

Howl

Grade 5
Fiction X
Poetry /
Nonfiction

Chapter One

Zeek Moroney was alone at recess. He moved from Miami, Florida to Denver, Colorado after his mom died. Zeek had no one to hang out with. Zealand Smith came along and decided to hang out with him and talk to him, make him feel better. Ten years later they are still friends, best friends.

Zeek and Zealand had to make the best out of the last two weeks of summer break, so they decided to have the most awesome sleepover.

The sleepover had begun, but there was not anything to do. Zealand decided to just make a conversation so he asked how Zeek's summer had been.

"You should know", Zeek said. "You have been with me everyday since the bell rang to let us out of school."

"Oh, right", Zealand replied.

Zeek wanted to do something other than just talk, so he asked Zealand what they should do.

He still just wanted to talk.

"And what should we talk *about*?" Zeek said sarcastically

"Let's just talk about what happens when we aren't together", Zealand said

"Okay, but let me think really quick..... Oh, yeah, right, I saw Dustin at the store yesterday."

"Did you talk to him, did he say anything?"

"No", Zeek sighed

"No, to the first or second question", Zealand replied nervously

"No to both." Zeek said sounding a bit disappointed in himself

"You need to tell him you know"

"Ya, I know", He again said sounding like he failed

Zealand wanted to get off the subject. He wanted Zeek to feel better and he wanted to do something else. So he thought of somewhere to go so they could spend as much time as possible away from Zeek's Dad's smelly old trailer that they rented from their cousins. Zealand decided that the mall would be a great place to go and have fun, so he offered that option to Zeek.

Zeek replied with a weak, "Oh, okay"

"Why do you sound so sad"

"I'm.....I'm just afraid, afraid if he likes me or not, I'm not even sure if he knows I exist"

"Come on, let's go for a walk. It'll make you feel better. We can go to the mall later."

"Ok, thank you for helping me"

"Of course, we're best buds"

Beep! Honk! Honk! Honk! "Wow this city is loud!", Zeek screamed "Yup!" Zealand replied. They were silent for the rest of the way, until..... "Hey is that Dustin!" Zealand said trying to be loud enough, so Zeek could hear him.

"Where!"

"Over there!"

"Over where!"

"Right there", Zealand answered

"Oh, that *is* him, That's so weird we were just talking about him", Zeek said confused Zeek looked at Dustin until Dustin's head turned. *Is he looking at me?* He thought. He wasn't sure. But then Dustin looked him straight in the eye and started heading toward him. Straight toward him.

Chapter Two

Dustin kept coming closer and closer to them. He wasn't turning or changing direction. Zeek was signaling to Zealand that Dustin was heading toward the but not very subtly. He looked at Zealand and then jerked his head to look at Dustin about five times. "What do you want?!" yelled Zealand. Zeek responded with another one of his head jerks. Zealand looked where Zeek was looking, and realized what he was doing.

"Why are you being so dramatic? There is a pizza shop behind us, he's probably going to get some lunch, he'll just walk straight past us." Zealand said, sounding pretty confident

Zeek was now convinced that he wasn't coming over here. *I mean he doesn't know I exist, right? Ya, right.* He thought.

Dustin was now three steps away from Zeek and Zealand, and was slowing down, still looking at them. But then he stopped right in front of them.

"Hi, Zeek, Hi Zealand", Dustin said

"Uh...Hi..Dustin.....you.... you know my name", Zeek stuttered

"Ya, of course I know your name, you've been in my class since third grade.", Dustin continued "Well I just came over here because I saw you guys and wanted you to know that I was throwing a congratulations party next week. It's for going into Sophomore year. Here is the invitation." Dustin said, Handing a small slip of red paper with fireworks on it to both of them. "

"R.S.V.P. if you're coming" Dustin yelled as he was walking away.

"No way", Zealand turned to Zeek, "This is your perfect chance to ask.

"Ya, your right, but", Zeek paused

"But, what?"

"But we'll have to make it special", Zeek smiled, and Zealand did too.

"So, let's make a plan."

"Okay, but we should do it at the mall."

"Let's go!" Zealand replied

Zealand looked at Zeek. He was acting "cool" but Zealand knew that on the inside he was dancing around, wavin' his hands in the air.

Chapter Three

The smell of salty, fatty, greasy, soft pretzels filled the air, with the aroma of hot dogs mixed into it. *Yum* Zeek thought. As if Zealand had read his mind he said "let's go get some pretzels and cheese dip."

