

'Swampy' by Emily White

1st Place

2020 Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction

F—

congrats on first day. sorry i couldn't be here to welcome you in person.

following is the first box of found materials mentioning S.

sorry again, such a mess. but when i found out you were starting i figured no point in me trying to go through it all you'll know better than me how to handle.

best of luck. any questions contact —

cheers.

Dr H—

She is Swamp Monster — she's very ugly and she will yell at you if you enter her swamp. Her numerous tumorous eye bulbs stare at any passersby and she never smiles. She doesn't shave *anything*. She is very ugly.

Her swamp is a sticky, stinky mess with visible green stink lines wafting from the surface in the heat of the afternoon. At night it is overrun with insects. At day the insects are still there but I guess you don't notice them as much because there's other stuff going on. Like the dirty ducks splashing the sludge water around making the skinks moody, the eels are constantly up to something, the frogs are an invisible cacophony of moans and groans. There's long neck turtles, those are pretty cool actually they wear sunglasses so everyone knows how cool they are.

Zoom in on the sludge and it's a whole other world. Bacteria, micro-organisms, plankton, phytoplankton, algae, no one knows for sure because Swamp Monster yelled at The Scientists who tried to collect samples. Swamp Monster doesn't need them to tell her it's a complex community of little critters going about their business. Like a compost bin. Or a vagina.

Swamp Monster's vagina has been compared to:

- a pulled-pork sandwich
- a deep well of despair
- rotten grapefruit
- a bunch of bananas
- a crushed up coke can with a clitoris
- a single chopstick but bent slightly
- a blob fish with teeth
- long dragon
- The Scream
- the void
- the inside of an elephant's mouth when it yawns

It is both yonic and phallic. The Scientists are very confused, they cannot agree whether it is in fact a vagina at all.

To: [REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: concerns

Dear Mr Fitz-417

Thank you for your email and for bringing the issue to my attention. Apologies if my son's sympathetic take on Swamp Monster stirred any awkward discussion in your classroom.

While your advice is appreciated, unfortunately my husband cannot check over Andreka's homework before submission since I am unmarried. However thank you for recognising that every season is busy season at Royal Melbourne Hosp.

regards,

Dr Park-417

p.s yes I suppose it is funny that we have the same name code, but I suppose that is also to be expected now.

see attached to email thread: [ApprovedVocabulary_Grade4_SwampSpecific.pdf](#)*

*archiver's note — dead link.

Memo #0012 Conference of The Scientists

year 7 of The New State

Due to unprecedented interest today's session titled, How the Heck Does Swamp Monster Have Sex: a Speculative Debate, has been moved upstairs to room 401. This room has a bigger capacity but please arrive early to secure your seat. While this is an open debate, the panel of speakers have been carefully selected for their expertise in the field. Please refrain from commenting until the floor is opened to audience input during the last half hour of the session.

Memo #0013 Conference of The Scientists

year 7 of The New State

Due to the sudden illness, Freda Park-083 will no longer be speaking in today's session titled, How the Heck Does Swamp Monster Have Sex: a Speculative Debate. In their place, Professor Hasani Carl-598 will be speaking for the negative.

Professor Hasani Carl-598 is the newest member of faculty at New State University, lecturing in the New Science Department. He is among the first to complete the entirety of his studies since the founding of The New State. His research specialises in frogs, which is semi-relevant to this session because frogs have been heard moaning and groaning in The Swamp.

Please note due to the spreading of the sudden illness, masks will be distributed to attendees. These will be available for collection at the check-in desk from tomorrow morning.

Acrostic Poem (unfinished)

by Toma Trav-100, grade 3

Swampy

W

A

M

P

Murder her!

O

N

Stay away

T

E

R

posted by Swamp Monster 00:19 | 2.Mar.Yr3 TNS

AA
AAA
AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH ! EVERY ! SINGLE ! SCIENTIST !

view all comments (2)

| _burt_the_turt_ | relatable

| sci_mon | #notallscientists #draintheswamp

posted by Swamp Monster 01:17 | 9.Feb.Yr4 TNS

A POST THAT I WILL WRITE PERHAPS AT A LATER DATE BUT IT WILL BE LONGER
THAN THIS AND MAYBE ALSO POIGNANT AND SHIT . I'M BUSY !

view all comments (43)

| sci_mon | #draintheswamp

| sci_greg | #draintheswamp

| sci_pete | #draintheswamp

| sci_bartholemew | #draintheswamp

| sci_mark | #draintheswamp

| sci_john | #draintheswamp

| sci_mon | #infecttheswamp

The New State School - Primary

Vice-Principal's Report

Description of Incident:

Incident occurred at recess on Monday, between Toma Trav-100 (grade 3) and Andreka Park-417 (grade 4). Altercation involving physical and verbal attacks from both sides. According to playground witnesses, incident was incited when Toma knocked the sandwich (vegemite and cheese) from Andreka's hand and called him a "Swampathiser". Andreka, being the older, easily pushed Toma into the sandpit and attempted to bury him alive. As burying even a nine-year-old on the skinnier side is a lengthy process, Toma escaped, wrestling ensued. Several children, including both guilty parties, resulted with sand in their eyes.

