



**THANKS TO ALL OF THE BUCK A BOOK
KIDS FOR SHARING YOUR STORIES!**

UNTIL NEXT TIME, KEEP ON READING!

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

LIGHTING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

**2025
STORIES & DRAWINGS**
BY BUCK A BOOK KIDS



2025
Buck a Book Committee

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<https://employmentskillscenter.org/fundraisers/buck-a-book/>



Lighting the Way to the Future

**Stories and Drawings
by
the Buck a Book Kids
of Carlisle Area School District**





Learning and growing is important.

LIGHTING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

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To obtain additional copies, contact:

Employment Skills Center
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About Wordy Worm & Buck a Book

Wordy Worm is the mascot of the Buck a Book Literacy Campaign held annually in Cumberland County PA. During the campaign, students in Carlisle Area School District's seven elementary schools pledge to read books while gathering donations of support from family, friends, and community members. Individuals, businesses, and organizations sponsor the campaign by donating funds and fun prizes for the kids. This year, we are celebrating 20 years of Buck a Book!

All funds collected go directly to support adult literacy and education programs offered to the community through the Employment Skills Center. Kids get excited about reading and feel pride in helping adults in the community.

The Buck a Book committee plans events and activities that encourage kids to become life-long readers. During our 2025 campaign, our Buck a Book Kids were asked to write stories using a writing prompt for this year's theme, "Lighting the Way to the Future." The following stories were selected for publication.

Thank You!

The Buck a Book Committee would like to thank Dr. Colleen Friend, Superintendent of Carlisle Area School District, and Malinda Mikesell, District Reading Supervisor, as well as the elementary school principals, teachers, librarians, and staff for supporting the 2025 Buck a Book Literacy Campaign and for making reading a priority in our community.

We appreciate the hard work of the English Honor Society at Carlisle High School for their volunteer efforts in determining essay winners for the campaign. Special thanks to our intern, Isabella McCrea, a senior at Big Spring High School, for her contributions to the campaign and the Wordy Book cover design.

Thank you to M&T Bank and the M&T Charitable Foundation for continuing to support the campaign as our premier sponsor, as well as our other contributing sponsors and prize donors.

As always, we are grateful for the support and generosity of our Buck a Book committee members, community sponsors and donors, guest readers, parents and families, volunteers, and all of our Buck a Book Kids.

To learn more about the Employment Skills Center and the Buck a Book Literacy Campaign, visit www.employmentskillscenter.org.

“Lighting the Way to the Future” Authors

Odesza, Kindergarten, Mt Holly Springs Elementary School.....	6
Rood, Kindergarten, Hamilton Elementary School.....	6
Kezian, Kindergarten, Hamilton Elementary School.....	7
Molly, Kindergarten, Bellaire Elementary School.....	7
Kavaya, Kindergarten, Bellaire Elementary School	8
Lucy, Kindergarten, Bellaire Elementary School	8
Kingston, Kindergarten, Mooreland Elementary School.....	9
Verena, Kindergarten, Mooreland Elementary School	9
Masen, Grade 1, North Dickinson Elementary School	10
Madelyn, Grade 1, Hamilton Elementary School	10
Javier, Grade 1, Bellaire Elementary School	11
Gabrielle, Grade 1, Crestview Elementary School	11
Allie, Grade 1, Crestview Elementary School	12
Luna, Grade 1, LeTort Elementary School.....	12
Aubrie, Grade 2, North Dickinson Elementary School	13
Kairo, Grade 2, Hamilton Elementary School.....	13
Ava, Grade 2, Hamilton Elementary School	13
Benjamin, Grade 2, Bellaire Elementary School.....	13
Aarian, Grade 2, Bellaire Elementary School	13
Murtala, Grade 2, Crestview Elementary School.....	13
Gianna G., Grade 2, Crestview Elementary School	14
Hasibullah, Grade 2, Mooreland Elementary School.....	14
Oliver, Grade 2, Mooreland Elementary School.....	14
Elyse, Grade 3, Mt Holly Springs Elementary School	14
Meliah, Grade 3, Mt Holly Springs Elementary School	15
Evelyn, Grade 3, North Dickinson Elementary School	15
Mackenzie, Grade 3, LeTort Elementary School.....	15
Naomi, Grade 3, LeTort Springs Elementary School	15
Tristan, Grade 3, Hamilton Elementary School	16
Evan, Grade 3, Bellaire Elementary School	16

Accents from where they live and where they come from. Now, that is my very last thing. Really what things could be like in 20 years, is possibly a couple more i-phones and presidents. If things get bad we’ll be eating Jell-O like in *The Lorax* with no trees. Realistically, that won’t happen until at least 100 years from now. A few more animals will be extinct. They might bring some back too. Some new clothing options will be in fashion too. Another thing is that animals could adapt to more or less coverage in their body to cool off due to climate change. I wish that we could find a way to have A lightbulb literally appear above your head when you have an idea, instead of having to awkwardly read someone’s mind. There will probably be more people using white Christmas lights instead of colored. But do you know the craziest, wackiest, most bizarre thing that would happen? Wait for it... FLYING CARS! This is the craziest thing because it is th3 one thing everyone says couldn’t happen. So happy birthday Wordy and enjoy all your presents. Come again in 20 years! That is what could happen in 20 years.

