



First Place 6th Grade
Shy'mir Wiley
Johnson County Middle School
Johnson County

2020 Georgia National Fair
Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition
"Fair Bear Visits Georgia's Coast"

"For your birthday present, how would a trip to Savannah's Coast sound?" Fair Bear's mom asked. "Wow! Thanks Mom." The next morning, Fair Bear woke up, jumped out of bed, got ready, and headed on a plane to Coastal Georgia to enjoy his all-expense paid birthday gift.

Fair Bear arrived in Savannah and said, "Savannah is so big!" First, on his pre-paid visit was to eat lunch at the famous Elizabeth's 37th Restaurant in the historic district. Fair Bear enjoyed steak and green beans with a cup of tea. After the delicious meal, he called for the carriage his mom had rented him. The man that was driving said, "Where do you want to go?" and Fair Bear, looking at his itinerary, said, "Lulu's Chocolate Bar Shop." After arriving, Fair Bear said, "I want the Willy Wonka Bar, and I want two." Fair Bear eats one chocolate bar and said, "Hmmm, it is so good." He gave the extra bar to his carriage driver.

Next, the carriage ride took him to River Street where he went into candy stores and gift shops. He found several items with Savannah logos on them to buy for his family. He bought his mom a shirt that

said, "Somebody that loves me visited Savannah." He knew she would be so proud to receive a gift. He then watched a lady make candy.

She gave him a sample, knowing he would want to buy some, and he did. He enjoyed his candy as he watched the barges filled with crates travel through the river.

The carriage driver then went to Bonaventure Cemetery. He saw a lot of graves. Also, as he walked, he saw historical markers in the rural cemetery. One particular marker that made this cemetery famous was from the 1994 novel, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, by John Bennett.

Finally, Fair Bear's guide traveled to Old Fort Jackson. He took pictures as the guide explained the site. The guide said that Old Fort Jackson is a restored nineteenth-century fort that was constructed on the edge of the city of Savannah to prevent them from being attacked by sea. They ventured over to Colonial Park Cemetery. Fair Bear asked, "How many graves are here?" The guide said more than 4,000 graves, including that of Button Gwinett, born in 1735 and died in 1777. He was a Georgia signer of the Declaration Of Independence. Wow, Fairbear was impressed.

What a carriage ride he had enjoyed that day! To end the day, Fair Bear went to Leopold's Ice Cream and chose his favorite, vanilla ice cream. As he ate it, he loaded his items in the cab and traveled to the airport. He got on the plane and headed home.



Second Place 6th Grade
Cayden Fowler
Byron Middle School
Peach County

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Ugh... It's been a hard week for Fair Bear. You know, being a bear surrounded by intelligent humans, doing intelligent human things. Maybe it's time for a break. He stops being lazy, manages to pull his furry self out of bed, and walks over to his laptop. Why not search the internet for something to do?

While on his treacherous journey through the vast sea of... Google... he receives a pop-up asking, "Are you looking for a getaway from stress, anxiety, and/or being a bear?" Fair Bear glances away from his computer screen, and back, concerned. "Ye-" he begins to say something in agreement, but is cut off by the pop-up. "Then we've got just the thing for you! It's called Savannah, a wonderful place filled with fun tourist attractions, such as the Candy Kitchen, Civil War Walking Tour, Savannah Bee Company, Tybee Island, and more! Plan your trip today at tourpass.com/savannah/attractions/." Fair Bear was simply intrigued. He shut his laptop, and went outside.

Fair Bear had never been to a beach, but when he reached it after a very long walk, he was astounded. He stared in awe at the repetitive motion of the waves crashing along the shoreline. He was so dumbfounded that he didn't notice how many people were staring at him, or how soaking wet he was... but it wouldn't have mattered to him anyway.

Sand was the first thing he thought of while he searched for what to do first. He had never really been around sand much, considering the

Fact that bears... they live in caves, and not at beaches. He kneeled, and watched in amazement as the sand he picked up slowly trickled through his paws. It felt coarser, and left his paws feeling gritty and dry. After playing in the sand for a bit, he decided it was time to move on to the next activity.

While he was walking around the beach, he stumbled upon a small seashell. He picked it up, and felt its rigid edges. Fair Bear had always enjoyed small objects and trinkets. He also enjoyed lots of the same object in one place, and looking around, he could see there were quite a few seashells scattered around the beach. So, he started collecting them. There was a wide variety of swirly and straight shells, rigid and smooth shells, and colorful to bland shells. He thought that he had enough shells, however, his thoughts were interrupted by a dolphin that approached him from the water.

The dolphin quickly swooped him up faster than you could say higglety-pigglety rubbish and hogwash. It started to swim, and Fast. Fair Bear almost slipped off, but he kept his composure and found a way to hang on. The dolphin took one final and grand leap before returning to land. Fair Bear stepped off of the dolphin, looked over at the sunset, and smiled.

"What a day!" Fair Bear thought. He had a fantastic time at the beach, but it was time to go home and return to his bear responsibilities... eating honey... Once he returned home, he passed out all over his honey stash. Yes... very responsible.



Third Place 6th Grade
Kasen Guinn
Waycross Middle School
Ware County

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Fair Bear Visits Jekyll Island! by

"Come on, Fair Bear! Load up your bags!" Mamma Bear shouted as she turned the key into the ignition of our big white van.

"Coming, Mom!" This was going to be the BEST VACATION EVER! I couldn't WAIT! I've heard so many great things about Jekyll Island. The Horton House, Driftwood Beach, all on this EPIC ISLAND!

It took us about two hours to get from our home in Savannah to the island. When we finally crossed the Sidney Lanier Bridge, we STILL had to cross the mini-highway to get on the island! But, when we eventually made it, I was stunned. All this sand, sun, and FUN! I couldn't stand it any longer. We needed to get out of this car now! Mamma Bear booked us a 3-day, 2-night hotel room at the very "historically beautiful" Jekyll Island Club Hotel. Sounded nice, anyway.

in 15 minutes later in

When we got to the hotel, I realized how big and beautiful it really was. Not just some regular Holiday Inn. I held my

breath in awe. I was really lucky to see and stay in this wonderful place.
in later that night in

Today, Momma and I went to tour the historic district. First, we toured the hotel, and next, we went to the Horton House. Then we visited the old cottages. We finished off by eating at a local Tex-Mex restaurant called "Tortuga Jack's". I had the BEST nachos ever! We even saw a turtle and a deer on the way home! It was a fun day.

in the next day in

Today, Momma and I went to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. It was really neat to see the lady present each turtle. I even got a t-shirt from the gift shop. We ate lunch at a picnic table under a palm tree. Nearing sunset, Momma Bear said she had a trick up her sleeve to get to a quiet beach. She drove into the soccer complex and parked at the back. We took a long boardwalk, and just as I could start to see the waves of the ocean, I was stunned. How did she know where this was? We finally made it down there, and watched the sunset, just Momma Bear and I.

Time to Leave!

I was really sad we had to leave today. I wanted to stay forever, but Momma Bear said the houses were really expensive. So, as we got the last of Momma's bags loaded, she turned the key into the ignition of our big white van.

The End