

Tales of Adventure

CHIJ (Kellock) 2013

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Story 1: The Mysterious Island

By Kelly Tan (P6 Cerise)
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“DEAR passengers, this is the captain. We are having a little trouble with the engines. Please put on your oxygen masks and remain calm.”

The plane jolted and there was a smell of burning machinery. Everyone gasped and there were a few screams. Jessie glanced anxiously at her red-headed best friend, Allie.

Allie’s eyes were shut and she was mumbling under her breath, “We will survive this. We will survive this.”

The oxygen masks dropped from the overhead compartment. Jessie, Allie, and Jessie’s older sister, Nexe, quickly put on their oxygen masks. Cursing and swearing, Nexe’s eyes turned blue. No one around paid any attention to her. Everyone was too busy panicking to bother about other things

The captain’s voice boomed over the announcing system again. “Dear passengers, please brace yourselves for impact.”

Allie held on tightly to her best friend’s hand, appreciating the company.

Despite being the oldest among the three, Nexe screamed at the top of her lungs. “Curse this plane!”

As if on cue, the plane began plummeting head-first towards the ground.

“Seriously, Nexe? You couldn’t save that curse for some other time?” Jessie shouted over racket.

“Well, what else was I supposed to say?” Nexe challenged.

“Oh, I don’t know, nothing perhaps?” Jessie answered sarcastically.

Allie, being the peacemaker, put a stop to the argument between Jessie and Nexe. She reminded them that arguing would not help in the situation they were in. At that instant, the left wing of the plane hit the ground and broke off. Then, the plane broke into many sections. A fire broke out, and before they knew it, luggage from the overhead compartment came tumbling down, hitting Jessie on the head. She blacked out.

When Jessie regained consciousness, she found herself lying on the ground, out in the open. It was early afternoon. She blinked her eyes a few times. As soon as Allie saw that Jessie had regained consciousness, she asked her if she was all right. Jessie looked down at her clothes. They were ragged and torn. Looking over at Allie, she saw that her friend was in no better state. She slowly nodded in answer to Allie’s question.

“You?” Jessie asked.

“I’m fine, I guess.” Allie replied unsteadily.

“Where’s Nexe?” Jessie asked, remembering that her sister had been on the plane with them.

Allie pointed. Nexe was a distance away, staring out into the horizon, sulking. Staggering to her feet, Jessie went to tell Nexe that they had to look for shelter before the sky turned dark.

“There is nothing here. Nothing as far as the eye can see,” Nexe said.

Looking around, Jessie realised that Nexe was right. It seemed like they had landed on a deserted island. There was nothing on it as far as they could see. No animals. No trees. Nothing. Just the hard-packed dirt floor they were standing on.

“Still, we shouldn’t just sit around. We need to do something,” Jessie insisted.

Nexe sighed because she knew that Jessie was right. As they walked, Jessie asked, “Do I even want to know what happened when I blacked out?”

“Trust me, you don’t,” Allie said matter-of-factly.

Long hours of walking had not paid off. They could find nothing. Absolutely nothing. But just as they were about to give up, they saw something and walked towards it. Before they knew it, they were standing in front of some sort of structure. It looked like a maze.

With towering huge black walls and dark mist covering it, the maze certainly did not look welcoming. A sense of foreboding filled the trio as they stood before this structure. Something caught Jessie’s eye. A small wooden sign that had the words: Many may go in, but only one comes out alive.

“Guys, look at this,” Jessie whispered, her voice wavering.

“What now?” Nexe snapped, with an irritated look on her face. Her eyes were bright red and Allie could sense a curse about to erupt from Nexe’s mouth.

When Nexe read the sign, her eyes turned icy blue. She was horrified. “We can’t go in there,” Nexe said. “Two of us will get killed or eaten up or something and Mum would kill me for not taking care of you two.”

A sudden flash of lightning made them jump. Dark clouds suddenly covered the sky, making the maze look even spookier than it did before. Rain pelted down on them. Allie, Nexe and Jessie knew that they had to take shelter. Without thinking, they ran into the only place that, strangely, was not even drizzling – the maze.

The moment they stepped into the maze, the walls clanged shut and an eerie, high-pitched voice laughed a laugh so irritating that it would make the most patient person snap. Allie clung onto Jessie’s arm and the two clutched each other.

“Come on, let’s walk,” Nexe said, trying to be brave. However, her eye colour betrayed her act. She was scared to the core.

Shifting as if they were alive, the walls constantly closed and opened paths. The trio made sure that they stuck together so that none of them would get lost. Nexe wanted to scream from the feelings of horror, terror and plain fright. She swallowed the urge and walked on, trying to stand tall. Whispers from nowhere filled their ears as the walls shifted.

All at once, they whispered, "It's like we're being led somewhere."

Jessie, Allie and Nexe walked on further into the maze. A cold wind blew, sending chills down their spines. A shadow emerged from behind the walls of the maze. Allie grew excited, thinking that the shadow was help. Blindly, the trio walked towards it. When they turned round the corner, a shriek escaped their mouths before they could stop it.

The shadow belonged not to a human, but to a large monster with a serpent's head and a muscular body. Its eyes were deep coal black and its teeth were barred with hatred. It let out a menacing roar that shook the earth.

"Use your charm-speak, idiot," Nexe hissed at her sister. "Isn't that why you were given that power in the first place?"

Jessie, remembering her power, felt a little stupid. She took a deep breath and sang:

"Quiet your heart, O gentle giant,
Let the moon and stars guard you from all harm.
Let the earth move and silence your heart,
For all is calm and all is bright,
Soon the day shall bring its light."

Suddenly, the monster's eyelids began to droop. The monster slumped against the wall of the maze as if in defeat. Seizing the opportunity, the trio tiptoed quietly past the snoring terror. They turned right, and just before they could heave a sigh of relief, the walls of the maze closed in on them. They were trapped in a tiny square of land, walls on four sides with no way out.

Nexe held on tightly to her last shred of hope, and did the stupidest thing anyone could do in that situation – banging on the walls when there was no chance of getting out... or was there? For as soon as Nexe's fist came in contact with the wall, it split open, revealing a fog so thick that even the strongest light could barely make a dent in it.

"Nexe," Jessie said, cautiously. "What did you do?"

Nexe shrugged, with a mixture of both fright and panic in her expression.

Out of the blue, Allie screamed. "G-G-GHOST!"

Jessie looked at her, surprised. She checked Allie's forehead, thinking that Allie was unwell.

"Jessie, I'm fine, but can't you see that ghost?" Allie said, suddenly going somewhat pale.

Jessie shook her head, still surprised.

Suddenly, a creepy voice sounded. It said, "True to the words of the sign, only one of you will make it out alive. To determine who, all you trespassers shall take a test. The one who passes first stays alive, and the others be left to perish."

The voice let out an evil cackle before silencing itself.

Nexe swallowed her fears and said, "Oh, c'mon you two, how hard could it possibly be?" But for the second time, her eye colour betrayed her act. She was just as scared as Jessie and Allie, who were deathly pale and clinging on to each other.

The trio walked further into the fog, clutching each other's hands. Jessie, who was holding Nexe's hand, could feel Nexe shaking uncontrollably, beneath her clammy hand.

All of a sudden, a bright light flashed, whisking the three out of the centre of the maze. The "voice" revealed itself. It was an old man with a long beard, his eyes as unforgiving as a snake's.

“Your test is to find the exit of this maze,” he said. “Each of you must go your separate ways and the first one out, wins.”

With a final puff of smoke, he disappeared.

Walls appeared, separating the trio. Jessie, shocked by this, regained composure and ran. She darted through the twists and turns, surprised by the emptiness of the maze after the encounter with the monster. Although she was exhausted, her will for survival pushed her on, leaving behind all her worries.

Through the next turn, Jessie sighted the exit. She made a beeline for it and dashed through the exit. The exhausted but happy Jessie pumped her fist into the air. She slumped against the walls of the maze.

The man appeared once again, saying, “Well done, you are the survivor of the maze.”