Eli, Grade 5, Mooreland

Hi! My name is Eli and, in this story, I am going to talk about what I think the future is going to be like in 20 years. In 20 years, restaurant will give us a lot of options. We’ll be able to write our orders on devices brought to us by robots. Our robots will deliver the food. I think we will have bigger bowls than we have now. This will be great for ginormous bowls of ice cream! Each group of people spending time together will have individual pods where there are TVs on the ceiling so that you can watch TV if you want or talk to people with you if you choose. I think that in the future, our houses and how we will live will look different. We will have devices help us with everything that we need. We will have robots that talk to Amazon and order things for us. I think that houses will look like mega-mansions. Because we will use robots for nearly everything, each house will have a butler. The butler can be human, or it can be a robot. The butler will help with cleaning and things around the house. Lastly, the one thing that I will not change is that family will still be important. No matter how much we may use robots or be able to use devices, our need and love for family will always be there.

Traveling is fun to get away and explore. You get to meet new people and eat new foods and see different places. I can't wait to see what happens in twenty years. I hope that the world will be a better place for everyone in it.

Zayden, Grade 5, Bellaire

In 20 years I think this is what things will be like. I will be 30 years old. My sister will be 27 years old and the year will be 2044. Also my dad and mom will be 65 and 60 years old. In 20 years this is what I think phones will be like. First, I think phones will have really good camera quality. I also think the phones will be clear excepts for the apps. And last I think the phone could transform into different deliveries such as a watch, i-Pad, TV, and game console. Next, this is what I think cars will be like in 20 years. The cars should be like the phones. The cars should transform into jet, submarines, and electric scooters. The, is writing I think writing will be better. Your hands won't hurt because it's like telekinesis. Whatever you think it goes on your paper. Last, is growing food. You can buy super soil. When you put the seed in the super soil, it will only take 2 hours to grow the food you put in the super soil. That's what I think stuff will be like in 20 years.

Keyaira, Grade 5, Bellaire

There are several ways I would be different in 20 year. I'm ten so in 20 years I would be 30 years old. Well, in 20 years I might have kids which is a big responsibility. That is one way it would be different for me in 20 years. Another way it would be different for me in 20 years is I'm going to have a car and maybe even my own house. I will start to have to pay the bills and have a job. And I will start taking care of my beloved grandmother instead of her taking care of me. I might have a husband and change my last name. I will have to worry about waking up to get my kids to school. My beloved mom might be a grandma and that would be different in 20 years. I might have my own pet which is another big responsibility. I will be out of school by then which would be very very different. I will have to go shopping for my kids. And I will have to start driving myself to places. I will have to make money for strollers, car seats bottles, pacifiers, diapers and wipes, food, etc. Then I will have to start using the stove to cook dinner. I will have to make sure I'm on time to pick up my kids from school. And I might also need to hire a babysitter. I'm going to live in a very very very big big big big mansion. Those are some of the several ways how it would be different for me in 20 years when I will be 30 years old.

Avery, Grade 5, Bellaire

This year Wordy will be 20. Happy birthday! I guess in 20 more years the world will get crazier and more high-tech. I will be 30 years old and Wordy will be 40. That means Wordy is 10 years older than me. Things might get even more high-tech to the point that houses could fly around to be where ever they want, or you can reach through windows. There might even be a chance that you could be eligible to get an everything medicine. That would mean only one doctor's appointment a year. Maybe if we got lucky books could read themselves and could implant their knowledge inside our brains. That might have been the last thing, but now my new last thing is that animals can talk, not just talk, but talk in accents.

