

The Magical Backyard

By Micah Enoch

It was Saturday and Jason Clay was inside his new house. His parents were unloading boxes from a moving truck. "Jason, take a break and go explore our new backyard," his dad called. Jason's new backyard was on the edge of a forest and had a meadow and stream. Jason headed straight for the water. He found lots of critters: crayfish, snails, and worms.

"Backyard Map"

"treehouse"

"Bat Boxes"
"Birdhouses"



"Pit"

"Meadow"



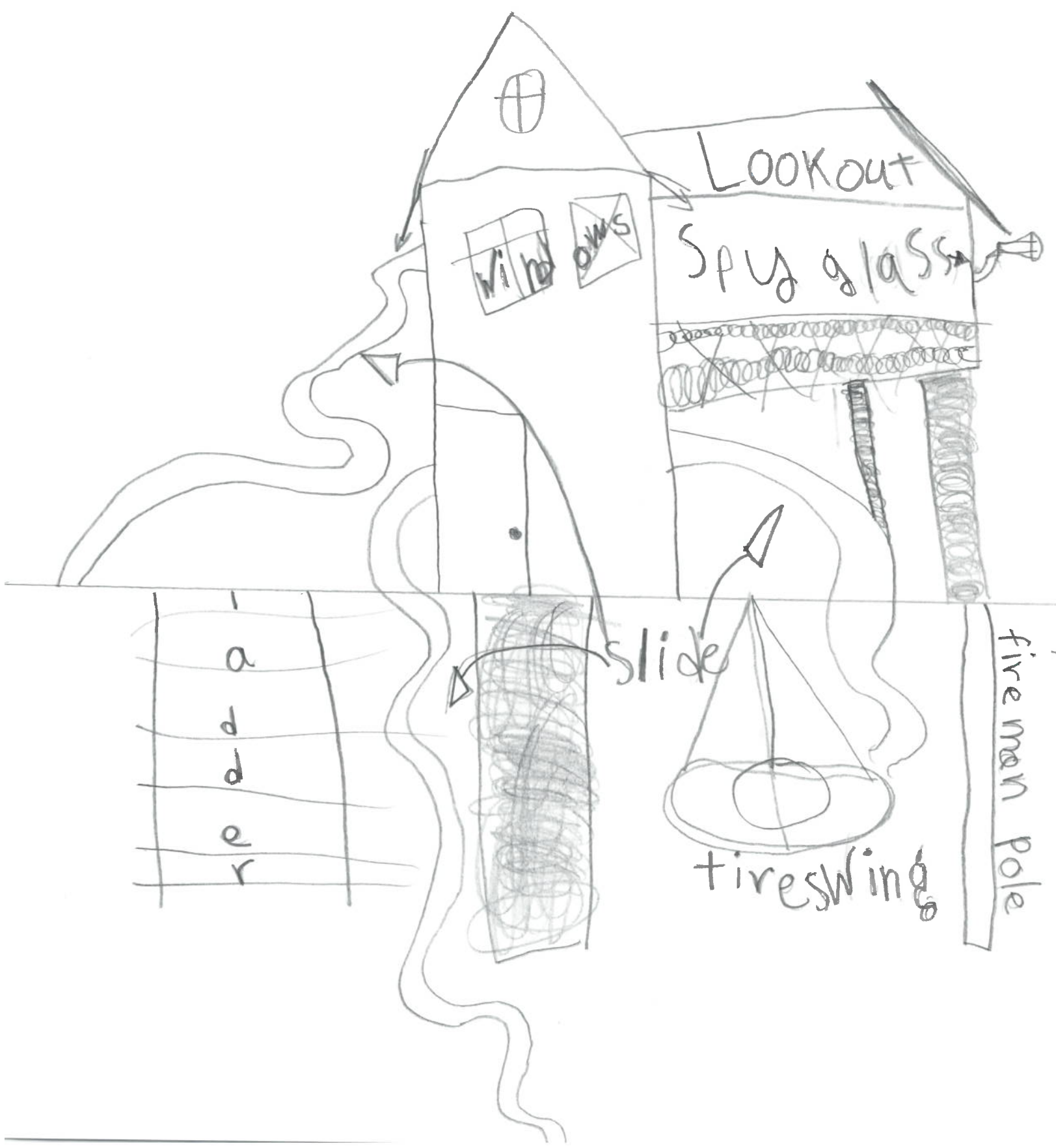
"Jason's house"