"Why don't you go get us some, and I'll start thinking about a plan."

Think, think, think why can't I think Zeek felt a pain in his stomach, he felt like he could eat a horse, maybe two.

Zealand sat down with pretzels for both of them, Zeek grabbed his Big loopy bread, stuffed half of it into his mouth, Chewed, swallowed and took a drink of pop, in about five seconds.

"Wow, you must be hungry. You only ate two pieces of pizza last night", Zealand remarked on how much Zeek had been eating.

Zeek was offended. He did get that he was eating like a pig though, he wondered what was happening to him. He has never felt like this before.

"I'm hungry! What's the big deal?", Zeek said stuffing the rest of the pretzel in his mouth.

"Ok, cranky pants, moving on with the subject. What did you think about for the plan?"

Zeek glared " I dunno, I was hungry."

Zealand described an elaborate plan including meeting Dustin at the park and of course, scattering rose petals.

Zeek was flattered by his friend's ideas but was only a teenager and did not want to be part of a romance novel yet. "Well I think that's a great idea, but I think the rose petals would be a little much. How did you get the idea so quickly?"

"I've been watching *The Bachelorette* lately. And, you could just leave the rose petals out."

They both laughed, and decided that Zeek could contact Dustin the day before the party and confess his feelings.

Zeek got Dustin's number from the party invitation.

" So when is the party?"

"Next week", Zeek replied

"That's perfect"

Chapter Four

Zeek and Zealand had one hour to make "the plan" come to life. First they had to call Dustin

Ring. Ring. Ring.

Come on Dustin, please answer. Zeek mouthed. Zeek's heart sank when the phone kept ringing, he didn't think that anyone was going to answer.

A clicking noise in the phone sounded. *He didn't answer*, Zeek thought.

He dropped the phone. Then he heard another sound. "Hello"

Zeek picked up the phone. "Is this Dustin Martin" Zeek said into the phone

"Oh. Yes, hi Zeek." Dustin said

"I called to say that Zealand and I are coming to the party tomorrow"

"Oh, that's" Zeek cut him out

"Could you do me a favor?"

"Yes, definitely, what do you want?"

"Can you meet me at Lincoln park." Zeek replied

"Ya, what for?" Dustin asked

"You'll see." Zeek said, smiling.

Later, at the park, Zeek was standing in the middle of a baseball field looking at Zealand, which was hiding in the bushes, anxiously waiting. Zeek's stomach was hurting again, worse than before, and now, his face was starting to itch. Dustin pulled up on his beaten up red bike, looking around for Zeek. Their eyes locked. Dustin walked over.

"Why are we here?" Dustin asked

"I want to tell you something." Zeek continued "I want to tell you that, ever since you walked into my third grade classroom with your long blonde hair, I had a crush on you, I've thought of you ever since then. You were even cuter when you came into fifth grade with your slide over short haircut. You are one of the nicest people that I have ever met Dustin. I wanted to ask you if you feel the same way about me, and before you answer that question I want you to know that it will hurt if you say no but it will hurt even more if you say yes just to make me feel better so be honest, and"

"Zeek, stop" Dustin interrupted "Yes. Yes I do feel the same way about you"

"You do?" Zeek said, sounding like he just won the lottery.

"Yes, but I've been scared to tell you, because I was afraid, if I said that I was gay, I would get bullied, and hurt. And possibly even hurt you too."

"Well, I understand, and I have one more question" Zeek said "Would you like to be my date to the party, and not have to hide who you really are?"

"Yes, I would love to."

"Yes!" Zealand hopped out of the bushes, with his arms up in the air. Both Zeek and Dustin looked at him and smiled.

Chapter Five

Zeek was up all night thinking about what outfit he was going to wear, what dance he would do, what hairstyle he was going to have. He didn't know.

It was morning and someone was at the door, ringing the doorbell continuously, Zeek opened the door. It was Zealand, of course. Zealand stomped in, "I've rang that doorbell fifteen million times"

"I know, I heard." Zeek said, feeling exasperated.

Zealand quickly walked to Zeek's room and plopped on the bed. Zeek followed behind.

"What is wrong with you?" Zeek asked.

"Nothing, I'm here to help do your hair and pick out your clothes" Zealand said happily.

"Okay, well let's start."

There was a variety of clothes in Zeek's closet.

"So, what should I wear?"

