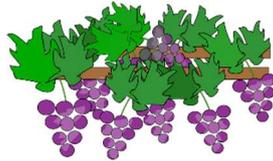


The Secret

Land

Once upon a time there lived a little girl called Lily, she loved reading books. Lily lived with her family in a cottage at the edge of a forest where there were lots of berry bushes.



One day she was reading her favourite book and she dropped it! She looked under her bed and while searching for the book she found a pink glittery box which she had never seen before. Lily opened the box and gasped, she found a shiny key inside. She wondered if it was magical!



Just then, her mum called “come down Lily we are going out to pick berries for tea!”. Lily put the key in her pocket and ran down the stairs.

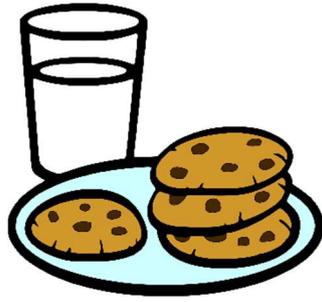
Lily and her family arrived at the berry bushes at the edge of her garden. Lily spotted something that she hadn't seen before, a very big berry bush that looked like it was sparkling like the box she had found under her bed. Just then, she noticed that one of the branches was glowing "how curious" thought Lily. Lily felt something strange in her pocket, she took out the key and that too was glowing. She saw a small hole in the bush, it looked like the shape of a key hole. Lily quickly put the key into the small hole, it fitted! "yippee" cried Lily! She turned the key and a small door covered in bits of bush opened slowly. She crawled through door and saw something amazing...it was a whole new land!

There were lots of colourful looking people around and they all were bowing and looking at her. She asked someone close by "why are they bowing?", the person replied, "aren't you the new princess we have been waiting for?" Lily thought for a moment then replied "no, I don't think so?". The person took Lily by the hand and said, "let me introduce you to our king and queen as they will know if you are a princess or not, by the way my name is Ella, what is yours?" "my name is Lily" she replied shaking Ella's hand.

When they got to the Palace, the King and Queen were very happy to see Lily. "Welcome to our land" they said. "thank you very much" replied Lily. Ella introduced Lily and asked, "is this the new princess, Queen Elizabeth?" The queen said, "of course she is she has our magic key!" Lily was thrilled to hear this as she has always wanted to be a princess!

Queen Elizabeth and King Slade took Lily for a walk around the palace and the gardens, which were full of sparkly berry bushes. There were trees that had lollipops hanging from them and the waterfalls looked like diamonds and gems swimming in them. What a lovely place thought Lily.

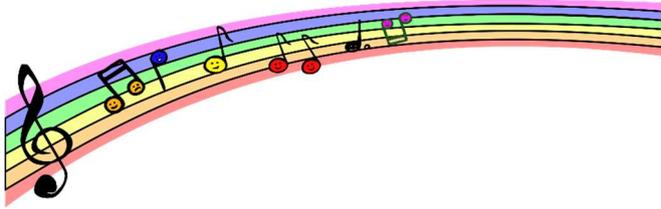
The queen sat Lily down and offered her some sweet tea and cookies "We are looking for someone to play a musical instrument at our party today, could you do this for us Lily please?"



Lily looked excited, but then replied, "I'm sorry but I can't I have to get back to my mum and dad they will be worried about me by now". Lily stood up and starting walking back the way, they came. "well would you come back and visit us again please?" the King asked. "of course, I would love to" replied lily.

When they reached the sparkly bush lily said goodbye, she took out the key and tried to open the door in the bush, but it didn't open! She heard a voice coming from the door "who ever enters the land of joy has to do one good deed to be able to leave" Oh, thought Lily and turned to the queen and said "is there any good deed I can do right now, quickly, so that I am able to leave this land and get home". "Well, we are going to have a party soon so could you play a musical instrument so there can be dancing, our Royal musician is poorly so we have no music?".

Lily was worried that her parents would be wondering where she had got to, but the only way she could leave the Land of Joy was to do good deed, so she agreed.



Just then some small children appeared with party hats on and balloons. Some of them were carrying musical instruments that looked like sweets! Lily was given a lollipop guitar to play. Lily started to play the guitar and all the people in the land were dancing and singing while eating berries from the bushes and lollipops from the trees, it was the best party Lily had ever been too!



“please accept this friendship bracelet as a thank you.



Lily thanked them and turned to see the bush glowing behind her. "you can go home now" said Ella. Lily pushed open the door and crawled through, she turned and waved and said, "I will come back very soon and visit you all, I promise".

"Lily, home time" she heard her mum calling. "ok mum just coming now"

Lily and her parents walked back through their garden to their back door. "can we come and pick berries tomorrow mum please?" Lily wanted to visit the Land of Joy again!

"of course,", said mum, "now let's go inside and make a yummy berry pie".



By Sophia Slade age 7

Solent Infant School