Jessie smiled and looked back. She was puzzled, as Nexe and Allie were not out yet. Then, it dawned upon her that she would never see them again.

“NO!” Jessie screamed hysterically, banging against the wall that blocked her from Nexe and Allie.

Jessie refused to leave her sister and best friend behind. Life would not be the same without them. Meanwhile, Nexe and Allie had reached the wall blocking them from the exit. They wondered where Jessie was. Soon, Nexe realised that Jessie had escaped. Suddenly, Allie saw Nexe’s eyes turn crimson with anger.

“That is it! I’ve had enough of this!” Nexe exclaimed.

Allie grew scared. She slowly backed up. She wanted to try reasoning with Nexe, but she was too much afraid of what might come as a consequence. Without any warning, red lasers shot out of Nexe’s eyes. The lasers were so powerful that they caused a crack in the wall. Allie was stunned. Surprisingly, so was Nexe.

“Woah, Nexe! How did you do that?” Allie asked, barely believing what she had just seen.

Nexe shrugged, seeming just as surprised. Much to their fortune, the crack in the wall allowed Jessie’s screaming from the other side of the wall to finally be heard.

“Allie! Nexe! Can you hear me?” Jessie yelled, still trying to see if she could hear them.

“Jessie! It’s you!” they replied, happy to hear Jessie’s voice once again.

Allie tried to shout through the crack, to explain to Jessie what had happened, even though she herself was not so sure. Jessie guessed that Nexe’s eyes would shoot lasers if she was furious. Nexe and Allie, not sure of what else to believe, went along with it.

Now, they had to figure out a way to get Allie and Nexe free from that horrifying maze. Suddenly, Allie had an idea. “We have to make you angry,” she told Nexe.

Nexe stared at Allie, puzzled. “What?”

“If you get really angry, you might be able to break down the entire wall!” Allie said.

“And we will all be free!” Jessie said from the other side.

Desperate to get out of the maze, Allie and Jessie began reminding Nexe of things that annoyed her: People who show off; people who can’t seem to pronounce common words right; people who act smart; and most annoyingly, Jessie succeeding all the time.

Nexe’s eye colour changed from yellow, to green, to red. Allie smiled, knowing that her plan had worked. She backed up, slowly and steadily, waiting for Nexe’s powers to take charge.

“Jessie! Stand back!” Allie warned, when Nexe’s eyes were crimson red.

Nexe’s powers started to work. The lasers that shot out of her eyes aimed directly for the huge wall. The wall started to crack and crumble, then finally, collapsing entirely. Allie calmed Nexe down before running to Jessie to hug her.

“Thanks for staying,” Nexe said to her sister, feeling more love towards her.

Jessie smiled, just glad that everyone was unharmed, and that she was getting along with

her sister for once. Without a second look back, the trio ran away from the maze.

When they were too tired, they stopped to walk. They kept on walking, hoping for the best. Out of nowhere, Jessie stopped. She stood with her head up, as if trying to listen for something.

“Do you hear that?” Jessie asked. “That noise... It... It sounds like... a plane.”

Soon, Allie too began hearing noises.

“Oh, I think I know that sound,” Nexa bragged. “It’s a helicopter! I got to ride on one last week!”

Sure enough, a helicopter was flying above them. Allie, being her quirky self, began jumping up and down and waving frantically. Jessie followed, and Nexa soon followed too. Their actions were so exaggerated that they could be seen from a mile away. The helicopter saw them and landed about four feet away from the trio. Hopefully, this was their chance of getting home.

Jessie was the first to walk up to the helicopter, with Nexa and Allie following close behind. The huge door of the helicopter opened, and out came a small rescue team. A representative went up to the trio and explained that the pilot of the plane that had crashed had sent an emergency call just before the plane went down. They had the signal to the island.

The rescue team then helped the trio onto the helicopter and headed back to Ohio, their hometown. Nexa’s eyes turned yellow, as she was finally going back home, after that long and exhausting day. Jessie and Allie grinned, feeling the same way.

“I am never going on a plane again,” Allie joked.

They were never going to forget that day. In fact, once they got home, they rushed to tell everyone about their amazing adventure, but mysteriously, when people went to explore the island, the maze could not be found. The maze that the girls visited remained a mystery to all those who went after the three girls...

Story 2: Saving Hailey

By Grace Wong Kai-Li (P6 Indigo)

Kristen Ee Sze Yean (P6 Indigo)

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Lyric

“CATCH me if you can!” Courtney sang out to Hailey and I. It was in the evening after school. Everyone was partying as summer was finally here.

“Oh God, Courtney... We’re 16 not 6, you idiot!” I shouted, rolling my eyes.

Despite Courtney being childish, we still chased after her. Pumping our legs as fast we could, we finally cornered Courtney.

“Ha!” Hailey said smugly in victory. Just then, Courtney, using her vampire skills, turned into a bat and fluttered towards our dormitory.

Courtney

“Ha! Beat that!” I thought silently to myself. Out of three of us, I was the fastest. I always beat them at races or games. I reached our dorm and saw my two best friends, Lyric and Hailey standing there. Lyric was a mermaid, Hailey was a fairy and I was a vampire. Together, we attend the Boarding School for Magical Creatures. All magical creatures under the age of 18 have to attend this boarding school as there are many hunters and rebels out there that want to kill us and make our kind extinct. It is our job to learn and to fight for our kind.

“The first two people who get to the bathrooms are the first two to bathe!” Lyric said, immediately rushing to the nearest bathroom. Hailey, being the slowest one, had to wait for us

to finish bathing before she could start showering.

“You two better hurry up! I don’t want to wait here till tomorrow!” Hailey reminded us, as we always took our own sweet time to bathe. We smiled knowingly and went to bathe.

Hailey, 35 minutes later

“Ugh, what are they doing in there? How long could they possibly take?! Seriously, those two could spend a whole day inside the bathroom.” I said to myself. I was getting thoroughly bored, so I started ambling around the dorm. I mean, there is always something new you can find in a two-storey dorm!

“What is this?” I thought aloud to myself while examining a shiny red stone that I found in the kitchen. The glossy crimson surface was glowing so bright it almost blinded me. I had seen this stone before somewhere, but I just could not remember where.

My gut was telling me that there was something wrong with this stone; it had a dangerous aura. A battle raged on in my head. One side was telling me to hold the stone for a bit longer, to see what it would do. The other side told me to stay away from the stone, burn it, destroy it, throw it away. Anything. Just keep it away.

Ever the curious one, I held onto the stone and stared at it intensely to see what would happen.

Suddenly, I felt a strong presence overwhelm me. I immediately fell to my knees. I did not know what it was as I was blinded by a glowing red light. I could not see anything, hear anything. Feeling helpless, I stopped struggling and let it overcome me.

Lyric, 5 minutes later

“Hailey? Hailey! I’m done!” I called out for Hailey to come and shower. I’ve been calling incessantly, yet she didn’t respond. Something was definitely up. I exited my walk-in wardrobe and immediately bumped into Hailey.

“Watch it!” Hailey spat at me. Did Hailey just shout at me? Hailey never ever shouts at people, let alone her best friends. Something was definitely up. I used my mermaid powers to read what was going through Hailey’s mind. Even though I promised my best friends I would never read their minds, I had to do it when it was necessary.

When I saw what was going through Hailey’s mind, I almost fainted. Hailey was most definitely possessed by some evil spirit to harbour such thoughts. I spun on my heels, walking as fast as I could to Courtney’s room to tell her the whole situation.

Courtney

When Lyric told me what had happened to Hailey, I almost vomited blood. Hailey was possessed? POSSESSED?! I had to do something about this. I mean, Hailey was the first true friend I had had in years! Which best friend would leave their friend in the lurch like this?

“I know a witch that can help us,” Lyric said. “I will go find her and get a cure for Hailey!”

“What do I do?” I asked.

“Just stay here and distract anyone who asks about me or Hailey,” Lyric said.