"Stream"

Next, he explored the treetops. Jason climbed a tree and found an expansive colony of insects. “This would be the perfect location for a treehouse!” He thought. Three days and lots of hard work later, Jason stood in his finished treehouse. He saw some cute rabbits burst out of nowhere. Jason zipped down his fireman’s pole and greeted the rabbits. “Hello little guys! Why are you running?” He heard a sound from a nearby construction site. “Oh, is that what you were running from?” Jason asked the rabbits. Then an idea hit him.

JASON'S Tree house Blue print



What if he used his backyard for an animal habitat? “My backyard could be an animal kingdom to help and study animals!” Jason shouted with delight. Jason knew the perfect people to help him. Jason’s friends, Lyon and Ivy, excitedly agreed and together they formed The Natural Club. They spent their time building safe habitats for animals. Two months later, their third-grade teacher, Mrs. Brick, heard them making plans. “What are you three up to today?” she asked with a grin. “We are up to nature!” They replied in unison.

Eastern Bluebird



Spotted lady beetle



Red fox



4



Big & Brown Bat



Bumblebee

Native Plants



Milkweed

Coneflower



Black-eyed Susan

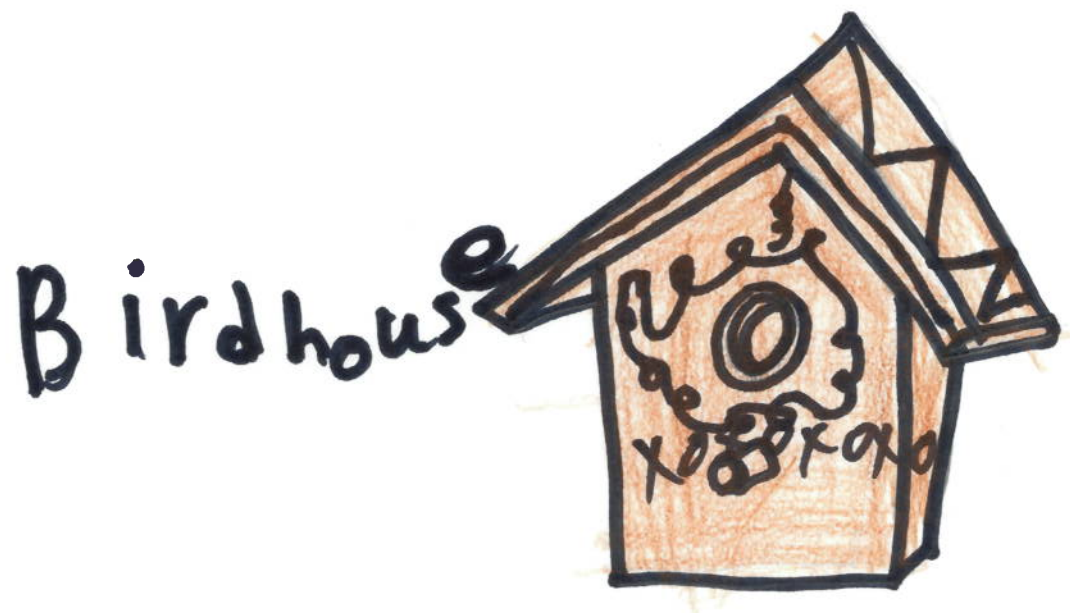
Goldenrod



Jason explained about his backyard. Mrs. Brick listened with pleasure and interest. "These are great ideas! Have you accomplished your goals?" "Yes," Jason replied, "We've made a salt lick, 12 bird houses, 10 bat boxes, and planted milkweed." Mrs. Brick was impressed. "I'd love to bring our class to your house." Jason smiled. "Yes! Field trip to my house!" Three months later, the class had created habitats in their own backyards. Animals all over town enjoyed the safe spaces. It was like dozens of nature preserves all in one town and it all started with one ordinary, magical backyard.



Bat Box



Birdhouse



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