Ben, Grade 3, Bellaire Elementary School16

Olivia, Grade 3, Bellaire Elementary School.....17

Amelia, Grade 3, Crestview Elementary School17

Hannah, Grade 3, Mooreland Elementary School17

Ariana, Grade 3, Mooreland Elementary School 17

Dean, Grade 3, Mooreland Elementary School18

Stella, Grade 4, Hamilton Elementary School18

Raphael, Grade 4, Hamilton Elementary School18

Thayer, Grade 4, Hamilton Elementary School18

Gianna D., Grade 4, Bellaire Elementary School 19

Eliot, Grade 4, Crestview Elementary School19

Julia, Grade 4, LeTort Elementary School19

Genevieve, Grade 4, LeTort Elementary School19

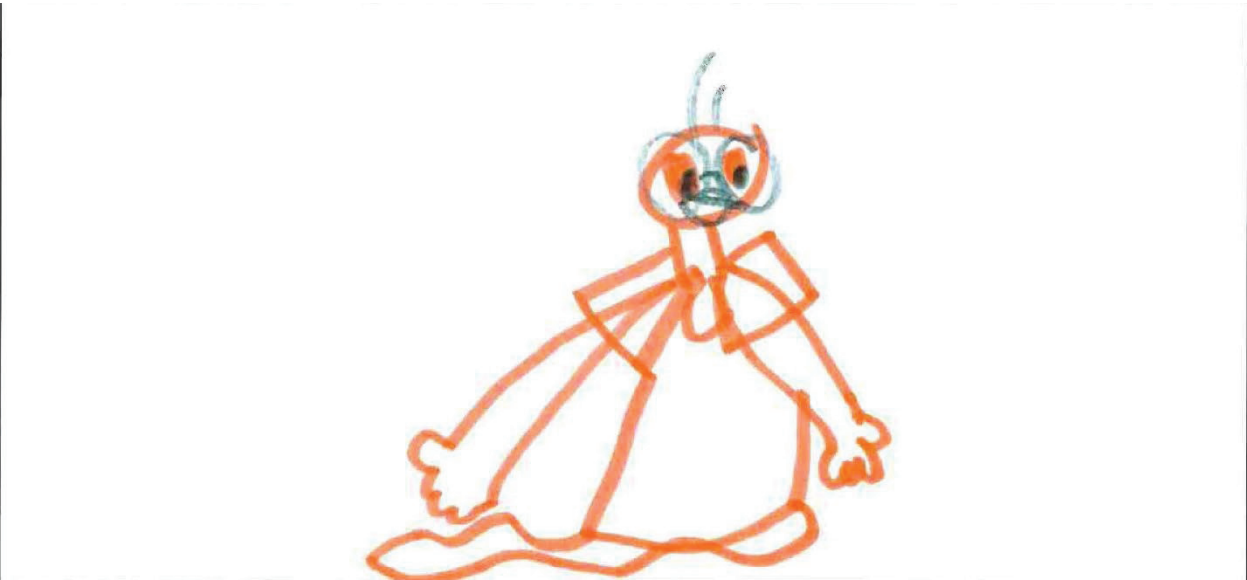
Zayden, Grade 5, Bellaire Elementary School20

Keyaira, Grade 5, Bellaire Elementary School.....20

Avery, Grade 5, Bellaire Elementary School20

Eli, Grade 5, Mooreland Elementary School21

Odesza, Kindergarten, Mt Holly Springs



Wordy Worm will be 40! I will be 25!

Rood, Kindergarten, Hamilton



I will be older, I will have a girlfriend, I will be able to fulfill my dream of working as an artist (painting), take care of my parents, I will have a professional career to earn a lot of money and will be an investor. I will be blessed by God.

Gianna D., Grade 4, Bellaire

Wordy is turning twenty this year and here is how the world will be different for Wordy and me in the next twenty years. First, we will all be grown up, and we will have access to high quality education, and because of Wordy’s help throughout the years we will all be better reading and critical thinking. Second, because of our access to better education we will all be able to provide for ourselves, have our own cars and houses. Maybe even our very own beautiful family. Finally, the world will be different in twenty years for me because I will be helping my own child with their own Wordy Worm’s Buck a Book Literacy Campaign.

Eliot, Grade 4, Crestview

This is how the world will be 20 years from now. There won’t be as many adults that can’t read. There can hopefully be more libraries so we can check out more books. And maybe even bigger libraries in the school district. And that there will be enough money for everyone that wants books can get books. The future can also hold reading at a young age so you’ll be an expert by the time you’re an adult. That is how the world will be in 20 years.

Julia, Grade 4, LeTort

In 20 years Wordy will continue helping our community and children. Wordy has helped so many people with school to accomplish their education. This also encourages students to continue reading books, which helps them advance their skills. Reading has become fun, and it has been very helpful for me. The more I continue to read, I start to understand and comprehend what I am reading. I enjoy reading now. My mom is enrolled in classes at the Employment Skills Center, and she pushes herself to complete every class she is enrolled in. Wordy Worm in my opinion is a very helpful program for everyone to join. My family looks for Wordy to continue being a part of the Buck A Book Campaign in the future.

Genevieve, Grade 4, LeTort

In twenty years, I think there will be lots of cool things around. I will be 29 years old. I will have a house, a job, and maybe a family. But I would barely be at my house, because I will be traveling the world.

I think that we’re going to invent flying cards by then, so we can travel the world a lot faster and whenever we want. The cars can drive like a regular car, but if you press a button, the wings fly out.

The first place I would visit is Paris. I would like to see the Eiffel Tower and get a baguette. Next I would go to the Great Wall of China and walk the whole things. Then I would go visit panda bears in the wild. I would also like a vacation in Hawaii, so I can relax and see all the beaches.

I hope that time machines are invented in twenty years too, so we can travel different places in the past and see what’s going to happen in the future. I would like to visit my ancestors and see how they lived. I would also like to see what happens in the future.

rulers, and markers that I have now. I think every student will be able to have an iPad though. The playgrounds will be more fun. There will not be concrete around them. There may be houses around them, but they will have a black top, just in case it rains. I look forward to retirement at 60 years old, maybe prices will be lower by then!

Dean, Grade 3, Mooreland

When I grow up to be 29, I hope to be an accountant during the week and a chocolatier on the weekends. I will work hard and save my money so I can live with my pet gecko in a modern apartment in Carlisle, PA. In my free time, I will enjoy designing new things with my own 3D printer. I want to get a Chevy but I will walk to the YMCA often. It will be a nice life!