Hailey was my best friend. I could never leave her during difficult times, no matter how hard it is, I will never leave her side while she is fighting her own battle. She is my best friend, and I know, I just know, that if I were in her position right now, she would do the same for me. That’s just what best friends do for each other.

Lyric, Meeting with Godiva

“Hello, may I see Godiva please? It’s urgent,” I said to Godiva’s butler.

Godiva was a witch well-known for finding cures for various diseases. I had come to know

Godiva as a friend, after she helped to cure my younger sister, Leila, of a deadly disease when she was young. Now, I had to ask her for another favour – to help me find a cure for Hailey.

Opening the heavy wood door, the butler gestured for me to enter Godiva's study. I sat down on one of the empty chairs and thanked the butler. I waited patiently for Godiva to come.

"Lyric! How nice it is to see you again! How long has it been? Five years? My goodness look how tall you've grown!" Godiva said to me cheerfully. I immediately cut to the chase and told her what had happened. When she heard the entire story, she shook her head and sighed.

"My dear, I think she has been possessed by the Phoenix spirit. The Phoenix spirit is extremely cruel and sadistic. It delights when people are in pain or are experiencing torture. My guess is that it wants to break into the boarding school and kidnap all of the students as well as teachers there and force them to work for it.

"Hailey has the power to change the weather according to her emotions and she has control over the four elements as well, right? These powers are very rare. The spirit mustn't be allowed to control her! We need to give her the cure as soon as possible," Godiva said while using a key to open a locked door inside the room. She gestured for me to follow her.

The room was full of potion bottles containing various types of potions. My eyes widened in awe. This was really cool. Godiva started rummaging through the cupboards, finally coming up with a glass bottle with red liquid inside. She handed it to me.

"Keep this bottle in a safe and secure place. Many people want to keep this particular potion for themselves. This potion is extremely uncommon and hard to find. Take care, my dear," she said. And with that, I bid farewell to her and walked to the sea to turn into my mermaid form and swim back to school.

Courtney

"I'm back!" Lyric exclaimed as she walked into the dorm, immediately slumping on the couch to rest. I rushed towards her.

Hailey said meanly, "Like anybody gives a damn."

I can't wait to have the old Hailey back, the fun cheery optimistic one.

"So, what's the plan?" I said to Lyric. Lyric had just explained to me what the potion was.

"Godiva said that we must get her to drink it," Lyric replied.

"But Hailey doesn't really eat anymore. She stayed in her room during lunch break." I said.

Lyric sighed and said, "We could sneak it into her mouthwash or something."

My eyes lit up at the idea and I eagerly nodded my head. We agreed to sneak the potion into Hailey's mouthwash later at night.

Lyric, 3 am

"Shh! Walk quietly Courtney!" I whisper-yelled at Courtney.

"Well, it would be less noisy if someone had allowed me to turn into a bat!" Courtney retorted.

I rolled my eyes and gestured for her to follow me. We swiftly turned and entered the bathroom where we brush our teeth. We opened Hailey's mouthwash and poured five drops of the potion into it. We exited the bathroom and walked towards our own bedrooms.

When we were walking past Hailey's bedroom, I heard chanting coming from Hailey's room. Courtney and I looked at each other and crept towards the sound. I jiggled the doorknob quietly and surprisingly the door was not locked. Good thing that fairies don't have very sharp hearing.

I peeked inside and got the shock of my life. Hailey was practising fire magic! Hailey has control over four elements, yeah, but Hailey couldn't practise fire magic! When we were young, Hailey and I were playing together and she accidentally fell into the sea. Hailey was a Sparkle fairy, and I knew that Sparkle fairies who have been fully submerged in water lose their ability

to control fire!

We closed the door and crept away. There was nothing we could do.

Courtney

I woke up to the sound of a girl screaming. I scrambled out of my bed and to where the horrible screeching was coming from. The sound led me to the bathroom where the three of us always brushed our teeth.

Lyric was already here. Hailey was kneeling on the ground, face contorted in pain. I immediately rushed to her side and comforted her. Her face was convulsed with so much pain that I could almost feel it.

Hailey

When I opened my eyes, Lyric and Courtney were beside me. At that moment, I felt an excruciating pain spread all over my body. Lyric was beside me, using her mermaid powers to charmspeak the spirit that possessed me, telling it to get out of my body. As the spirit left, it felt as though someone was forcing my brain out of my skull.

After what seemed like eternity, the pain finally stopped. I looked around to see myself lying in the middle of the bathroom. A thousand thoughts bombarded my mind, leading with: What happened to me? What possessed me?

Lyric and Courtney immediately flooded me with a barrage of questions. I looked at the worried looks on my two best friends' faces and said two simple words, "Thank you."

Lyric and Courtney recounted the whole incident to me. When they had finished, I was crying. Not out of joy, not out of sadness, but out of gratitude. My two best friends helped me get through this difficult situation.

They are truly my best friends. After all, best friends are people who take care of each other through crises; best friends are people who have secrets; best friends are people who defend you when you are in trouble. Most importantly, best friends are people who stand by each other no matter what.

Story 3: Unexpected Powers

By Joey Chua (P5 Opal)

Manda Tay (P5 Opal)

"WHY must the weekends be over so fast?" Bella wailed while waiting for the school bus with her father. At the shelter, Bella saw the three girls she took school bus with together. A few minutes later, the bus arrived and the girls ran into the bus.

Meanwhile, Bella's best friend, Ariana was in the public bus with her annoying sister, Audrey and their helper, Auntie Rose. Ariana is the same age as Bella while Audrey is nine.

Bella and Ariana arrived in school at the same time. They played in the playground together until it was time for assembly.

After assembly, they walked to their class. Bella and Ariana were walking up the stairs when their enemy, Zoey, bumped into Bella on purpose. About to fall, Bella clutched onto Ariana, but that made things worse. They both started falling together. They rolled down the stairs, bumped their heads and were unconscious!

When they regained consciousness, they found themselves in the sick bay. Their parents had been called to pick them up too!

"I am sorry I held your hand. Now we are both badly bruised," said Bella.

"It's okay, now we look like leopard sisters!" joked Ariana.

That made Bella and Ariana laugh.

The next morning was a Saturday. Bella woke up with a giant yawn. Everyone was still sleeping. Her bruises were hurting, and she decided to get some ice cubes to put on her body.

Suddenly, she saw a cloth, with ice cubes inside, moving towards her! How strange! How had she done that? She realised that, maybe, she was telekinetic! She could move things with her mind.

"I have to tell Ariana about this!" Bella excitedly said.

Meanwhile, at Ariana's house, Ariana was climbing down from the top of the double-decker bed she shared with Audrey. Suddenly, she found she could read Audrey's mind while she slept! Audrey was dreaming about being invisible, and in the dream, she was hitting Ariana.

Ariana was furious. She took a pen and started drawing a mustache on Audrey's face.

"Hee. Hee. that'll teach her a lesson." Ariana said as she giggled.

She started reading Auntie Rose's mind too. Auntie Rose was dreaming about her boyfriend. "Eek! Something I do not want to see!" Ariana said.

Then Ariana wondered: What made me read minds? Am I still dreaming? She pinched her herself to see if she was dreaming. That is when Ariana realised that she could read minds! Cool! she thought.

"I must tell Bella about this!" Ariana said excitedly.

* * *

On Monday, Ariana and Bella saw each other at opposite sides of the hall.

"Bella! Bella! I've got some news!" Ariana shouted.

"Hey Ariana! I've got news too!" Bella shouted.

"Okay, you go first, Ariana," Bella said.

"Okay, well you see... ever since we fell and hit our heads," Ariana said, carefully lowering her voice. "I found out that I can read minds whenever I want to!"

"Hey! That's almost like what I wanted to say, except that I'm can't read minds but I'm telekinetic! Telekinetic means..." Bella lowered her voice to a whisper. "You can teleport anything to anywhere!"

"I know what telekinetic means!" said Ariana.

