

The Magical Forest - Beth Reed
2nd Place
Jumping Branch Elementary School, Summers County
Grades 1-2

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Rose. She loved playing with beautiful dolls in the forest among the tall grass. One day she was playing as usual when her eye caught something sparkling in the tall grass. She started walking over to it. When she got closer, it started to look like a brown, glowing door. It turned out to be a real door! She opened it slowly. Inside was a long, bright staircase. She slowly walked down the staircase.

When she reached the bottom, she was surprised because she had walked into a magical castle. Rose had on a lovely dress with pretty pink flowers on it, and she danced around and around. She felt happy. Then she tripped on a rock and fell!

When she got up, she saw people. They didn't look very nice, and they grabbed her. The people put her in a cage. She was trapped! Then she saw a key. She reached for the key and got it. She unlocked the door to the cage.

After unlocking the door, she stepped out. She hid behind a tree. She saw someone or something coming toward her. When it got closer, she saw it was a boy! She started to tip-toe away from him. Then she heard someone say, "Stop!"

It was the boy. She turned around. The boy said hello to her. Rose was shocked that the boy was nice. Rose asked the boy his name. He said his name was Tommy. Then, Tommy and Rose saw the unnice people coming. The unnice people started running and chasing Tommy and Rose. The two children hid out of sight. Once they were out of sight, Tommy told Rose about how he got there. Earlier that evening, it happened that Tommy was at Rose's neighbor's house. Later, Tommy went to the ballpark with Rose's neighbor. At the ballpark, the two watched the game and ate popcorn. After the game, they were waiting at the ballpark for Tommy's parents.

Tommy's parents were supposed to pick him up. But when the game was over, his parents were not there. So, Tommy went down into the dugout. In the dugout, he saw a brown, glowing door. It was the same door that Rose had seen while she was playing in the tall grass. Just like Rose, he, too, opened the door. He walked slowly down the staircase and saw a castle. He had been walking around in the castle. He had been playing and hiding in the castle. So, that is how Tommy got there to the same place as Rose.

Together, they hid behind a curtain. Then, they heard the people coming again. After the passed, they stepped out of hiding. Tommy and Rose ran through the castle. They found some steps and ran up the steps. At the top of the steps, they discovered a door. They opened the door and found that it opened to the outside. Tommy and Rose were back in the forest where Rose had been playing. Tired but happy, they were relieved to be back in the familiar forest with the tall grass. They smiled at each other. Not only had they discovered the secret castle, they found friendship. Tommy and Rose grew up and lived happily ever after. Some say that they married and lived in a magical castle hidden in a forest among the tall grass.

