

**Winner in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Children's Creative Writing Contest  
Grades 1 & 2 Short Story  
Bemis Public Library – April 2009**

**The Panda Bear's New Mom**

By Meredith O.

Once there was a panda bear born. When he opened his eyes, he looked up and saw a big black and white bear holding him. That night he looked at himself in the reflection of the glass at the zoo cage, and he became worried. He had no hair. He was not black and white. This bear could not be his mom. So that night, he walked around the zoo, looking for his mommy.

He found the hippo pond. He jumped right in, as they had no hair either. For 2 weeks he was a happy hippo swimming and playing. Then, he grew fuzzy white hair. He became worried again. This hippo could not be his mom. She was not white. So he again went searching for his mom.

When he came to the polar bears, he knew he had found his mommy. They were both fuzzy and white. He had a great time for 2 weeks playing in the cold with big balls and eating fish. Then, one day he looked at his arm and noticed black and white hair had grown. He again was worried and went looking for his mom.

This time he found a mommy zebra. She was black and white, just like him. So, he cuddled up next to her. The panda bear had a nice time with her, but he did not like eating grass. It was too green and too plain. So again he was worried. Could he be a zebra, if he didn't like grass???

Again the panda bear went searching for his mom. This time the zookeeper found him wandering in the zoo. He was taken right away to the panda bear cage. Inside was the big black and white bear he remembered. She picked him up and hugged him. Then the big bear gave him a piece of bamboo to eat. It was very sweet and he loved it. They snuggled all night. In the morning, the panda bear knew he was a panda bear and had finally found his Mom.