When they got used to their powers, they started to play pranks on the other pupils in school. Once, Bella made a pencil case "fly" to a random girl. Thinking it was a ghost, the girl ran away screaming.

There was also another time when Ariana saw two girls chatting at the playground. Ariana read one of the girl's minds and realised that her name was Tara. She also discovered that Tara hated Terry, the girl she was talking to! Ariana hid behind a pole and loudly shouted, "Tara hates Terry! Tara hates Terry!"

Everyone stared at Tara and Terry. Terry glared at Tara and stormed off.

Yet another time, Bella and Ariana did something they would never forget. Zoey was helping the teacher carrying heavy books when Ariana read her mind. She discovered that Zoey had a fear of knives. Spotting a toy knife not far away, Ariana told Bella to move the knife towards Zoey. When Zoey saw the knife flying towards her, she dropped all the heavy books she was holding and ran away screaming, leaving the poor teacher to pick up all the books.

However, after laughing for a while, they both realised that what they had done was quite mean. Zoey had looked really scared.

"Bella, I think what we are doing is not right," said Ariana.

"Like scaring people," continued Bella.

"And breaking friendships," said Ariana, recalling Tara and Terry.

“Should we stop pranking people?” asked Ariana.

“Yes! Let’s quit pranking people,” said Bella.

So, the girls promised to never to use their powers to play pranks on people anymore. They would use their powers only for fun and to help people.

Story 4: Quest of the Magicks

By Chung Ee Ning (P6 Indigo)

Joanne Huang Yu Huan (P6 Indigo)

A long time ago, there lived two sisters, Lexi and Gabby White. They were identical twins. Lexi had long brown hair and piercing blue eyes. She was extremely shy. Gabby, on the other hand, was the wacky one. Her hair was dyed blonde and she was friendly and sociable. Some people found it hard to believe that they were twins.

The Whites had a small secret. They were one of the rarest Magicks – people who have magic power – who lived on the earth. They never revealed their magic to anyone. Lexi had the power to fly while Gabby had the power to turn invisible – but only when she sees something red.

This story starts with Lexi and Gabby’s mother driving them to their Aunt Rosella’s place because she needed to travel to the other side of the city to take care of their sick grandmother. Although Aunt Rosella had powers, her daughter, Adalyn, did not. She had no inkling about the Magicks as their mother did not tell her about it.

Both Lexi and Gabby disliked Adalyn as she was grumpy, selfish and rude. When Lexi and Gabby arrived at the small wooden cottage, Adalyn was sitting on the sofa as usual, smirking. Aunt Rosella appeared, smiling. Her eyes were warm and friendly, unlike her daughter’s.

“Welcome, welcome!” exclaimed Aunt Rosella. “Adalyn can’t wait to play with you. Look, she even changed her hairstyle to welcome you!”

It was then that Lexi noticed Adalyn’s newly-dyed red hair. It hit her. She threw Aunt Rosella a frantic look, but she did not seem to notice a thing.

“Oh, no!” groaned Lexi. She spun around to warn her twin but unfortunately, Gabby had vanished into thin air. Aunt Rosella noticed her mistake and gasped.

“Where’s she gone to?” screamed Adalyn.

Aunt Rosella tried to keep a cool head. “She’s... just ran to the toilet,” she whispered, her voice quavering.

Adalyn glared suspiciously at her mother, then said rudely, “Fine, okay.”

She stared at Lexi for a whole minute, then said in a falsely sweet voice, “Lexi dear, why not I go into my room and get a packet of cards?”

She ran off and Gabby reappeared.

“Why had she have to dye her hair *red*, of all colours? It’s really annoying being invisible, you know.”

“Aunt Rosella?” asked Lexi timidly, ignoring Gabby. “Um, Mum never told us this, but may I know why you never told Adalyn about her Magick powers?”

Aunt Rosella sighed. “It all happened like this, you see. I brought Adalyn to the Rickywood Castle when she was born, just like how your mother brought you two. However, the Magick Lord informed me that Adalyn’s power was the ability to destroy people’s happiness! So, to protect my daughter, I refused the power and brought Adalyn back home, safe from all the evil. I vowed never to use my Magick power, and never to let Adalyn know about it. I’ve done a pretty good job till now, you know. I think I’ll go and ask Adalyn to wear a blue wig or something.”

No one realised that Adalyn was standing in the shadows, listening to every single detail of their conversation.

* * *

Adalyn stepped out from behind the door. Lexi, Gabby and Aunt Rosella jumped to realise she was back in the room.

“Well, hi, Gabby. Back from the washroom, isn’t it?” Adalyn said sarcastically.

Lexi could sense danger.

“Why, yes, I am,” said Gabby bravely.

Adalyn threw the packet of cards onto the sofa. “I’ve decided I will not play with you little childish people. You go have *fun*.” She turned to her mother. “Mum, I’m going over to my friend’s for a two-day sleepover. We’ve got it all arranged. Bye, Mum!”

She slammed the front door shut behind her.

“Ada... WAIT!” Aunt Rosella turned pale. “She’s not being normal! Oh, I’m really worried!”

Aunt Rosella, though distraught, brought the twins out to the park and dinner at yummy restaurants. Nothing much happened for two days, until the night of the second day, when Adalyn came back. But there was something really strange about her. She was dressed in black and she was holding a sort of stick with a skull perched on top.

“Adalyn!” gasped Aunt Rosella in horror. “What are you doing?”

“I can’t believe you’ve kept it from me all those years!” Adalyn shouted. “You think that my power is *dangerous*? Me, strong, special with the greatest Magick power in the world – and *you never told me*. I will never forgive you! But now that I’ve got *my* power, I can do anything I want!”

She pointed to Lexi and Gabby with her “stick”, and yelled, “I shall seek revenge to ALL OF YOU. You just wait and see!”

She ran off with dark grin on her face.

Aunt Rosella was paralysed in fear. Both Lexi and Gabby were flabbergasted.

“Seems like she found her power, ha-hasn’t she?” stammered Gabby, after a moment or two.

Aunt Rosella burst into tears. She sniffed and lost control completely. The twins spent the next hour trying to comfort Aunt Rosella down.

“I can’t believe that Adalyn actually did this!” said Lexi furiously. “She was rude and terrible all along, but I never imagined her to be *evil*.”

Before Gabby could reply, the phone rang. Lexi answered it. It was their mother. “Lexi! Gabby!” Mrs. White was screaming and it sounded like she was sobbing.

“What happened, Mom?”

“Your -your Grandma...she-she just... she couldn’t take it anymore and I sent her to the hospital, and the doc -doctor informed us that she has no chance of living! Oh, I don’t know what happened, she seemed really recovering!”

Gabby’s jaw dropped. Lexi’s eyes felt teary. Both girls could not talk for a few minutes. Through the window, Lexi could see that dark grey clouds were filling the sky, looming ahead like heavy curtain. The strong gust of wind rocked the trees violently from side to side. The night sky was ablaze with flashes of lightening. Sheets of water fell from the sky. At once, the twins knew what happened.

“It’s all Adalyn!” hollered Lexi. “She’s behind all this! She is going to continue ruining people’s lives. We *have* to put a stop to this!”

“But how?” whimpered Aunt Rosella weakly. “No one can stop her, she’s way too strong.”

“Adalyn? Stronger than *us*? It’s not like *we* don’t have powers, you know,” Gabby said.

“Gab’s right,” said Lexi. “We can put a stop to this. We just have to think.”

All three of them sat cross-legged on the carpet, in the thinking mode. *Adalyn knew about this because she probably heard us that other day*, thought Lexi. *What if she hadn't heard, and didn't know about this power?* Then it struck her – if they somehow found a way to rewind time, Adalyn would not know a single thing about Magicks, and they could keep the secret forever!

"I know!" Lexi said enthusiastically. "Why don't we rewind back time?"

"How are we supposed to do that, genius?" Gabby snapped sarcastically.

"It's a great idea," Aunt Rosella said, composing herself. "I happen to know a Magick place where you can rewind back time if you give a valuable reason. It's called the Sea Pearl Palace. We can go there, and rewind back time! How about that?"

