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**2019 STEM Options Writing Contest**

**Grades 3 – 6**

**Second Place Winner**

**The Gold Crown of the Empire**

**Clara Whitelaw Singer**

Last year was a dark and scary year. My family and I barely survived the drought. My family is very poor. It was hard to afford a roof over our heads, so it was even harder when the drought came. My friends and I knew there was only one way to save us from this horrible thing. We had to find the gold crown of the empire. It was dangerous but the crown was worth billions of dollars and that could get us transportation to bring water from anywhere on the planet to California. So everyone started to do some research. My friend Maya found a place called the secret temple of the empire. It took two long days but we got to the secret temple. The problem was we didn’t know how to get in. But my other friend Blake noticed a tunnel that led into the secret temple. It was dark and mysterious. We had to get to the throne room where the hidden gold crown would be. But we had to watch out for booby traps. Just then Blake touched something and was trapped in a blue bubble that said warning 100 % percent helium. Blake’s voice sounded really high pitched. When he talked I thought Blake was Maya. But then we saw a button that said - don’t touch. But then Maya thought -what if something sharp comes out when you push it. She did and Blake was free. Next, I saw a sign that said throne room two blocks down then turn right. But then as I was walking Maya was missing. Then Blake was missing and two lights turned on. My friends were in ginormous sticky gum and someone was in the room we were in. Then I realized I was trapped just like my friends**.** The person said -you’ll never save your state while I’m here. But who was that person wearing a mask? He said I am here to take the crown that can make me rich and can get me all the water in the world.

Just then, my grandma came to save us. Then I saw a tan button on the wall and I told grandma to push it. She pushed it. Part of the wall flipped up, and there it was the crown of the empire and other gold. Maya called the cops while grandma and I got the crown and gold. Blake trapped the masked man in the sticky gum, and then got us free. Next, we called some jets, planes, and helicopters to bring some water to California and everyone got free water that we paid for with the gold. There were a few pieces of gold left that I kept to help me and other families out that are poor to get food, water, and shelter so we all had a happy life. I will never forget the whole adventure that I did with my friends and my grandma! The end.