Stella, Grade 4, Hamilton

Have you ever pondered what the future is like? Well, I have a magical way to go twenty years into the future. Just repeat after me to go into the future. “Future time!” Here we are in March 2, 2044. Let’s take a look around the town. Is that a robot that is taking out the trash? Those cars are floating in the air, so is that bus! That RV is as long as a mansion but with a flick of a switch it turns into a regular sized RV. As you can see, the future is looking great so far! The transportation is great, but let’s go see what the people are like. Did you see that four female presidents have been elected in a row!? That boy is riding a flying bicycle. That girl has a pet tiger! Things are pretty strange here in 2044. I think I see a couple of signs over there let’s go check them out. Is that a sign that says “Go check out Mars!?” Oh, and that sign says take a plane to outer space! To sum up, 2044 is looking awesome! I bet you want to know more about 2044, but I’ve got to go. Keep working hard in school and this can become reality. Just remember, the future is up to us!

Raphael, Grade 4, Hamilton

This is what Wordy Worm’s life would be like in 20 years in the future. Wordy Worm would build a house on Jupiter. The houses look like snow globes, and would be made out of books that give off oxygen. He also would design the buildings that people would live in. He also figured out how to get Jupiter oxygen and land. It sounds nice to live on Jupiter but I’m studying here on Earth. As you can see, this is what Wordy Worm’s lime would be like in 20 years in the future.

Thayer, Grade 4, Hamilton

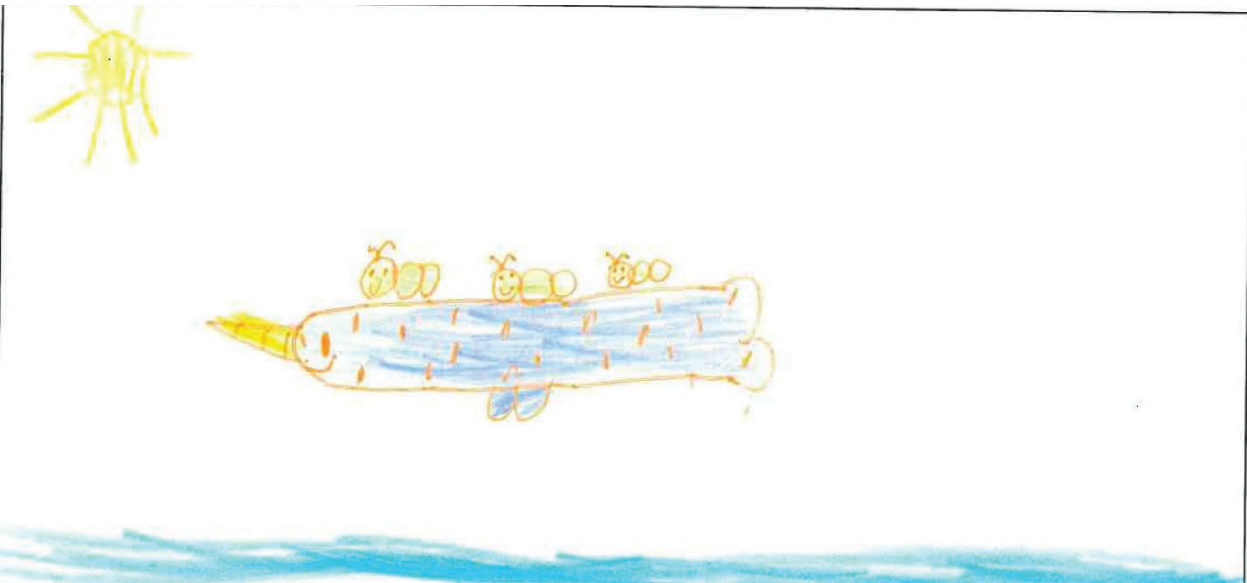
In my mind, 20 years to the future on our planet Earth could be changed in many different ways. To start, there will most likely be a lot of robotically operated things. Additionally, this would lead to a lot less open jobs because they would be power by machines. Next, there could be new space exploration to more planets. Finally, we could have faster and better transportations. To sum up, there are many ways Earth could change in 20 years from now. Wordy Worm and I look forward to exploring some of the changes as we get older.