"Yes, yes, we can do that!" Gabby's face brightened. "What are we waiting for?"

"How are we supposed to go there?" asked Lexi incredulously.

"Ah yes, how could I forget about that?" Aunt Rosella laughed. "Have you girls never wondered what my power was? My power is to transport people, and myself, to places we want to go, if we hold hands."

"This is awesome!" Gabby said.

"Are you ready?" Aunt Rosella asked.

Gabby and Lexi gripped Aunt Rosella's hands tightly.

"One . Two. Three. SEA PEARL PALACE!"

Everything went really fast, Lexi thought she was probably swimming through the clouds to get to the destination...

* * *

"Aha! Here we are! It's been very long since I've been here," said Aunt Rosella, her eyes dancing with pleasure.

"What a beautiful place!" gushed Gabby. "Just look at all the crystals and pearls!"

It certainly was dazzling and magnificent. The whole palace was decorated with shining clear crystals. The floor was smooth and probably perfect for ice skating. Lexi looked outside the window. Goodness – they were underwater! Lexi clapped her hands to her mouth in delight. "This is wonderful, really! I'm in love with this place!"

"Me too!" agreed Gabby.

"Yes, but we need to start work immediately," said Aunt Rosella.

They headed their way to the directory (a small magical paper floating mid-air).

"Throne Room...Magick Meeting Room... Mermaid Room... ah, here it is. Rewinding Time Room! Let us go to the third level." Aunt Rosella led the twins over to a small tube that transported them upwards.

"Amazing," exclaimed Lexi. It was like a dream.

Finally, they reached the third level and it was a completely different environment. It was dark. There were small lamps dangling on the walls. Finally, they found the door that said: *Come Inside To Rewind Time*.

"How do we open this door?" asked Lexi curiously. There was no handle.

"Ah, the Magick of this palace!" Aunt Rosella said. "Come, let me show you girls how you do it."

Instead of a handle, there was a small golden goblet stuck to the door.

"You must pull it out to open the door. However, only real Magicks can open this door," she explained. "Who'd like to try?"

Gabby pushed Lexi forward, and Lexi, with hands trembling pulled out the small, golden goblet with all her might. The door slid open! She stuffed the goblet into her pocket and made her way in.

It was bright again. In the middle stood a big fountain was shimmering words on the water:
The Fountain of Time.

Aunt Rosella examined the room. "It is even prettier than I imagined," she said.

"Excuse me," said a voice.

The trio spun around. There was no human, but the voice still boomed around, its echo reverberating around the walls. "What are you here for?"

"We are here to rewind time, Mister," explained Aunt Rosella.

"And why must you do so? Why is it so important?"

Immediately, Gabby burst into the story. When they were done, the voice still seemed unconvinced.

"I still do not understand why it is important."

Aunt Rosella's voice grew angry as her large brown eyes burned with fury. "Don't you understand how important this is, Mister? My daughter will continue destroying everyone's happiness. Sooner or later, she'll be destroying *your* happiness, too. I'm trying to save *my* daughter, too!"

There was a moment of silence, then the voice replied. "You have a point," it said finally. "All right. Now will you join hands and stand around the fountain, please. I will chant to bring you back to the time before Adalyn found out about her power."

"Mister?" whispered Lexi suddenly. "Can you, um, change Adalyn's personality and her power, so she'd be kind and we can tell her about the Magicks?"

"Fine," said the voice gruffly. "I can do that. Now, please do as I have told you."

They joined hands and stood around the fountain.

The voice chanted:

*Powerful, Grand, Magickal Fountain,
Please rewind back to the time when Adalyn knew no powers.
Make her kind, thoughtful and caring,
And thus change her power for sparing!*

Suddenly, the world spun around them. Lexi felt as though she was trapped in a giant tornado. She whirled and whirled until she was crazily dizzy, and finally, she felt ground.

* * *

"What happened?" asked Gabby, sitting up.

"We've done it!" yelled Lexi gleefully. "We've done our quest, we've accomplished our mission!"

"You're making it sound like we're spies." Gabby grinned. "Aunt Rosella, you all right? Where are we? What day is this?"

"We're back to the day that you girls arrived to stay! Look, your mother just drove off!"

And she was. The twins could see their white van zooming down the driveway.

Suddenly, Adalyn appeared, and to the twins' surprise, she was smiling, not evilly, but kindly.

"Hi, Lexi, Gabby!" she said brightly. Her voice had changed. "I just found out I have Magick powers yesterday, and guess what it is? *Changing into a mermaid!* Isn't that the best power ever?"

"Yes, it certainly is," smiled Lexi, glancing knowingly at Aunt Rosella and Gabby. "Let's play Lego, Adalyn."

And so they did – and they had the best week of their lives. Adalyn soon became their favourite cousin, and to say it in a fairy-tale sort of way, they lived *happily ever after*.

Story 5: A Day in the Woods

By Juliet Tang (P4 Cherry)

Aaliyah Quraisyah Bte Aaron Sham (P4 Casuarina)

Megan Fan (P4 Casuarina)

Soh Wei Ee Jolene (P4 Casuarina)

“What a beautiful day to hike,” said Ace to Nick as they walked.

Ace and Nick had wanted to camp in the woods. Ace loved sports. He was the sportiest guy in the level. Nick on the other hand was the smartest one. Even though they were completely different, they were actually best friends.

Just then, they came across a huge rock, with a strange handle on it.

“What do you think, Ace? Should we go in?” said Nick.

“Yes, we should. We must know everything,” said Ace.

Nick reached for the handle and pulled. Everything began to shake and a gust of wind blown them into a passageway. They lost consciousness.

After a few minutes, Ace woke up.

“Where are we?” asked Ace. “Wake up, Nick!”

Nick woke up immediately. “Where are we?”

“I think we are on an island,” said Ace .

They are surrounded by the most beautiful flowers and trees they had ever seen.

“I don’t know, but this looks like a good place to set up camp. Right Nick?” asked Ace.

“Yes, this seems like a good place to camp. Anyway, it’s getting dark, we should get some sleep,” said Nick.

The next morning, Ace woke up with a start.

“Wake up Nick. You need to train to wake up early. Wake up Nick!” screamed Ace into Nick’s ear.

Nick woke up lazily. “Okay, I am up,” said Nick.

Suddenly, two guards appeared. Before they could react, they were bound and dragged to a large hut. They were forced to face two people that looked like the king and queen of a village.

“How dare you enter my island. How did you get here anyway!” the King demanded.

“It was an accident! We pulled a handle and ended up here!” Nick said, desperately. To Ace, he whispered, “Think of something! We need to get out of here!”

Ace thought quickly, then addressed the King, “If we lead you to the place we arrived at, maybe we can show you the passageway?”

The King nodded and the two were dragged back to their camping spot.

“Now what,” whispered Nick to Ace.

“Look around for the passage!” Ace said.

There it was! Nick hollered to distract the guards while Ace dove into the passageway. Nick followed quickly behind. They ran as fast as they could and stopped only when they reached the forest on the other side. When they looked back, they realised that the guards were not following!

“WE ARE SAFE !” screamed Nick.

The boys went home and that is how the story ends.

Story 6: Vanguard in London

By Angela Cheah Ai Jia (P4 Cherry)

Chan Wai-Eng Alisa (P4 Cherry)

Fok En Yi (P4 Cherry)

Ruth Ang (P4 Cherry)

“Dong! Dong!” went the first bell. Kai and Miwa, who were chatting in the school hallway, quickly grabbed their book bags and took the needed books for their first class, namely: Home Economics.

“Girls, please let me through, I have to go to my class right now. I will talk to you later!” exclaimed the all-popular seventh grade boy, Edward Moon. Kai and Miwa grinned upon hearing this. Edward was always getting chased by girls for not only was he the headmaster’s only son, he was also charming in every way.

“Good morning class,” exclaimed the always cheerful Miss Chua to Kai and Miwa’s class, Class 7A.

