

The Cardinals of Franklin Township
By Sophia De Torres, honorable mention, fifth grade
Dr. Barry Kramer, teacher

Since I was a little girl, I have always looked forward to seeing cardinals. I always thought that cardinals were a sign of magic and were really alluring. I heard when I was about five that some people think they are an angel flying by. I mostly see them when winter turns into spring. I believe that they *are* angels flying by and when I see them, I have been blessed. But this year, I saw two. I felt like I was blessed, and I felt like they came for a reason.

I have lived on Capoolong Creek for only couple of months, but the whole time I have been here in Franklin Township, I have spent more time outside than inside. One day, I was on my porch looking out at the nearby grassy land that was bordered by a few trees. I saw our pool to the left and our massive garden behind our pool. As I was watching my lovely backyard, I saw the most wonderful and astonishing thing ever. I was not just one cardinal, but three cardinals!

Later in that day, I felt blue and sad, and I thought, why am I seeing cardinals? I just could not keep my eyes off these stunning creatures. Then I wondered, are they coming to make my day better and bless me with their magic? A couple of minutes later, they flew right in front of me. I felt really lucky! I started to go closer and closer to the beautiful creatures. For some reason, it seemed like the birds told me to follow them. They did it in such a spectacular way, that I do not know how they did it. They made me feel like I was a cardinal and they were chirping away. I followed them and they led me right next to a tall tree next to a gate. They flew up and sat on a thick branch. I looked up and saw a nest. One of the eggs from the nest was on the ground. I picked it up and tried to put it back, but I was too short. I asked my mom to help me put it back in the nest. She put me on her shoulders and I was just a little short so I stretched and finally made it.

After I put the egg back, I was walking to my chair that I was lounging on and I was feeling good about myself. The rest of the day and that week, I shared my story with everyone. I felt like I was finally a hero, and to this day when I am upset, I think to myself, "I'm a hero, and I can do anything!" Every time I am out on my porch on the street by Capoolong Creek, I look at the tree and think about that day and the cardinals.