

the  
Henry  
Ford

# Building Stories

A creative writing contest  
for students (grades 3-12)



## Just a Thought

**By Kaylee Collins, Beer Middle School (Warren, Michigan)**

Grand Prize Winner of The Henry Ford's  
2014 Building Stories Creative Writing Contest



## Just a Thought

Story by Kaylee Collins

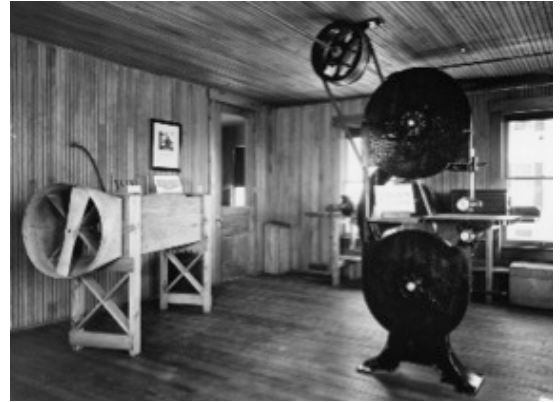
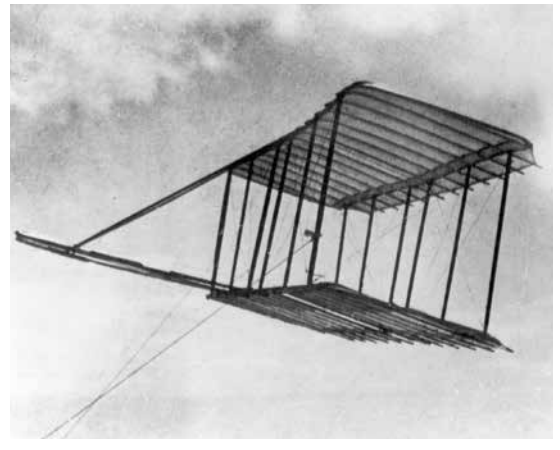
I started out as just a thought. At first, I was like a needle in a hay stack. Eventually, I grew into something bigger, something life-changing. My story begins in Dayton, Ohio, with two young boys, Wilbur and Orville Wright. It all started with a little helicopter-like trinket. They were sitting in the middle of their living room gazing at their Christmas tree. As their father walked in, he had some kind of weird toy. The boys were curious. I saw my chance to be noticed. Therefore, I lit a match in their heads which will result in a spark in the boys' interest in flying, in me.

Sooner or later, I started to think my spark was blown out. After their mother had passed away, they both quit school. Here is where I ran into a problem. When they quit, I thought this is the chance I have been waiting for! But I was wrong; instead of getting me out of their heads into the real deal, they opened up their own printing press. I was heartbroken; I thought that was my last chance and I blew it. However, I wasn't just going to watch myself disappear; I had to do something.

So I took a vacation out of their heads and into a bike owner's head. Eventually, he caved in to my scheme. The bike owner did some magic and convinced the brothers to buy bikes! Later on, they fell in love with bikes. So they quit the printing press and opened their own cycle shop. It started out as just little repairs on their friends' bikes, but like me, it grew into something bigger. After a while, their imagination took its place. They remembered back to when they received their helicopter-like toy and started thinking, "What if we built something that could fly to the sky?"



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Wright Home, Original Site, Dayton, Ohio, circa 1900 - THF37640; Wright Home Parlor Decorated for Christmas, Original Site, Dayton, Ohio, circa 1900 - THF23115; Van Cleve Bicycle, Made by the Wright Brothers circa 1896 - THF70569; Portrait of Orville Wright as a Boy, 1878 - THF22045; Portrait of Wilbur Wright as a Boy, 1878 - THF22044.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Wright Cycle Shop, Original Site, Dayton, Ohio, circa 1910 - THF23103; Experimental Wright Glider Flying, 1900 - THF18159; Reproduction of Wright Brothers' Wind Tunnel Inside Wright Cycle Shop, Greenfield Village, 1938 - THF7810; First Flight of Wright Flyer at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, December 17, 1903 - THF81622.

I was created, at first, just as a model. I wasn't so happy to be that small, but at least I'm out. As a baby, they called me a glider. They built me from the funds of the cycle shop. Wind tunnels were very helpful when I took my first steps. Their theory on flying me like a kite was a little shaky at first. But it worked; I flew! As I was gliding through the clouds, I felt accomplished, free, and a little bit like a soaring eagle. I'm all grown up now; I changed my name to the Wright Flyer. I grew up, and now I'm bigger, more powerful.

However, now that I'm bigger, I'm also heavier. How will they get me up? Well, I used my weather-detecting skills and located the windiest place, so the wind can do the hard part. It's found in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. It's perfect, flat and sandy for soft landing. Also, invisible to human contact, so that if I was to mess up, no one would see. Wilbur cranked me up for the first flight. I fell. I broke an arm and a leg. But I won't give up, especially since I have gotten this far. So I grabbed Orville, as his face reeked of worry, and we flew. I knew the potential I had, and now so does the whole world.

# **Building Stories**

A creative writing contest

Building Stories is a creative writing contest that is designed to inspire students in grades 3-12 to write original stories utilizing primary sources from The Henry Ford's collections along with independent research. The contest provides a unique opportunity for students to apply and meet Common Core State Standards and other interdisciplinary curricular goals. See official rules, contest details and prize information at [www.thehenryford.org/BuildingStories](http://www.thehenryford.org/BuildingStories).



2014 Building Stories Award Reception, The Henry Ford, June 30, 2014. Pictured (from left): Stacey Simmons, associate curator of education and learning, The Henry Ford; Kelley Collins, mother of the winner; Kaylee Collins, grand prize winner; Paula Gangopadhyay, chief learning officer, The Henry Ford; and Matthew Mutschler, teacher, Beer Middle School.