

The Home Forum®

kid
space

YOUR ALIENS HAVE LANDED!

Last month, Kidspace readers were invited to imagine what kind of creature might ooze, zip, scuttle, or hop around Europa, Jupiter's ice-covered moon. You responded with scores of brilliant, thoughtful, and funny pictures and descriptions!

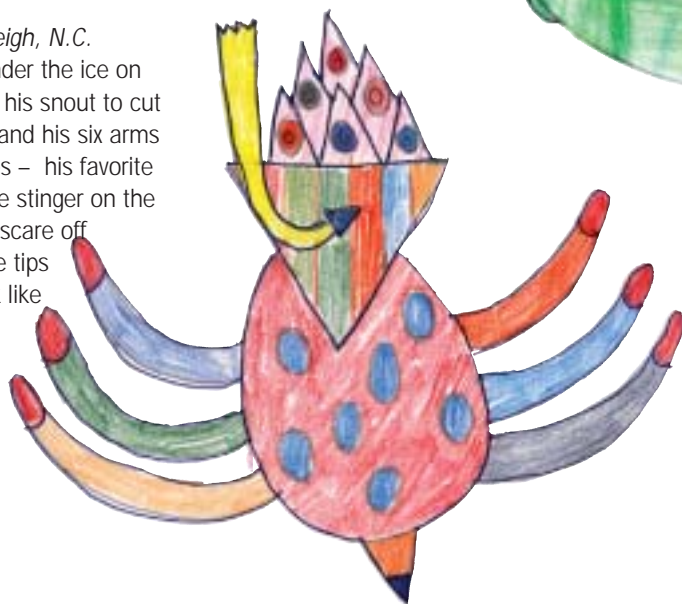
Some creatures could disguise themselves as puddles or ate fog and dirt. They were named 'Mr.' and 'Bobby,' also 'Splongsh' and 'Nilly.' A few spoke French or Italian. One of them is restaurant manager...

All of them, our judges agreed, were exceptional in one way or another. We had a difficult time deciding among them.

The creators of these aliens will each receive a T-shirt with his or her alien on it, copies of the Monitor, and a certificate. Thanks to all!

