

Name: Lauren DeBord

Grade: 5th

Title: Buddy

It was all because one person got curious, heard one too many legends, one too many stories by the fire. That one person's name was Buddy. The name fit him. Buddy was the kindest, sweetest, most loving person you could ever meet. How could someone so kind destroy us all? With good intentions, right up to the bitter end.

Buddy loved animals. He loved them so very much; in fact, he had two pet cats named Cinder and Mesquite. Buddy didn't like the fact that at one time animals had been used for food, so he was planning to go back in time from 2150 to caveman time. He was going to move the animals away from the people so the people couldn't eat them. The people could eat plants, and be vegetarians, he thought. They would all be healthy!

So with high hopes, he went to the island where the time machine was supposed to be hidden. He looked, and he looked, and he looked some more. Two days later—still looking! Three days later—still looking, and with hopes slipping away faster than he could catch them, he decided to give himself one more day.

On the last day he found it! A small, silver, one-room time machine. A beauty, in Buddy's opinion. That is, after he calmed down. He was so excited, he, Buddy, was the first to discover the time machine created by Dr. Adams in 1979!

After Buddy calmed down, (sort of), he got in, typed the time and place into the console, then pressed GO. Time to test the time machine! There was a flash of light. Buddy could feel the machine spinning faster and faster. Then it all stopped, the light, the spinning, everything. All was quiet.

Had it worked? Was he in the past? Was he in the right time, the right place? Could he get back home? Buddy's mind was full of questions, but finally he stopped listening to his mind race and got out of the machine. Trying to see if it had worked.

He looked around. He was not on the island anymore. He was in....the jungle!

"OH MY GOSH" were the first he said. Then he decided to say something more heroic, so he said: "That's one small time jump for a man, and a giant leap for mankind" He planned to tell everyone that was the first thing he said.

So, he was in the past. He had better get started. Moving all of the animals away from people was not an easy task.

Trap, move. Trap, move. That was Buddy's life for the next several weeks. It was hard on Buddy, but he loved animals so much that he kept it up. Finally, he was done! All of the animals were safe. It was time to go home. He got in the time machine, typed in his original time period and destination of home.

He was prepared for the spinning and the light. It happened just as before but now he was getting used to it. Suddenly, it stopped and he got out.

Buddy was home, or to what was left of it. Wild cats and dogs roamed the streets with ribs showing. People were chasing some of the animals...probably looking for food to eat. The people looked hungry, the animals looked hungry. Buddy walked over to an old man and asked: "what has happened here?"

In reply, the man answered: "overpopulation of the animals. Not enough food, not enough water."

At that second, Buddy realized his terrible mistake. Why had he not thought of it? Overpopulation....of course! He *had* to go back and fix what he had done

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before things got worse. He ran as fast as he could, he headed to the past to fix his mistake.

Once he was in the machine, he typed in the time he first got to the jungle. He was going to stop himself from moving all the animals.

The light, the spinning, hardly got through to Buddy as he was too deep in thought. The it stopped, he got out and saw himself get out of the time machine!! He ran up to himself and said "Buddy, it's me, form the future! Don't move the animals, it will cause overpopulation!"

Buddy-past just stared at Buddy-present and said: "Overpopulation, OF COURSE! Why didn't I think of that??!"

Both Buddy's got in their own time machines (at least they thought they did; they couldn't tell themselves apart) and went back home.

Buddy destroyed the time machine after arriving back so that no one could ever use it again.

Years later, Buddy's Great-Great Grandson heard a story one day about a machine could take you back in time.....

## The End