Kezian, Kindergarten, Hamilton



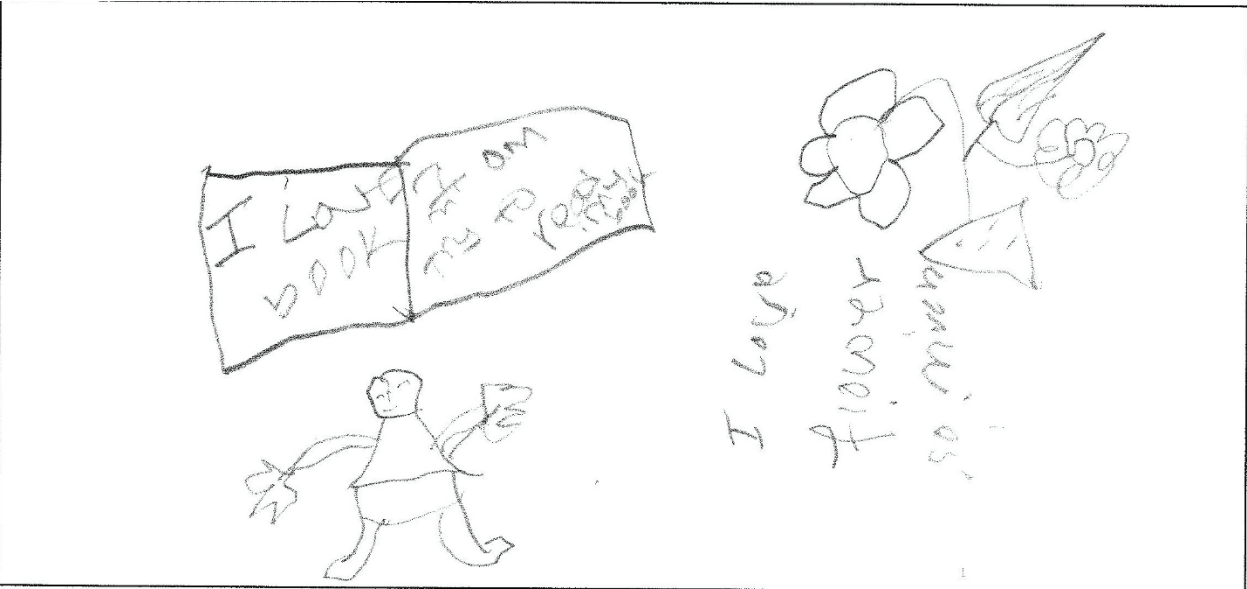
In 20 years, I’m going to be 26 years old. I’m going to be a doctor and be married. I am going to be all grown up and have my own responsibilities, just like the adults around me today. I believe that I’m going to be very pretty and mature. I can’t wait to grow up. I’m going to be very different but still be my own unique beautiful person.

Molly, Kindergarten, Bellaire



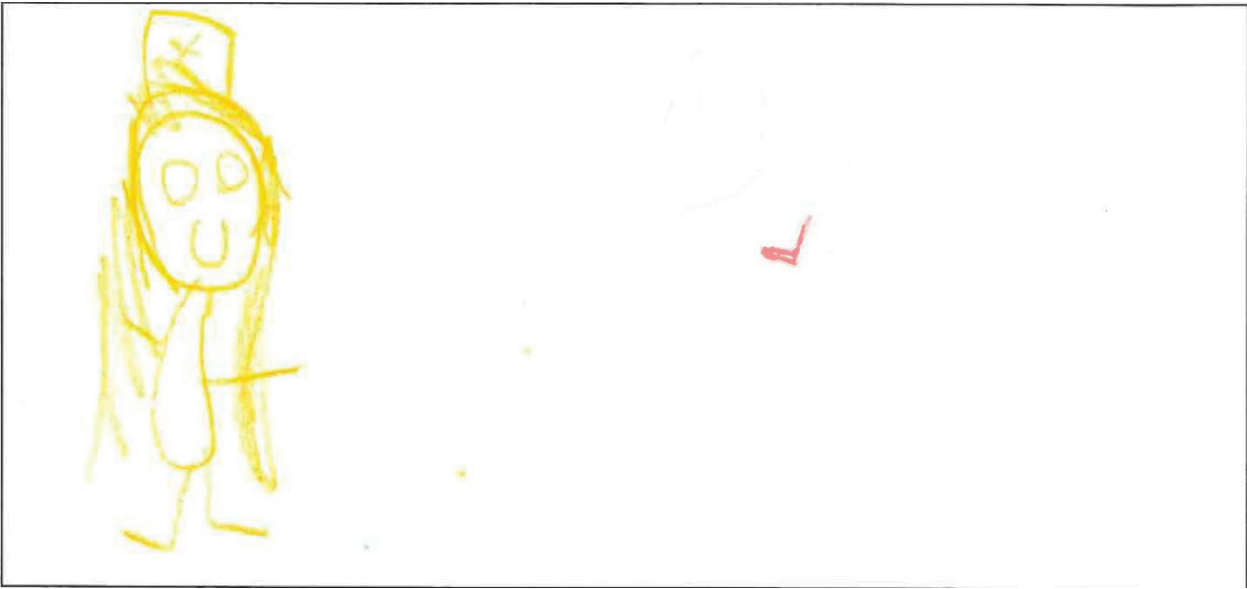
In 20 years Wordy will read to his kids. His kids names are Story, Booky and Steve. When they go on vacation they will ride a narwhal to Australia to see the koalas. Wordy has a happy life. The end!

Kavaya, Kindergarten, Bellaire



In 20 years Wordy will have a library since he loves books. The books will be about lots of things like cupcakes, superheroes and princess or he could write his own book. Wordy can look different too. He could have different glasses on or even have a new friend. Me and Wordy will grow up in 20 years but we both will still love books.

Lucy, Kindergarten, Bellaire



In 20 years I will be a veterinarian. I will help animals. I will fix them if they are hurt or sick no matter what.