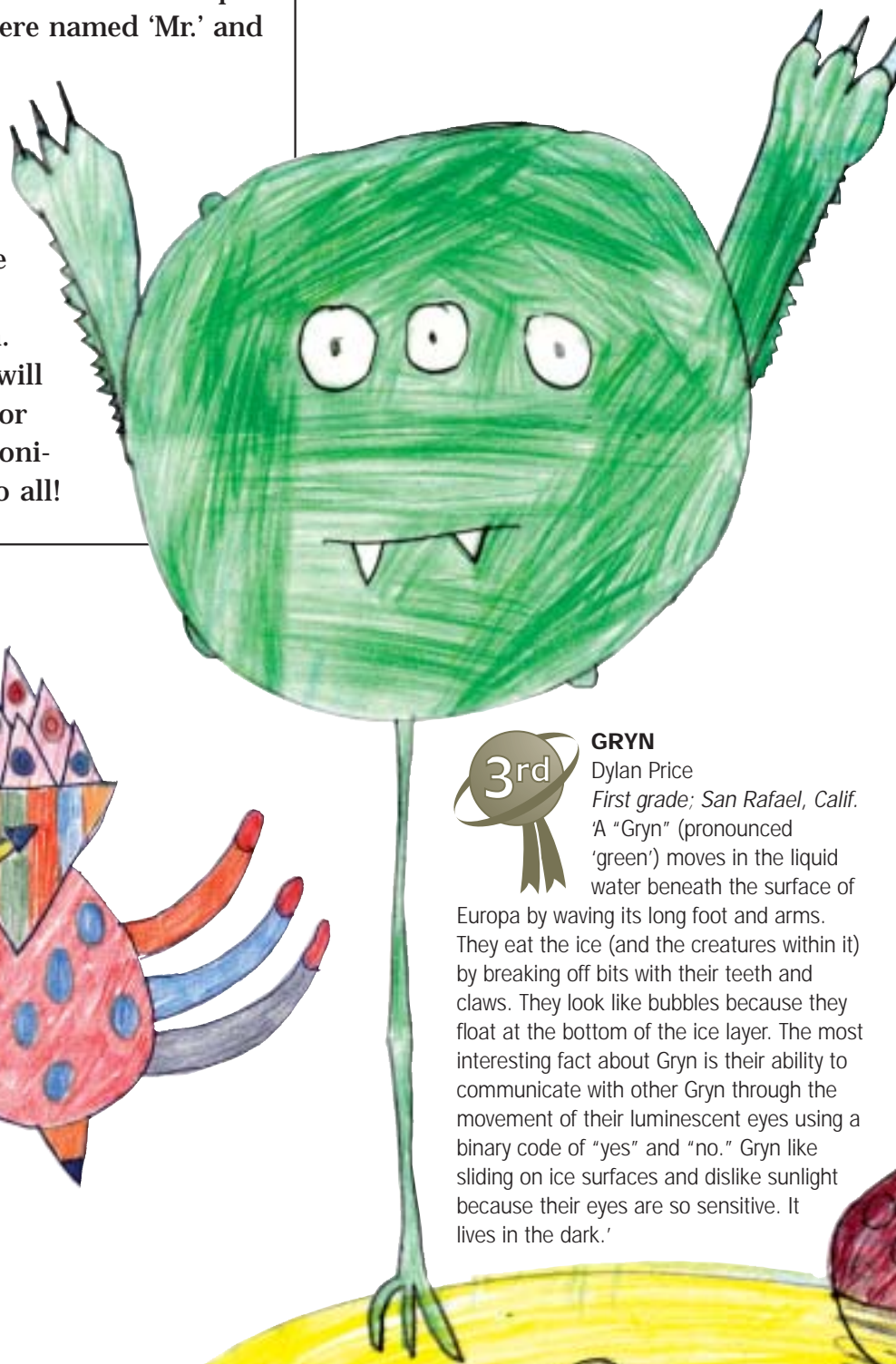
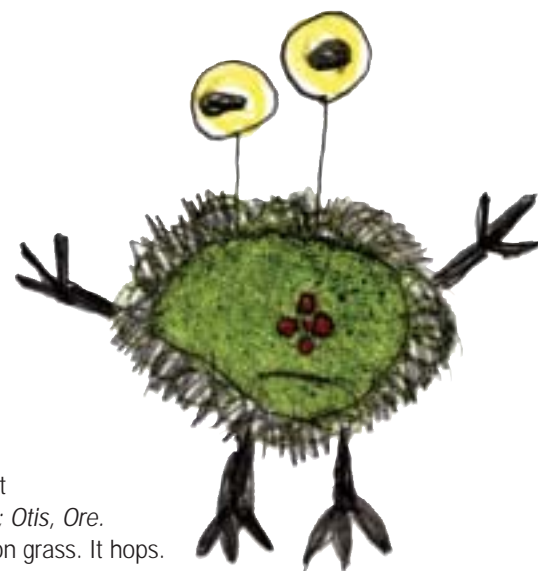
QUBASIE

Hattie Simpson
Third grade; Raleigh, N.C.
'Qubasie lives under the ice on Europa. He uses his snout to cut through the ice, and his six arms to mix up slushies – his favorite food. He uses the stinger on the end of his tail to scare off enemies, and the tips on his arms blink like lightning bugs to communicate.'



ALYIEN

Forest Elliott
Third grade; Otis, Ore.
'It eats moon grass. It hops. It grunts. It rolls around.'



GRYN

Dylan Price
First grade; San Rafael, Calif.
'A "Gryn" (pronounced "green") moves in the liquid water beneath the surface of Europa by waving its long foot and arms. They eat the ice (and the creatures within it) by breaking off bits with their teeth and claws. They look like bubbles because they float at the bottom of the ice layer. The most interesting fact about Gryn is their ability to communicate with other Gryn through the movement of their luminescent eyes using a binary code of "yes" and "no." Gryn like sliding on ice surfaces and dislike sunlight because their eyes are so sensitive. It lives in the dark.'



TINY

Alex Qirjazi
Fourth grade; Ipswich, Mass.
'Tiny is a small alien. He comes from Europa. He has great ears that can hear from miles away. Tiny has no feet or legs. He only has spikes. On Europa, if Tiny gets stuck in the ground, he uses his hands to pull himself out.... Tiny is a cute alien, but when he is hungry, hide the bananas. I think everyone should have a Tiny in their home.'



