**“A Sound of Thunder” Activity**

The driving theory behind the butterfly effect is the notion that even the smallest of actions can result in drastic changes. Like it or not, each action we take has its unforeseen consequences, and sometimes, those consequences can be more devastating than we could ever imagine.

*Directions: In this activity you will be provided with a scenario. From there, it will be your task to create a story based on that scenario. However, here is the catch: your story must end drastically differently than it begins. Using the idea behind the butterfly effect, you will create a step by step account of events to create your story. Each step must have an action, and each action must have a consequence that is presented in the very next step.*

**Example:**

**Scenario:** *Your friends put trick candles on your birthday cake.*

**Step 1:** I try to blow out the candles, but they won’t go out despite how hard I try.

**Step 2:** I get frustrated with the candles and pick them off the birthday cake, angrily throwing them behind me.

**Step 3:** One of the candles hits the curtains on the wall behind me, and the curtain goes up in flames.

**Step 4:** After the wall is ablaze, I search the house in vain for something to put out the fire. “Sorry, Nemo!” I exclaim, grabbing my fishbowl and tossing it on the flames.

**Step 5:** I hurriedly rush out of the house to find the cops, the fire department, and the paramedics pulling up at the curb of the charred remains of what was my house as my friends flee the scene.

**Step 6:** After taking a moment to catch my breath, I hear a cop say, “You have the right to remain silent,” as he cuffs my hands behind my back.

**RESULT:** So now I’m here, sitting in jail under suspicion of arson with no friends here to corroborate my story. Wow, I need better friends.

**Your Turn:**

**Scenario:** Choose from one of the following scenarios. Delete all options, other than the one you choose.

* *A test monkey escapes from a medical facility.*
* *Someone cuts you off on the highway.*
* *Someone puts a mysterious note in your locker.*
* *You find out that you have inherited $1,000,000.*
* *You pick up a hitchhiker.*
* *You miss your school bus.*
* *You see a flash of light outside of your window.*

**Step 1:**

**Step 2:**

**Step 3:**

**Step 4:**

**Step 5:**

**Step 6:**

**RESULT:**