**The Fourth Stall** By: Chris Rylander

“Mac” short for Macgyver is a sixth grade “wiseguy.” If you need something done, Mac knows someone who can do it. Is a bully bothering you? Forget about it. Mac knows just the guy who can take care of your problem, for a fee. All you had to do was make an appointment to meet Mac in the fourth stall of the East Wing bathroom at school.

Business was booming until one day when a third grader named Fred stepped into the fourth stall. Fred had a problem and it was a big one. Fred was being tormented by someone named “Staples” and he needed Mac’s help.

*“Staples? Staples wasn’t even supposed to exist. The legend of Staples has been spread throughout the town practically since the beginning of time. According to the most often repeated stories, Staples was this kid who dropped out of school in fourth grade and never went back. His age always varied from story to story, but it was generally agreed that he was now between fourteen and twenty. Some kids claimed that he could do forty pull-ups with two seventh graders dangling from each leg. Others said he could pop a tetherball with a single punch. He also supposedly ran a mile in under six minutes and was smarter than Albert Einstein and Hermione Granger combined.*

Mac, and his wingman Vince were willing to help Fred but it was going to cost him. After all, this was a tough assignment but they needed money, lots of it. They were certain that the Cubs were going to win the Series and they wanted to be there when it happened and that was going to be expensive. Mac and Vince were in the business of solving people’s problems. Mac and Vince soon find out that “the trouble with solving everyone else’s problems is there’s no one left to solve yours.”

*~Booktalk by Tammy DiBartolo*