More runner-up aliens at:
www.csmonitor.com/alien

Aliens on the website are: 'Zurdo Plankton,' by Annie Werner of Los Angeles; 'Ice Digger,' by Jake Weimer of Priest River, Idaho; 'Thorns,' by Ryan Smith of Ipswich, Mass.; 'Spikeleyedor,' by Lewis Linder of Everett, Wash.; 'Zooks,' by Emily Brown of Tucson, Ariz.; 'Fingays,' by Parker Seagren of Barrington Hills, Ill.; 'Bobby,' by Sarah Sharpe of Acton, Maine; and 'Al,' by Leah Schaefer of Palos Verdes, Calif.

TODAY'S ARTICLE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Bringing a spiritual perspective to daily life

When the office water cooler boils

ONE DAY AT WORK I was surprised to hear a terrible argument in the next room. People were yelling insults at one another and were attacking one another's character. The language was beyond impolite, and my secretary was huddled in the corner, in tears.

It began over politics – as often happens. Two of my top employees apparently had had words regarding their very deep political differences, and a heated discussion of issues degenerated into vicious personal attacks. Other employees excitedly rushed to the scene and were actively involved. It looked as though all were either spoiling for, or frightened of, a fistfight. They all turned and looked at me, expecting a solution.

I gulped. We needed a miracle right then and there.

At that point, I thought of a statement from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, who also founded this newspaper. She wrote, "The miracle of grace is no miracle to Love" (pg. 494).

Love is one of the biblical terms for the infinite, impartial God. It seemed to me then that, instead of trying to harmonize conflicting personalities, I should turn to divine Love, God, for the answer. I realized that in God there could be no element of unhappiness, fear, resentment, or lack of acceptance of another. And we're all included in God's universe.

Obviously I couldn't just stand there stupefied. Yet, in a split second, when I turned to God for a "miracle of grace," I saw that divine Love covers all the bases, resolves all conflicts, and reassures us all that we are cared for. It next occurred to me to talk about the common goals we all had in the office, to point out that we all were doing good work, and then to suggest that everybody go back to their offices.

In that moment of divine grace, the atmosphere changed. Everybody stopped yelling, there were a couple of grins, a handshake or two, and they went back to their desks. It wasn't just a grudging "cease-fire," at least from my point of view. For as long as I was their manager – and I was there an-

other two years or so – there was not another occurrence of hostilities. I've gone on to other jobs, but have kept in touch with subsequent managers there. I have never heard of a similar event taking place. In fact, all my friends who served in that position have remarked on the exceptional harmony and teamwork in that office.

There's a biblical basis for resolving interpersonal conflicts, too. St. Paul was no stranger to such problems, and he wrote to the church in Philippi about how to handle them. He advised, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke..." (Phil. 2:13-15).

I think this is the key: Start from the basis of one all-inclusive God.

The divine grace is available to resolve interpersonal conflicts.

Acknowledging the divine commonality that we all share is an effective healing response. That fantastic moment in which I glimpsed something of the

"miracle of grace" and how this divine grace can be a perfect method of conflict resolution, has grown in importance to me over the years.

God, the Father-Mother of the universe, loves us all impartially, whether we are American, Iraqi, Venezuelan, or whatever. God loves us whether we consider ourselves Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, or believers in no religion. God's impartial love is unconditional. I have found that this love cancels out the difference in my conflicts when I let it into my thinking and act from the basis of Love.

The divine grace is available to resolve all those interpersonal conflicts. What counts is reliance on the divine Presence to maintain order, and not on managerial authority or techniques. It happens through all-pervading love – the love of God. Interpersonal harmony isn't an unnatural event. It's the miracle of grace, and divine Love assures us all that we can experience it.



DOUBLE STUFF BLUE OREO

Anna Tachav
Seventh grade; Louisville, Ky.
'The creatures on the aliens' heads grab food in the water;

the suckers on their hands help stick to the bottom (grabbing things); the third eye lights up and helps see through the murky water. The flaps on the nose and eyes help protect them, and the tentacles help it swim.'

FISH EATER 9000

Kassandra Denham
Fourth grade; Acton, Maine
'Fish Eater 9000 eats fish. They have two hands, 18 arms, two flippers, a television on "The Fish Channel" attached to one flipper, and 16 eyes. They are colorful so fish will come to them. For fun they take an icicle and pass it back and forth with their heads. They eat fish and drink water.'



Finding certainty in uncertain times



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