Olivia, Grade 3, Bellaire

In 20 years Wordy will be adventurous. One day at the library, Wordy was going to read his special fact book. Suddenly Wordy got sucked into it! At first Wordy could not where he was. “Where am I?” Wordy said to himself. The out of nowhere a dragon swooped down and attacked Wordy! Luckily Wordy jumped onto the dragon, flew to the next page and hit himself on something hard. “Ouch!” Wordy cried, and found himself on The Great Wall of China! “How will I get to the next challenge!?” Wordy said to himself, “I love a good challenge.” Suddenly the dragon flew down and talked!!! “Sorry Wordy, I was just scared, by the way my name is Leo.” So Leo gave Wordy a ride out of the book. The a book monster who was very bug came “Aaaaaa”... “choo!” But he was not scary because he told them he was sick, so Leo came to help by making tea with his hot fire while Wordy gets water and tissues. Once the book monster recovered they were all friends. The end!

Amelia, Grade 3, Crestview

In 20 years I think the world will be different. I think I will have 2 kids. I hope there’s 1 girl and 1 boy. If so they will be named Lila and Max. Next I think that I will be a teacher for 3rd grade. I also think that there will be more libraries/bookstores. I lastly think technology will be a lot more popular than it is now. Those are some ways I think the world will be different.

Hannah, Grade 3, Mooreland

Life in twenty years will be quite different because I could drive! One place I would drive is the bookstore to get books! I bet Wordy Worm would approve of that! I would also drive to the store to buy the food I need, which means I would rely less on my parents. Maybe I won’t drive a car in twenty years and I would fly one of it would drive itself. In twenty years there is going to be a different type of technology. On that type of technology there will be no ads so it won’t waste time, leaving us more time to read. Plus it will be fun for everyone! Also this technology will improve arguments, like a problem solving machine so all people can get along. Lastly in twenty years our world will be different because there will be a cure for cancer, so you can spend more time with your loved ones. My grandma had cancer and I never got to meet her, so I don’t want that to happen to other people. In twenty years there should be a cure. That’s what will happen in twenty years.

Ariana, Grade 3, Mooreland

Hi! My name is Ariana. In this story, I’d like to talk about what it will be like in 20 years. When we go on vacation in 20 years, I think the prices will be higher and wherever we go I will need a lot of money. Different Presidents can change the prices of food, clothes, theatre costs, and gas. I think that by the time I am 29 years old, we will have a president who will raise the prices. If I were to travel to California, Texas, Florida – or anywhere with a beach – it would cost me a lot to get there. When I’m a teacher in 20 years, I think we will have the same materials that I has when I was a kid. Schools don’t get a lot of new things for students. Even though schools change over the years, they don’t get a lot of new materials. I want to be a teacher when I grow up and I think that my students will have the same desks, chairs,

Tristan, Grade 3, Hamilton

This is how the world will change when I am 29 years old. The world will have flying cars and hover boards. Robots will cook for us and do the laundry. I’m not going to have a job, because I will have a job when I am 40 years old. Also, I’m not going to have my own house because I want to live with my parents. I’m going to have a dog. Specifically a Labrador Retriever. And am going to be married, but I’m not going to have kids because I will have kids when I’m 30. I am going to have a PS9. I am going to be smart. To sum up, this is how the world will change by the time I am 29 years old.

Evan, Grade 3, Bellaire

In 20 years I think the world will be very different. I think that the future will help Wordy. It will make his life better. First, I think that we will have a personal feeder that fees you at the same times every day. It can act like a restaurant and feed you cheese burgers and hot dogs. It can make hot foods an cold foods too. Second, you can get a robot that makes your bed so you don’t have to. It can clean your room, vacuum, and mop. The robot can take out the trash and do your homework. Your life would be so easy. Third, you can get a flying bed! Wordy would watch TV in his bed. He wouldn’t need to drive his car to the grocery store, instead he could fly there and shop from his bed. Shopping would be relaxing! Finally, there would be a whole room that has walls that are massive TVs. You could pick a place and feel like you are really there. You could press buttons to move all around. Wordy can “visit” the Shanghai Tower, the Grad Canyon, The Louvre, and the Statue of Liberty. In conclusion the world will be very different in 20 years. Cooking, cleaning, and shopping will be easier, and more fun. We can see many different places without leaving home. I can’t wait!

Ben, Grade 3, Bellaire

First of all, I would like to wish Wordy a happy 20th birthday. I hope you have a fun birthday Wordy! In the future it will be very different in many ways. Life will be easier too. We could have flying vehicles! There will be fast flying cars that can get you from China to America in only 3 hours. People will have flying hover boards that they can use instead of walking to school or to their work. You also won’t need trains anymore because they will fly too. They can hold more people than a plane. Another fun thing could be butler robots. People will have robots that can do work for you. They will be very intelligent. They will also do chores for you so you can relax. They buy you anything you want because they can print money. You will also be able to travel in time. You can go back to the age of the dinosaurs and see them go extinct. You will be able to see your future. You will also change the past. Astronomers will be able o travel to Mars. They will use rockets that are fast and fancy, they will also be the size on mansions. They will have cars on Mars too. They can go off-roading because Mars is very rocky. In conclusion, life will be easier. It will be great and exciting. Wordy has a lot of changes to look forward to.