The class started their lesson after greeting the teacher and was soon baking a delicious chocolate sponge cake. Edward was bragging to many girls that his cake would be the best in the class. Kai was keeping very quiet, thinking of what he could add to the cake base to make it a bit tastier than it actually was.

At the end of the class, all the cakes were sliced and given to Miss Chua to taste and the rest could be eaten during their breaks. The cake that was made best would become the “Dessert of The Week” and the recipe would be given to the dessert store and would be sold. Every class would have one dessert chosen from their class and at the end of the week, the most popular desert made by a class would win 15 minutes extra recess. Every week so far, Kai and Miwa had the best made desserts.

“And this week’s best dessert belongs to Kai!” said Miss Chua, beaming at Kai. “At this rate, you will be the best student in the whole school!”

Kai blushed with pleasure upon hearing this and was surprised for in the past, his baking skills were not as good as it was now.

Edward was fuming mad. He had been tolerating this new boy for quite some time and now he could not take it any longer. Everywhere he went, he could hear praises of Kai, even from his own father.

I have to be patient for now. I will get him later, thought Edward...

Story 7: The Secret Portal

By Nicole Ng Zi Qi (P5 Diamond)

Alicia Ngoh Tiew June (P5 Jade)

Samantha Ang Hwei Lyn (P5 Jade)

Vanessa Lee Kah Shing (P5 Jade)

“I can’t wait to go to the zoo!” Millie exclaimed as the class of 6A were queuing up to board the bus. It was a bright and sunny morning and everyone was excited, especially best friends, Millie Maxwell and Tyra Tay.

They had a secret, Millie could transform into and talk to any animal that she wanted to and Tyra could control water. In the bus on the way to the zoo, you could hear shrieks of laughter everywhere and Millie and Tyra talked about what they would do in the zoo.

At the zoo, they saw many different animals and their guide told them a lot of interesting facts about all of the animals. When came to their favourite animal, the tiger, they both found the enclosure very interesting and decided to explore it. Millie told the tigers that they meant no

harm and that they only wanted to explore the enclosure. The tigers let them in and ignored them as they explored the enclosure without anyone noticing them.

After a while, Tyra spotted something brown behind a large boulder and called Millie to come and see what it was. None of them could figure out what it was so Millie transformed into a tiger so that she would blend in and used her head to push the large boulder away. Only then they realised what the brownish thing that was hidden behind the large boulder was. It was a door!

Curious and wondering where the door led to, Millie and Tyra slowly but cautiously opened the door. They discovered that there was a deep and dark winding passageway so Millie transformed into a firefly and lit up the way for Tyra to follow. At the end of the passageway, they fell through a portal and landed somewhere that they had not seen before.

“Tyra, where are you? This isn’t funny you know?” Millie exclaimed when she realised that her best friend, Tyra, was nowhere to be seen.

She panicked and after a few minutes of searching for her best friend, a monster spotted her and began to attack her. She transformed into a bird and flew away.

In the meantime, Tyra heard a commotion and ran towards it. She saw a monster attacking a bird, which she guessed was Millie. Spotting water, Tyra swirled it around the monster and froze him into a block of ice.

Millie transformed back into human form. “Run!” she said.

Millie and Tyra quickly ran towards the portal and jumped. They landed right outside the door that led to the tiger’s enclosure. Millie glanced at her watch and she realised that it was late. The bus going back to school was just about to leave. Millie and Tyra ran as fast as their legs could take them and were at the entrance of the zoo just as the teacher was counting the number of students and making sure that everyone was there.

In the bus, Millie and Tyra talked to each other about their unforgettable little adventure.

Story 8: The Magic Pen

By Chinnu Raju Raju Shivani (P4 Acacia)

Gayathri D/O Gunaraj (P4 Acacia)

“Clean up your room, Gail! Your room is in a mess!” shouted mother angrily at Gail.

Gail started to clean her room. While cleaning, she found a weird-looking pen. She was tired of cleaning anyway, and started to draw a village.

Suddenly, a green star appeared! A gust of wind blew! Gail fell into the star.

“Ahhhh... Someone help me!” screamed Gail. She closed her eyes tightly. When Gail opened her eyes, she was in a village.

“What day is this?” she asked a villagers.

“16th April 1628,” he said.

“What year is 1628?” asked Gail, surprised. “Anyway, who are you?”

“I am the village-head,” said the man.

Since, Gail was a guest, the village-head bought Gail around the village. All of a sudden, the villagers’ enemies – the Jakans – attacked. When they were fighting, Gail noticed that Jakan men had moustaches but the others had beards. After, fighting for seven hours, they took a rest.

While resting, Gail asked the headman about the problem with the Jakans.

“It all started one day, when our leaders were fighting over their appearances. The Jakan leader said that beards were not acceptable. Our leader said that moustaches were ugly. That

is how the fight began!” said the headman.

Gail thought a lot. She had an idea. She searched for a shaver in her backpack. She first shaved all the beards in the village. Next, she went to the Jakans and shaved all their moustaches.

She brought the leaders together and asked them to shake hands. From that day onwards both villages were friends. And Gail drew her room on a rock. She was transported back home and continued to clean her room.

Story 9: A School Story

By Ashleigh Shannon Tan (P5 Opal)

Valerie Heng Zeng Lin (P5 Opal)

Chia Nong Yi Celestina (P5 Sapphire)

Chua Kai Ling (P5 Sapphire)

“Class, stand. Class, greet,” Jennifer said. Everyone ignored her because they thought that she was lying to them. Miss Chua, their Health Education teacher was always late. By the way, Jennifer is a pretty, friendly, neat but irresponsible.

“Class, good morning!” It was Miss Chua.

Everyone was shocked and dropped everything and jumped up of their seats. They did not believe that Miss Chua would be early for class.

“First things first. You will have to choose a partner to do your Health Education project. You will have to hand the project up on 10 April. If you hand it up late, I will give you a straight zero! Do understand?” said Miss Chua sternly.

“Yes, Miss Chua,” the class said with excitement.

Miss Chua said “You may now go and find you partner.”

Jennifer walked around the class and bumped into Paul, the richest and best-looking boy in class.

“Hi, Jennifer. Do you have a partner? If you don’t, can I partner you?” he asked.

Jennifer replied politely “Sure!”

Alyssa, a proud and bossy girl, saw Paul talking to Jennifer. She was filled with envy. She quickly ran towards Jennifer and used her bottom to hit Jennifer. Jennifer fell down onto the floor and hit her head on the table.

Paul asked, “Are you okay? Does your head hurt? Do you want to go to the General Office?”

“No, just take me to the toilet,” she said.

When Jennifer entered the toilet, Alyssa followed her. Alyssa warned Jennifer, “Don’t steal my boyfriend! Or you will get it from me!”

After a while, Jennifer exited the toilet and saw Paul waiting for her. “Why are you here?”

Paul said, “I am here to ask you to come to my house tomorrow after school, is that okay with you?”

“Okay,” Jennifer said.

Unfortunately, Alyssa overheard Paul and Jennifer’s conversation. The next day, Alyssa followed Jennifer to Paul’s house. Standing opposite Paul’s house, she used binoculars to spy on Paul and Jennifer. When it was the right time, Alyssa went to Paul’s house and rang the door bell.

Ding Dong, Ding Dong! the door bell sounded. Paul opened the door and saw Alyssa and invited her in, not knowing that Alyssa had threatened Jennifer.

When Paul went to the kitchen to fetch Alyssa some water, Alyssa turned to Jennifer and

started screaming at her. "I told you to leave my boyfriend alone!" she said. Then, she pulled Jennifer's hair.

Paul came into the room and saw what was going on right away. He shouted "STOP that!!! Alyssa, can you go home! I am not your boyfriend. Anyway, we are just doing our project. So you need to go home now!"

"Fine!" Alyssa yelled.

When she left, Paul and Jennifer worked on their project. They got the best marks, but the best part? That was the start of their friendship.

