dark, gloomy castle. She wore shiny, silver armor and carried a strong shield.

One evening, straight after dinner, Lilee built a time machine using metal and wood. She flopped into the time machine. Suddenly, with a poof, the time machine spun around until it stopped. She escaped the machine and heard loud thumping and a roar.

Then she saw she was in a ginormous, green rainforest. She looked around and saw so many dinosaurs and one was a T-rex. A spikey stegosaurus crunched and munched on the time machine. Lilee felt anxious but she saw a T-rex coming towards her.

The slimy green t-rex helped the knight to build a brand new time machine using metal and wood. She jumped into the new time machine and went whoof back home... but a dragon was waiting for her. The spikey, red dragon was looking at Lilee.

Then the dragon chased her around the castle. Lilee took her sword and tried to fight the dragon but she didn't reach her sword in time so the dragon had a chance to eat her!

*A story written by Year 1
from Parsons Green Prep School*



Tim and Time Machine

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Tim. He went into the forest and found a big rabbit. His mum said not to go, but he went anyway.

The rabbit gave him a magic time machine. Tim accidentally pressed a button, and he flew to 1916. There he met a girl named Dalila, well Diana for short, who helped him fix the time machine.

Together, they climbed a mountain and defeated a slime monster that was as tall as a house and had glowing eyes. The slime monster roared loudly, but Tim and Diana bravely fought back.

After a fierce battle, they managed to outsmart the monster and retrieve a missing piece for the time machine. With the time machine repaired, they travelled to the year 2024.

Tim and Diana, a new friend, fell in love. Diana had her own time machine that could go to the year 3000.

The adventures of Tim and Diana continued in the next story, "Tim and the Time Machine 2."

*A story written by Year 2
from Parsons Green Prep School*



The Time Machine

One cold afternoon, Geraldine and her family went to the beach. As they were walking along the golden sand, they spotted a fossil at the mouth of a dark cave. 'I think it's a dragon tooth,' said Geraldine with surprise.

Later on, they took the hard and interesting fossil to their favourite museum in London. The archaeologists looked curiously at it and decided to build a time machine to take them deep into the past and discover all they could about dragons.

The Dragon Machine had wide wings with a capsule that travelled at the speed of light into the past. It took them to the land of dragons. Immediately, the explorers saw a fierce dragon with pointy teeth. It was a match!

They found the dragon they had been searching for. This dragon had shiny, scaly skin. It was muscular and beautiful. It was all white to blend with its cold environment. The explorers called it Nicold.

Nicold then laid an enormous egg, like an ostrich. The huge egg was taken back to the Time Machine and brought back to 2024. Will the egg hatch?

*A story written by Year 2
from Hemdean House School*



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