Zealand was picking through Zeek's closet. "Well, you should wear dress shoes, a white shirt under some sort of blue jacket, and blue pants. Or this white jacket, this would look great on you with these white pants. A black shirt would also look good with them." Zealand said, sounding like a Fashion Designer.

Zealand handed Zeek a folded up pile of clothes, "Here, go put them on."

While Zealand was looking on pinterest for "prom hairstyles Zeek was getting dressed. He noticed that his chest was growing a little hair. He came out of the bathroom and looked at Zealand acting like he was on the runway. "Wow!" Zealand said and smiled, "I found the perfect hairstyle" Zealand said "all we need is a comb and hair gel"

"That is perfect, my dad has both of those items" Zeek said.

Ew! Hair gel feels so gross Zealand said, as he was combing and spreading the hair gel all over Zeek's hair.

"Are you done yet?" Zeek said.

"Ya, I guess."

Zeek stood up turned around, and looked in the mirror, Zeek's eyes opened wide and his jaw dropped "Wow, I have never noticed how handsome I was." They both grinned.

There was half an hour left until the party started. Zeek went to go brush his teeth while Zealand was getting dressed, Swish. Swish. Swish. *Are my teeth longer, oh, no here comes the stomach pains again.* Zeek thought.

"Zealand, Dad, lets go!" They were all rushing to the Truck, Zealand got in the back Zeek was in the front and his dad was driving.

Finally they got to Dustin's house Zeek looked at his reflection in a puddle There were a couple flyaways. Zealand and Zeek walked up to the door. Ding! Dong! A few seconds later the door opened, it was Dustin. Zeek walked in and introduced himself to Dustin's family. Dustin put his hand next to Zeek's and held it, Zeek did as well.

"Well I, gotta go to the bathroom." Zeek said.

Zeek looked in the mirror, he noticed hair growing on his chin and by his ears, only a little though but his eyebrows, they were poofy. He smiled, his teeth were a little longer. Zeek turned on the faucet and cupped his hands to get some water, and splashed some on his face, to smooth out his eyebrow hair, and walked back out.

Zeek was cutting up some cumber with Dustin when somebody knocked on the door.

"I'll get it", Dustin said.

Zeek walked outside to get a breath of fresh air, his stomach pain was getting worse. Zealand also walked outside.

"What's wrong?" Zealand said "I noticed your smile, and it looked much happier yesterday. Do you think that Dustin is not *the one*."

"No, Dustin is the one. Just, my stomach really hurts, but not like I ate too much, It's like I haven't eaten in ten weeks, and my head hurts and, and I feel like I'm going to pass out, and My teeth look longer, and my hair, it's growing, like one inch every minute."

"Well, maybe You're a werewolf", Zealand said sarcastically

"Werewolves are not real." Zeek said

They were both silent and Zealand walked inside. Zeek sat out there for about ten minutes, until Dustin walked out, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing, I just needed a minute", Zeek replied.

"Wow your voice is deep."

Zeek turned around, to Dustin. Dustin's eyes opened wide "Oh, my, god!" He ran into the house and slammed the door. Zeek ran inside after him but turned into the bathroom to see why he was scared of him.

His face was covered in hair. No, fur.

There were more people arriving for the party and heading out back to dance with their date. Zeek quickly pulled the door closed and locked it, so no one could come in. Zeek thought about Dustin, *does he think I'm a total creep now, does he not want to dance, well probably not, he thought. I mean I am a werewolf.*

It was getting dark, and Zeek was still in the bathroom. "Hey, I really need to go, stop hogging' the bathroom Dude!" Someone said. " Zeek opened the door, they saw his face, and they ran away. *I'm useless* Zeek thought as he ran out the Bathroom door, to the kitchen and straight toward the front door. Zealand saw a flash of black and white and assumed that it was Zeek. He bolted out the door after him. Zealand turned his head to the left then the right. *Where is he? Where would he go, and why did he leave?* Zeek ran to the left, he saw muddy footprints. He followed them but soon it got too dark. Zealand ran the direction to Zeek's house, thinking

that he went there. Sure enough, when he got there, Zeek was sitting on the steps holding his head in his hands, crying. "I'm going to ask you this one more time, what is wrong?"

Zeek looked up and Zealand thought, *Oh, my gosh, I was right, he is a werewolf.*

"I get it if you run away", Zeek said.

"No, this is not scary to me. We have known each other forever. I would never abandon you like that. I just want to know how you got to be a werewolf, or who you got it from."

Zeek wiped his tears and said, "Then I guess, that is our next problem to solve."