Action to be Taken:

Toma Trav-100 was heard boasting that he knows how to spread the sudden illness, and threatening to infect individuals sympathetic to The Swamp. I recommend enlisting one of The Scientists from the public relations team to visit the school and debunk this *myth*.

Emails to be sent to parents of guilty parties to inform them of the incident. As Toma has been pre-enrolled by his parents in the New State University's New Science program, incident will not be documented on his permanent record. Andreka, as the child of a suspected lesbian, will have his record smeared accordingly. Report to be destroyed upon Principal's signing off. Affected children have been given new eyes.

Memo #0037 The Inaugural Conference of The Scientists

year 1 of The New State

Following this morning's prodigious discussion about the state of the Parkville/Royal Park areas, decisions have been made as to zoning and quarantine. See attached documents for the results. Paper copies will be distributed when we can get the printer fixed.

p.s if anyone knows how to get a printer to stop spitting out pictures of moody skinks in drag, please make yourself known to the check-in desk.

attached:*

map_Parkville1

map_Parkville2

authorised_personnel_unidentified_swampland

*archiver's note: dead links.

She is Swamp Monster — she weaves little baskets out of her pubic hair and

usually The Swamp is very on schedule, but recently it has become harder to

her nipples especially potent

She is Swamp

when the sudden illness came to

she is very ugly and

death was not previously a concern, because it is a normal thing when you are nature but now

Swamp Monster — she finds it difficult to keep her
death toll.

face of such

is Monster

the little baskets proven quite useful

all those body parts

nothing she can do.

*archiver's note: found fragments. chemical damage.

Transcript of phone call between Peter Kew-013, founder of the New State University and Daniel Andrews' Head, preserved in a jar.

Kew-013: You won't like it, mate.

Andrews: I don't like much of anything these days. Spit it out, I'm late for a barbecue.

Kew-013: Do you eat— nevermind. It's Royal Park. Or, it was Royal Park. I don't know exactly, but the reports coming in say it's uh...uh...

Andrews: Have you actually seen it yourself?

Kew-013: Nobody's been able to get close. We've redirected all our security resources from the ribbon cutting ceremony at the uni. But none of the drones we sent in came back. Luckily Google Earth took some updated snaps this morning and we've just seen... uh... the aerial view of the swamp.

Andrews: What swamp? Hang on a sec — Smythe, for god's sake, you're clanging the phone against my jar, you twat—

Kew-013: The prison flooded late last night. All the youths escaped under the cover of darkness.

Andrews: Why are you telling me this Peter? You know how much I love prisons!

Kew-013: I know this is hard to hear, mate, but we're not sure how to proceed. We reckon it's spread out from the Trin Warren Tam-boore wetland area but it's taken the northern end of Parkville over the prison and most of Royal Park.

Andrews: What about the zoo?

Kew-013: It was empty anyway.

Andrews: Damn, I have such happy boyhood memories in that zoo. I would stare into the eyes of the lion and wonder if I would one day have the courage to privatise the shit out of everything left in this state... (*sigh*) But what do you mean *taken*? It's a man-made water structure, how has it gotten so out of control?

Kew-013: That's the thing, we can't control it. It's like a life of its own. It's suddenly all just swamp... all... Swampy.

(phone disconnects)

Memo #0001 The Inaugural Conference of The Scientists

year 1 of The New State

Welcome brothers (and sister!). We have fought hard and succeeded, but now the real work begins. The dismantling of the old, ineffectual government is but a prologue to our epic journey ahead. Our New State will be immune to factionalism, immune to corruption, and immune to every illness that has plagued the people we have sworn to protect.



The Swamp is just one of the many issues we will be finding solutions to at this conference. Sadly, victory does not mean an automatic vanishing of all our enemies, both within and outside of the glory of The New State.

Over the next three weeks we will be debriefing, debating, discussing and deciding on the running of The New State. Over the next three weeks, we make history. Check back with this notice board regularly, to stay up to date on the progress being made.

Believe. Obey. Fight.