EXAMPLE MINI SAGAS

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Missing?

My name was on a missing person's poster outside the police station – faded photo of me, full name, 'Last seen: August 5th'.

But today was August 5th. I'd just walked into town to meet my friends. Was this a prank? I checked my phone – no messages, no calls. The date flashed: August 23rd.

I ran home. My key didn't fit the lock. I banged on the door. My mom opened it. I saw hope briefly flash in her eyes before fading.

"Who are you?"

"Mom, it's me..." I caught sight of my reflection in the window.

It wasn't mine.

Happy Birthday To You

It was a normal day. Banal even. The only excitement occurred when I got home from work.

It was my birthday, and I wasn't expecting much. But he surprised me beyond belief. The decorations were almost perfect, my favorite colored balloons and streamers, blood-red roses littering every surface. He stood there in a blue suit, brown hair slicked back, and holding a gorgeous cake in his hands.

"Happy Birthday, Opal!" he said. "I did all of this for you."

I was absolutely stunned. Like I said, almost everything was perfect.

There was really only one issue.

I didn't know this man.

By Olive Seeba (15)

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The Basement Surprise

There was a noise coming from the basement. I could feel the pulse of it in my chest. A strange light lit the floor below. The noise was in my head now, filling it. I wanted to run, but I had to know... I headed down. I reached the last step and swung round the corner. There in front of me was a glowing, pulsing portal. I lifted a hand and the light latched on, pulling me through. I screamed. A whooshing pressure in my ears, then it was gone. I opened my eyes to see... a lush, tropical wonderland.

6 Total

While I strolled down an empty street, I pondered about the number I was given earlier. '6, you get the number 6.'

Everyone on their 18th birthday is given a number and with this number, you're given something of that quantity.

My cousin Jack got the number 7 million, which in his case meant 7 million dollars. But what could 6 be? 6 dollars, 6 chairs, 6 dresses?

A screeching car snapped me out of my thoughts, the headlights blinding me.

Crash! Now I would never know what 6 means, or so I thought.

My eyes jolted open... 6 lives!

By Olivia Smith (13)

EXAMPLE MINI SAGAS

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Lost Shadows

The town had a secret. Every night at midnight, shadows whispered Sarah's name. Intrigued, she decided to investigate. She followed the whispers and murmurs to the old graveyard, where a tombstone bore her name. The tombstone said: 'Born to wander, destined to fade'.

The air thickened. Hands reached from the earth, pulling her down. She screamed... but there was no sound.

The next morning, the villagers noticed a new shadow roaming the streets - a girl forever searching for her lost self in the dark.

By Yarlenny Taveras Peña (12)

The Breaking Of Time

I'm hiking in the woods. Squirrels chatter in the branches overhead. Birds sing in the trees. My feet crunch over the ground. I look down. It's rocky here.

I watch for snakes that may be lurking nearby. Then I step on a blue stick lying in front of me. A blue stick? It snaps.

The trees stop swaying. A squirrel that was attempting to leap across the path is now suspended mid-air, still as a statue. The birds stop singing, their beaks open. Silence.

I look at the blue stick cracked in half. I think I broke time.

By Charlotte Tullo (12)

EXAMPLE MINI SAGAS

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The Wish

The sign said, “Plant a wish and watch it grow.”

Nobody knew who put it there, it just appeared overnight in the overgrown greenhouse at the edge of town.

Jake, curious and half-daring himself, scribbled, ‘I want to know the truth’ and pressed the note into the soil.

By morning, something had grown – tall, twisting vines with black leaves that whispered his name. They showed him visions: a hidden cavern beneath the school, strange symbols carved into stone, people gathering in the dark, chanting his name like a promise.

Jake hasn’t spoken since.

But he’s digging now.

He knows where to go.

Leviathan

There's a reason it's called the Great Barrier Reef. Barriers set limits, but limits can be broken. When the Reef died, the sea unlocked. We didn't know what it was protecting us from, but now...

Deep beneath the ocean, the Leviathan awoke with a rumble. He erupted from the ocean, with his mission to destroy the people his tsunamis had failed to kill.

He's hunting us all, and there's no escape. He's a beast from the sea and there's no escaping the certain death he brings. We messed with the supernatural. Now we'll die because of it.

By Maggie McCormick (16)