

Community Peace Fest Essay

“Peace In Our Community”

Garfield Middle School

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Fred was a rabbit with fur black as tar, and Joseph a silky smooth squirrel with a bushy tail. Fred and Joe both live in the same forest environment that is usually calm, and everyone gets along like in any typical forest. Then one day it goes downhill. Fred is hopping along through a thick patch of dandelions, and suddenly is conked on the head by an acorn shell. “HEY UP THERE!” Fred starts to squeal. “YOU BETTER MIND WHERE YOU’RE MUNCHING THOSE THINGS, AND DROPPING THOSE SHELLS!” as Joe realized whom he conked on the head, he replies, “sorry down there! I’m just a bit hungry!” Even though it was clearly an accident with a sincere apology, Fred would not stand to be disrespected. He snarled and hopped away arrogantly. This really hurt little Joe’s feelings, he started to think it was his fault the acorn fell. He felt the guilt on his shoulders, or the closest thing a squirrel has to shoulders.

Joe and Fred never quite let go of this incident. When Fred sees acorns fly across the sky, he always remembers the little run-in. Joseph is much more careful about where he tosses those shells nowadays. Each time he sights a delicious acorn, he too remembers it. One day however, there is another little run in between the two. Fred, still as cocky as ever, hops along and hollers at everything in his path. “Come on little butterflies, move it. MOVE! COMING THROUGH!” As he hops along, he sees the bushy, black streaked tail go by. *Oh great, he thinks to himself, there’s that shell dropper again. He had better stay out of my territory!* Fred is so caught up in his thoughts of hatred, he doesn’t even see the humongous cliff right in front of his paws. He topples down, and bounces off a few branches, then shrieks “SOMEONE, GET HELP, I’M FALL-” then as he hits a hard rock and topples to the ground he is knocked unconscious.

Squirrels have incredible hearing, especially Joe. He hears this call for help come from somewhere just beyond that giant, monstrous cliff. He gathers animals from all over the community to help, as he breezes past bushes he yells for the other squirrels and chipmunks to come, past a patch of thick grass and calls for all the rabbits, past a area of low hanging trees and calls for birds of all shapes and sizes to help, past a meadow he rounds up the deer, fox, coyotes and everyone else to join the rescue, the group breezes past a small creek even the frogs jump to the rescue. Joe being the leader of the pack, reaches the cliff first and sees his worst enemy lying at the bottom, injured. He screeches to a halt and just stares. When he glances behind him, and sees all the support he’s rallied for the one little animal, he sees how eager you should be to help one another. His thoughts drifted to stories his papa squirrel used to tell him. *Always love thy neighbor.* So in a split second Joe makes his decision. Squirrels, chipmunks, deer, foxes, coyotes, rabbits, and even frogs barrel down the steep hill with great determination, avoiding ditches, stumps, trees, roots, and rocks. When they reach Fred at the bottom they all, in harmony, lift him up. They stumble and trip over each others tails, as words of support are chanted through the crowd, they struggle trying to gather the energy to lift him. Then comes the giant flock of birds, with Joe riding on the head of an eagle. The eagle swoops and grabs as many of those helping to carry Fred as he can and tries to fly away, but fails. As the rest of the birds arrive and hoist the giant group of animals into flight, Joe hops down to talk softly in Fred’s ear. “You’re alright ole’ pal, were all here helping you out. Your gonna be ok.” Fred suddenly awakens, and sees the birds flapping their wings with all there might, and the land animals all riding along for support, he even sees the lovely, little butterflies all grouped together for strength, but most importantly he sees Joe with a warm smile on his face. Fred feels like he never wants to leave this group that soars way up in the sky. He feels so peaceful, he feels so loved. Then, in unison, the thought reaches everyone’s mind; *this is what a community should be.* Together without one word said, they all smile.