Story 10: Woody and Wendy

By Jamie Choo Xin Yi (P4 Casuarina)

Janae Luah Yng Shin (P4 Casuarina)

Aricia Chai (P4 Jacaranda)

Once upon a time there were two good friends Woody and Wendy. Woody was a talking, walking tree. He was a magic tree, shimmering with dark green leaves. He was also curious, slightly mischievous and a little bit vain. He would look at himself in the mirror at least twice a day!

Wendy was fourteen years old, tall and slim with blonde hair and green eyes. She was friendly and generous too. Here's the secret: Wendy is actually a teenage witch in disguise! She is a good witch, not the bad ones that you normally see! Like Woody, she could speak to all kinds of animals and plants.

One day, they were playing ball at the forest. Wendy remembered that her potions were almost done brewing, so she told Woody to go home alone. He was not used to walking by himself. He felt someone watching him but thought he should be imagining things.

Suddenly, someone caught hold of him! Woody was scared. He tried to shout and scream, but this mysterious person covered his mouth and he lost consciousness. When he woke up, then found himself locked in a cage! He screamed, and when no one responded, he screamed even louder.

Finally, the doors opened. In walked a tall person with violet eyes and black and red hair.

"Strange... It's almost like I have seen this guy before," Woody said.

The mysterious guy spoke, "I know everyone thinks Santa is good! Once, I appeared to all humans to rule the world. But, Santa was there, he defeated me with the trust of humans! So, I hate all humans for letting Santa destroy me! Now, I am back to complete my mission. This time, with more powers!"

Woody stared at him, confused. "But why did you kidnap me?"

"You possess magic even you don't know you have! I want to use them to rule the world! Join me now! I will teach you how to use your powers. But you must give your inner energy to me!" the man said with an evil grin.

Woody shivered. "N-no! It's not right! Wendy will rescue me! So leave me alone, y-you creep!"

It was only then that Woody realised that the man before him was the legendary Sonta – Santa's evil brother – the meanest, most powerful of all wizards!!

"How dare you! Your Wendy won't be able to save you!" Sonta said. He waved his hands and Woody found himself getting sleepier and sleepier.

Woody blinked his eyes, and tried to shake off the sleepiness, but it didn't work. He heard Sonta say, "You shall obey all of my commands! I want you to destroy the nearest village!"

Understand?"

He heard himself reply, "Yes, master." He could not control himself! He found himself walking towards the village...

* * *

Meanwhile, Wendy had gone to Woody's house, to make sure that he got home safely. But he was not there! She knew right away what had happened. Sonta must have kidnapped him. Everyone knew that Sonta wanted Woody for his powers.

"I should have walked him home! Why did I leave him!" said Wendy, distressed. "What can I do now? Think! Think!"

Then, she had an idea. She called out to a Robin nearby.

"Do you know the way to Sonta's lair?" she asked the bird.

"Yes! I can take you there," it chirped.

Wendy grabbed her potions, hopped on her broom and sped off into the air, following the Robin. Halfway there, she saw a village in ruins! She flew down to take a closer look.

Wendy found herself face to face with the most disasterous scene! Almost all the huts were crashed or burned down! Who could have done this? She heard a sound at the other end of the village. It was Woody!

"Woody, Woody! What are you doing?" she screamed.

She took a potion and splashed it on Woody, but it did not work! Instead, Woody caught hold of Wendy in his strong arms and carried her back to Sonta's lair!

* * *

"Now, little girl, are you here to save Woody?" Sonta said mockingly.

"Yes! You are not going to get away with this! Make Woody normal again!" Wendy shouted, trying to act brave. She actually felt terrified inside.

"You can have him, if you want." Santo gestured towards a grayish figure.

What happened to Woody! He looked like he was dying!

"What have you done?"

"He is under my control now! So in other words, he is a demon!" Sonta laughed menacingly.

"Woody! Can you hear me? Woody! Remember when you were a seedling? You tried to zap up some sweets for me? You ended up zapping beetles!" Wendy said, trying to reach out to Woody. Surely he could hear her?

"I'm Wendy! I really am! I-I really love you! I really do!" she screamed.

Wendy's tears fell on Woody as he lay dying. Suddenly, Woody started to glow. The light was so bright it paralysed everyone except Wendy and Woody. Woody was fighting through the spell!

Then, out of the blue, a jingle of bells was heard.

"M-mama Santa!" Santo dropped to his knees.

"You! You should be ashamed, bullying little kids like that! You should take a leaf out of your big brother Santa's book. Come over here!" Mama Santa said.

Sonta cowered. His mother wrenched and cuffed his ears and dragged him to a pack of reindeers. They flew off.

"Well, at least there's a happy ending!" Wendy told Woody.

But ee was too busy admiring himself at a mirror in the wall. "Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the prettiest of them all?" Woody asked the mirror.

"Woody, you should not be vain. You should listen to Wendy!" the mirror said.

It took a second for Woody to realise that Wendy was using magic to control the mirror!
“Hee hee!” Wendy giggled.

Story 11: A Mermaid Tale

By Joey Chua (P5 Opal)
Erika Miller (P5 Ruby)
Sim Xin Yi, Sarah (P5 Ruby)
Sazma Samir (P5 Sapphire)

One beautiful morning, when the ocean was sparkling, Jasmine, princess of Oceana was swimming with her mermaid friends. Jasmine was one of the most prettiest mermaids in Oceana. Her hair was so perfect – straight and silky – and her tail was a sparkly blue. The only thing that marred her beauty was her sad eyes. Her father had died a year ago, and she had never gotten over it.

Melia, a new mermaid in town was swimming around with her pretty pink dolphin friend, Stella, when she accidentally bumped into Jasmine.

“Watch where you are going,” said Jasmine softly.

“Sorry, sorry, princess!! It was my fault!” apologized Melia with her dolphin next to her.

Jasmine forgave her and asked if she was new in town.

Melia replied, “Yes! I have just moved here with my father a few days ago.” She did not tell Jasmine that they had moved so that her father could get over her mother’s death.

Melia and Jasmine soon become friends and started hanging out with each other. The more they met, the more they realised how similar they were to each other. Melia started to go over to Jasmine’s castle often after school. Jasmine’s mother grew fond of Melia and complimented Melia for her good behaviour and her beautiful wavy hair and beautiful tail.

“Hey! My hair is very beautiful too and my tail is prettier than hers!” Jasmine would say, a bit annoyed with her mother.

One day, Jasmine invited Melia for a sleepover at her castle. Melia was excited. Her father took her over to the castle and finally met the Queen. He thought the Queen was truly beautiful.

* * *

Months later, while Melia was looking for some paper, she found a diary in her father’s room. Though she knew in her heart that it was wrong to read someone’s diary, curiosity got the better of her. She opened it and started to read.

Her jaw dropped to the ground. Her father had written, “I think I am in love with the Queen.”

“OMG!!” Melia screamed. She could not believe her eyes. Soon she heard the sound of her father and quickly hid the diary back in its place and rushed to her room.

Melia pondered whether she should tell Jasmine about the diary. She decided that she would. When they next met, Melia was so excited Jasmine got annoyed.

“Why are you so excited?”

“I have something to tell you. But you mustn’t tell anyone, especially your mother!” Melia said.

“Okay, what is it?” Jasmine asked.

“My dad loves your mother!” Melia said, bursting with excitement.

“What?” Jasmine was shocked speechless.

“What should we do?” Melia wanted to know. “Does your mother love him too?”

“How should I know? I can’t ask her!” Jasmine said.

“Try to find out!” Melia said.

So, when she got home, Jasmine decided to look around her mother’s room to maybe find a diary of hers. After an hour of rummaging through things, she saw it.

“I found it! I found it!” Jasmine screamed out but covered her mouth before anyone could hear her.

She rushed through all the pages until she got to the day that Melia had first come to the castle with her father.

“No! No!No!” Jasmine screamed. She was very upset. There was no mention of Melia’s father anywhere!

