

# Happiness Land

*By Carmen Hutchinson, aged 8 - Notting Hill and Ealing High School (Year 4)*

There was a calm breeze of wintry cold air and the chalk-coloured billowy clouds cast a shadow over the vibrating patches of tall grass near Rosy cottage, where the children were playing. You could smell a bitter scent of frost as it gradually and silently fell.

Rosy cottage had a sweet, neatly trimmed garden that was home to three unique children. Thomas was a ten year old boy who was brilliant at magic tricks. He learned a new one every day and planned to become a magician. He hated Maths and English, and his brother and sister! Thomas had dark brown short cropped hair and didn't care about looking disheveled.

He practiced his magic over and over again to perfect the vanishing rope and disappearing ball tricks. But cards were his favourite.

His younger sister, Yasmin, was more interested in fashion and crafts, and eight year old Fred much preferred football and getting grubby.

The children were all playing a rare game of Uno when they heard mum call "Thomas, come and finish your homework".

"Why?" Whined Thomas as he begrudgingly slumped down the stairs. Unbeknown to him one of his magic cards had slipped from his hand and drifted down to rest on the velvety carpet of his brother and sister's bedroom.

Later that night there was silence as the children slumbered. The moon glistened gently until, all of a sudden, everything was awakened by an enchanted glow from the now magical card that Thomas had dropped earlier. Yasmin and Fred jumped up and slowly backed away. A loud booming noise began but then quickly softened to a more soothing whispering voice; "Touch the card and come to the land of happiness." The children exchanged puzzled glances but then both reached out and touched the card without hesitation.

At once they were speeding over hills and mountain tops, soaring through the colossal stormless sky. In the distance the children saw the most incredible and magnificent sight that they had ever seen; the land of happiness.

With a thud they landed and scrambled to their feet. What they saw was truly astonishing; edging towards a giant fairyland they could see why this place was called Happiness Land. There was a marvelous smell of everything good all mixed together. It was amazing and truly the best place anybody could want to be.

In front of them Yasmin and Fred saw lots of stalls made from chocolate cubes layered with cotton candy, topped with extraordinary, steaming potions. There were witches, goblins and fairy's everywhere. Everywhere they looked they saw happy mysteries. "What are we waiting for?" cried the children as they pulled coins from their pockets – their wonderful adventure had only just begun.

They rushed to the first stall and examined it attentively before moving to the next. Their eyes were then drawn to a nearby tree where miniature goblins collected sweet hazelnuts in candy floss baskets. The pair spent hours wandering amongst the stalls marveling at the joyful sights, sounds and smells, smiling and laughing as they went.

As they were arriving at the final stall, Yasmin suddenly turned to Fred and said "Mother must be missing us, however will we get home?" They panicked and Fred began to sob at the thought of never seeing their family again.

Just when they thought all was lost, a magical fairy with sun yellow wings and a pink linen dress stepped forward to them noticing that something was wrong. "Can I help you?" asked the fairy sweetly.

"Oh, please help us. We urgently need to get ourselves home. Our mother will be worried about us" pleaded Yasmin. "It's delightful here in this dreamy land but it is time for us to leave."

The fairy hesitated and then remembered an Elf that may be able to transport them home. "Follow me children" said the fairy, urging them to come quickly to see the Elf.

He was sitting at a tiny rocking chair with a cauldron in front of him. Smoke arose and an aroma of sweet smelling herbs drifted above them. He glanced up at them above his half-moon spectacles and combed his fingers through his long dark shaggy hair and said: "How can I help you -are you lost?"

"Please help us, we need to get home and the fairy said that you may be able to help us" exclaimed the children.

"I might be able to help you, but it has been a long time since I've used that particular potion. It might even be out of date." the Elf added. He turned and found a murky green glass bottle from the back cupboard and blew the dust off with a might big puff. The elf pulled the corkscrew out of the top of the bottle and turned towards the children "Two drops of this powerful elixir rubbed onto the sole of your shoe and you'll find yourselves back home." As he turned to drop the liquid he murmured "Hocus Pocus find yourselves home".

Yasmin and Fred were dazzled by the yellow glow of the sunlight beaming through the window. Mother came bustling in, "Come on you two, I thought you would be dressed for school by now, you will be late" she huffed. The two children quickly stumbled from their beds still sleepy and confused from their slumbering dreams. As they clambered to get ready for school, a mysterious dusty green bottle fell to the floor. The children looked at each other with a knowing smile.

### **916 words**

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