



Emerson found a petal across the street, then encounters the origin.

E: "A wishing flower!"  
V: Actually, it's a dandelion."



H: "I found apples! I think they're little apples. Let's see what's inside them. Let's crush them to see."



"We're here!"  
Our First Trip to Grant Park  
Emerson, Hank, Kahlan, Ruth, Violet  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

On the walk back, we decide to take a different route but one of the roads we encountered was closed. There was a huge truck with a crane removing a tree & then cutting it up into chunks. After several minutes of exciting observation, we looked at a map on Kalei's phone to find another way back.





The first big stop of the park was the stone fountain near the police precinct. The children begin their encounter by letting loose after a long, well-mannered walk by running around & jumping off the stone. When their bodies calmed they began to inspect the space more closely. The defunct fountain at the center of the stone became the topic of a lively debate; is it for the ducks to swim in? is it a bird bath, or feeder? is it too dirty for fish to swim in, for the birds? After several minutes of the children expressing their many theories about the fountain's purpose, they began to notice the astrological bas-reliefs in the stone, releasing a new floodgate of ideas. Ruth began with an interest in the inscription, focusing on an "H for my name" while Violet became overjoyed by the discovery of a "mermaid" (lower left image). Hank, referring to the relief of the Gemini twins announced that "this tells us we can't go to the zoo," which was much-discussed on the walk, "because of this line they're holding." Finally, Ruth finds a "scorpion" but is challenged by Emerson: "No it's a crab!" Ultimately, the group is convinced of Ruth's assertion & agrees it is indeed a scorpion.