Kingston, Kindergarten, Mooreland



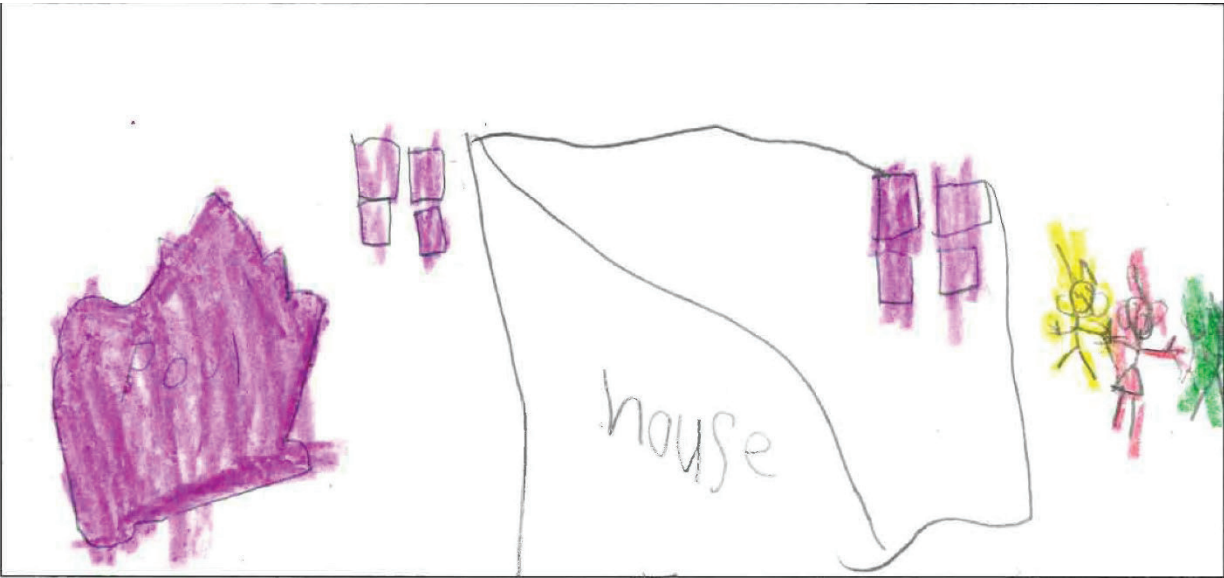
I will be different because I will be a basketball star.

Verena, Kindergarten, Mooreland



In 20 years Wordy and I will have blonde hair. Wordy will have a new shirt. Wordy will be a teacher. And I will be a doctor. We will both be moms.

Masen, Grade 1, North Dickinson



In 20 years I will be married with 2 kids. I will have a big house with a pool. I want to be a police officer to arrest bad guys and take care of people. I can't wait for another 20 years to come!

Madelyn, Grade 1, Hamilton



Wordy and me will be older in 20 more years we would have bigger clothes we will maybe have longer hair or less hair or more hair and will look older and be able to drive and we will maybe finish college!

Meliah, Grade 3, Mt Holly Springs

In twenty years I would be 28. I would be paying bills in twenty years. I would also be moving out of my mom's house. I will probably be married. That's what I would do in twenty years. In twenty years can you guess what else I would be doing? I would have a baby! I would also have a job. I would also open a multi-purpose art room and supply people with art supplies and offer art classes. That is what I would do in twenty years. I twenty years I would... raise my kids to be good people. I would take my kids to church. I would also get my kids toys to play with. I would only want two kids because if I had one he/she would be lonely and I do not want my kids to be lonely. That is what I would also do in twenty years.

Evelyn, Grade 3, North Dickinson

20 years into the future, these events might happen. There might be no red 40 for anyone to eat. Hopefully, there will be lower prices in stores so people can afford food, water, and clothes. Maybe in 20 years, there will be no stealing. Here is the fourth thing that I wrote down... more churches can be here to learn about Jesus, who died on the cross for us. Here is the fifth thing I wrote down... more people believing in the Lord. It makes him happy. Here is the sixth thing I wrote down... more people could believe in the Easter bunny, so he can be very happy that children believe in him/ Here is the seventh thing I wrote down... people can believe in Santa Claus. Even though Santa is magical doesn't mean you can't believe in Santa Claus. Here is the eighth thing I wrote down... there might be more snow when I am 28 years old. Here is the ninth thing I wrote down... there might be more leaves on the ground when I get bigger. Here is the last thing I wrote down... there might be more flowers 20 years from now.

Mackenzie, Grade 3, LeTort

What do you think would happen in 20 years? In 20 years, I think there will be hovering cars, and instead of gas, it would be bubbles. And you know the order of breakfast, lunch, dinner in 20 years I hope it will be breakfast, lunch, breakfast. I think electric hover boards and scooters are less money so I can buy 2 of each because if one dies I have another one to ride. In 20 years I think our houses would be Alexa's. Not shaped like one, it's when you say "Alexa" and you ask it something, it will answer back. I hope parents would get enough money for their kids to go to school, to do gymnastics and at least buy food. In 20 years I might buy every dog in the universe I will buy all the German Shepard Longhairs and every color Lab and just every dog. That is what me and Wordy think will happen in 20 years. Bye!!!