“Maybe I should just tell Mother about Melia’s father and ask if she feels the same too,” Jasmine said to herself. She really liked Melia and so wanted her to be her step-sister.

She decided to tell her mother. She found her in her room.

“Mother, can I ask you something very private?”

“Of course, honey. What’s on your mind?” asked her mother.

“Do you know that Melia’s father is in love with you?” asked Jasmine in a shaky voice. She was afraid of how her mother would react.

“He loves me?Are you sure?”asked her mother with a smile on her face.

“Yes! He does!! Melia told me!”shouted Jasmine all excitedly. “What do you think?”

Her mother just smiled.

* * *

A few hours later, Jasmine’s mother found herself outside Melia’s home. She had decided to see Melia’s father, to ask if it was true. She, too, had grown fond of Melia’s father and had never felt this way after her husband’s death. She decided to make the first move as she thought her being the Queen might discourage him to make the first move.

When she rang the doorbell, Melia answered the door.

“May I see your father?” asked the Queen.

“Y-Yes,” replied Melia, shocked that the Queen was at her house! “I will get him.”

They went into her father’s study and closed the door. Melia tried her best to eavesdrop. She heard the Queen telling her father that their daughters had discovered his love for her by reading his diary.

“I want to know, is it true?” she asked.

After a long pause, Melia heard her father reply, “Yes.”

After an even longer pause, the Queen said, “I feel the same way too.”

Melia realised that Jasmine had broken her promise to keep the secret and had told her mother. Although she was angry at Jasmine, she was also very happy that her father was in love! She swam as fast as she could to Jasmine’s place to tell her the good news.

The wedding took place two weeks later. All of Oceana was in the mood of celebration as Melia’s father and the Queen exchanged their vows. Jasmine and Melia were finally step-sisters. From that day onwards, Melia moved into the beautiful coral castle and became a princess too.

Story 12: The Seventh Floor

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Ring! Ring! went the school bell.

Kristy and Annie had just packed their bag and were ready to go home. As they made their way to the stairs nearest to the school gate, they chatted excitedly about what had happened in school that day. Suddenly, they felt a whoosh of air...

"What's that?" they asked in unison, feeling terrified.

The wind grew stronger and stronger and then became a tornado and swept them away.

"Where are we? What is this place?!" Kristy and Annie gasped. They were breathless after the scary yet exhilarating journey. Now, they were surrounded by beautiful scenery – lush green trees and magnificent-looking animals.

"I don't know, but it's cool! Check out those animals there!" exclaimed Kristy, running towards the animals, with Annie right behind. Annie, who was an animal lover, began stroking the deer nearest to her.

"Welcome to the seventh floor, chosen ones!" a voice suddenly boomed.

The girls turned around and realised that they were so awed by their new surroundings that they had failed to notice a lady behind them. Well, not exactly a lady. She was exceptionally tall for a lady, or any human being. She was not even wearing heels. She wore a dress made of shimmery and glossy material. Her blonde hair was piled up in ringlets. One look at her and the girls instantly knew that the "lady" was a person of importance.

"I am Queen Celestia, ruler of the seventh floor. And, you, my dears, are the chosen ones. You are now the only ones that can enter this world. Therefore, you must never let the secret of the seventh floor's existence be revealed," the Queen said.

The girls' mouths were hanging open. They could not believe what the Queen had just said. Sure, it was great to have a secret to keep and be the chosen ones, but everything must happen for a reason. Where was this place and why were they chosen?

"Why... why were w-we cho-chosen? And wh-where is th-this p-place?" The Annies stammered.

"This is the seventh floor situated at the top of your school. Your school only has six floors, but there is a seventh floor which both of you are standing on right now. However, it is only visible to us. Both of you were chosen as you two love animals very much and are kind, gentle, caring and adventurous. The virtues that both of you have made us choose you. Furthermore, the two of you are best friends and are expected to stick through thick and thin," the Queen said.

"Oh," they said at the same time.

"You can choose one animal in the forest to take care of," the Queen continued.

"Can we have a squirrel?"

"Your wish will be granted. Cupcake!" the Queen called out.

A small squirrel ran towards them. It could talk! The squirrel would be their guide.

"Here's a locket which contains magic dust. Whenever school ends, and you feel like coming here, you will just have to take a handful of magic dust and sprinkle it on yourself. The dust will magically refill by itself. Do bear in mind that time will continue in the mortal world, so make sure that you enter and leave this place at an appropriate time," the Queen explained.

Cupcake then took them on a tour around the enchanted place, explaining to them about how its history. Not long after, they felt a strong wind blowing and they found themselves back in school.

Had it been a dream? They felt for their lockets. They were still there. It was not a dream after all...

The next day after school, Catrice was on duty as a hall monitor. She overheard two girls whispering and giggling from the stairs behind her. It was the two best friends.

She was about to confront them when she heard, "Let's visit... seventh floor... hee hee."

Curiosity got the better of her. She followed them to the highest level of the school, the sixth floor, keeping a distance between them. When she got there, they were nowhere in sight. Catrice was determined to find out where they went.

Catrice was the school's troublemaker. As she was the principal's niece, she was every teacher's pet and she would act kind and generous in front of them. Many had been accused wrongly and were made her scapegoats for her offences in school and some were even expelled.

Annie and Kristy, not knowing that they were being observed, visited the seventh floor every day after school. However on their fifth visit, just as they were sprinkling magic dust on themselves, they heard a voice.

"What are you doing?" It was the principal, Mrs White, together with Catrice.

"Nothing! Mrs Whi...White," they stammered.

"What's that in your hands?" Mrs White asked in a stern voice.

"That's something that they use to travel into some place called the seventh floor!" Catrice said proudly.

Before Annie and Kristy could say anything, they felt the gust of air. The magic dust was beginning to work. Oh no! Not now!

"Grab them!" they heard Mrs White say before they were caught up in the swirl.

When the swirling stopped, they were in the seventh level – all four of them! Mrs White and Catrice gasped in shock.

"What is this place?" Mrs White said.

Thinking quickly, Kristy threw magic dust over the principal and her niece. They were caught up in a tornado that would take them back to school. They stayed behind to alert the Queen that the secret of the seventh floor was no longer safe.

Over the next few days, everything seemed back to normal and the principal and Catrice seemed to have forgotten about what had happened. Until, suddenly, Cupcake appeared.

"Annie, Kristy! The 7th floor is in trouble! The Queen sent me to seek your help to stop this mess," Cupcake said.

"Okay, let's go!" they said.

Cupcake sprinkled some magic dust on them and a tornado sent them to the seventh floor. A scene of destruction met their eyes. Seventh floor was a mess!

"What happened," said Annie, dismayed.

"The two troublemakers managed to get their hands on more magic dust and sold it at a high price to earn money. People have been coming here and creating trouble," Cupcake said.

"What?!" Both Annie and Kristy were furious. "What can we do?"

"You need to find Catrice and Mrs White and sprinkle this forgetful powder on them. It will make them forget this place ever existed," Cupcake said.

Kristy and Annie set off immediately. Mrs White and Catrice were not hard to find. They were leading a big group of tourists around seventh floor! The tourists were tearing up flowers to take back with them. Some were kicking animals. Annie saw a woman put a rabbit into her purse.

"We have to stop them!" Annie said to Kristy urgently.

They snuck behind the group, and before they could notice, Annie and Kristy flung the forgetful power over them. They got caught in a huge tornado and disappeared.

The Queen and the Cupcake ran up to them.

"You did it!" the Queen said.

"Will they really forget? Is seventh floor safe again?" Kristy asked.

"Yes, thanks to you two!" the Queen replied.

“But this place is still a mess,” Annie pointed out. “Let’s clean this place up!”

“I knew I had chosen wisely when I picked you,” the Queen said, smiling.

As they were about to leave, the queen called out to them.

“Wait! Don’t go yet! Since you have been great help to this land, I shall reward you with powers. From now on, you will be able to communicate with the mortal animals and understand them,” the queen said.

With that, they bowed to the Queen and a whoosh of air sent them back to the school.