Naomi, Grade 3, LeTort

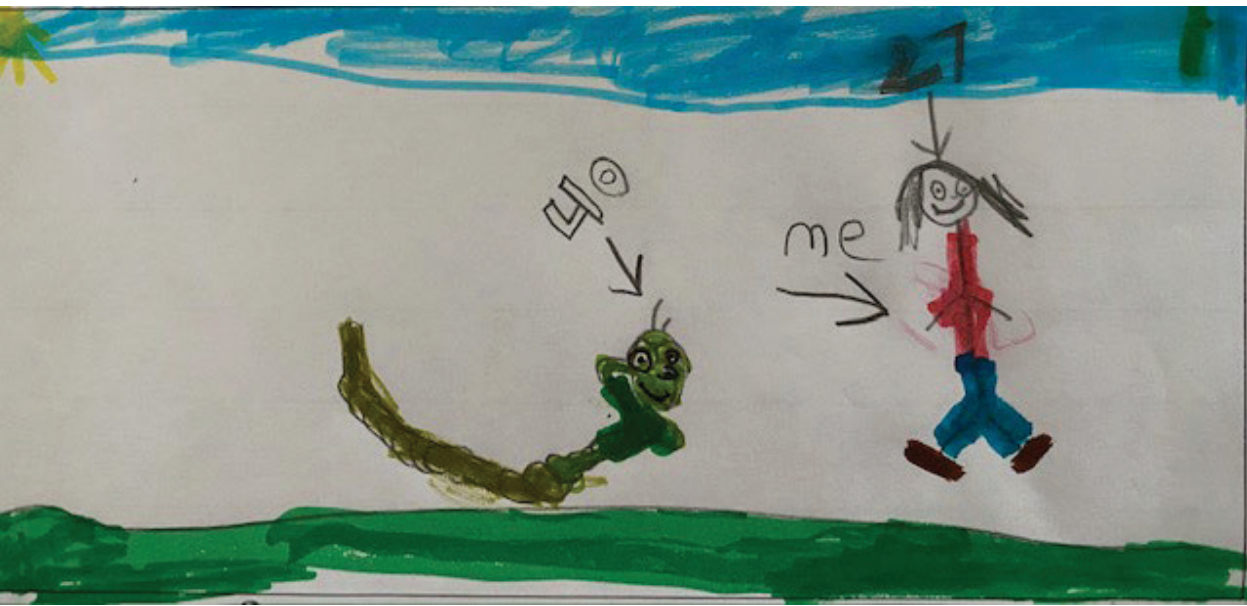
In twenty years, I think California will become its own land (because California is slowly drifting away). I also think that the technology will be upgraded, like iPads could possibly make some holograms and cars can hover. Also will be newly discovered dinosaurs and that orphans will find families. Doctors will discuss a new medicine to cure cancer. I think that scientists are finding a way to clone extinct animals, like the dodo bird and saber tooth tiger.

Allie, Grade 1, Crestview



In 20 years I will be 27 years old and will be teaching 1st grade. Wordy will be 40 years old and greeting people who come into the Employment Skills Center. I will help Wordy teach adults to write and read. Hopefully, we can help people get better jobs.

Luna, Grade 1, LeTort



I believe Wordy will be older, wiser and longer in 20 years!

Aubrie, Grade 2, North Dickinson

It is going to be different because it will have a smart car hopefully one of my friends will make cleaner air. I hope more people will work together. Believe that people will be friendlier. This is what I think the future will be like.

Kairo, Grade 2, Hamilton

In twenty years from now Wordy the worm and I will be learning how to read by robots. But Wordy the worm will always make sure we can read from our books. No matter how much time goes by I will always remember how Wordy taught me to read.

Ava, Grade 2, Hamilton

I think that I will be in college and I will be having a job and I work at the vet. At work at the vet I can help the animals. And that is what think is going to happen in 20 years.

Benjamin, Grade 2, Bellaire

In the future a lot of things will be changed. I will own a mansion and be rich. I will also have a robot butler and buy a fancy suit. In my mansion Wordy will live with me. I'll own a pet dragon and I'll get a cyber truck. I'll have one thousand chandeliers.

Aarian, Grade 2, Bellaire

Happy 20th birthday to Wordy! Here is how the world will be different for both Wordy and me in the nest twenty years. We will both be older and I will be working towards a better future for myself, while I think Wordy will still be helping kids just the way he helped me and so many other kids before me. Wordy has been an incredible help for kids improving literacy and reading comprehension. I know that Wordy will be changing lives in bigger and better ways twenty years in the future.

Murtala, Grade 2, Crestview

Wordy Worm has helped us in many ways by going to the library to read good books. Wordy Worm has inspired me and other children through pre-school which makes us proud of Wordy Worm. Now, Wordy Worm's exciting literacy campaign will be another helpful program by helping the community and our adults by encouraging them to read and help them get a job through employment skills. With the help of our great hero Wordy Worm, we will wok together to build a strong community of hard workers 20 years into the future.