

CORRIDOR OF DOORS

A COLLABORATIVE STORY

BY NIBLEY CHILDREN'S THEATRE



Cover Art by Zackery Findlay

Foreword

It was a strange year: 2020.

Quarantine. Masks. Sickness. Fear. Everything cancelled.

We were disappointed to cancel the 38th year of Nibley City Children's Theatre but felt it was the best way to protect the children of our city. Meanwhile, we needed a way to engage our youth and to bring our city together, while staying "socially distanced."

In this place, Corridor of Doors was born. We wrote the beginning of an adventure and then had the children of our city fill in the chapters.

Many thanks to Christy Johnson for her creativity, Alannah Darrington for her editing skills and to Nibley City for their encouragement and support. We are also grateful to our sponsors, Rocky Mountain Power Foundation, Cache County RAPZ Tax, Utah Department of Arts and Museums and the National Endowment for the Arts, for continuing their support despite the pandemic.

Most of all Thanks to the Children of Nibley:

For their resilience, their determination, and their beautiful imaginations!

Emily Rigby

Director, Nibley Children's Theatre

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Prologue by Christy Johnson

Without a doubt, it was the longest summer Skyler and Kayla had ever had. Since school had been closed in March due to the pandemic, they had been stuck at home for what seemed like forever! Normally, Summer was their favorite time of year, but they had done all their favorite things over and over and over again; until they almost became ...boring. It didn't help that many of the summer traditions they looked forward to the most, like family reunions, playing at the pool and children's theatre, had been cancelled. Plus, everywhere they went they had to wear itchy, hot masks and stay 6 feet away from other people. It seemed to be a crime against Childhood to have the wonderful freedoms of summer become boring, but there it was. There was no doubt in anyone's mind, especially their mother, that Skyler and Kayla were waiting and ready for an adventure. Little did they know just how close one was.

Right in their basement, in fact.

* * * * *

"I can't believe mom and dad have us cleaning out the storage room. We've NEVER had this as a chore." Kayla complained as they moved piles out from the dark corners of the basement.

Really, where did all this stuff come from? Most of it Kayla and even Skyler, who was 3 years older than she was, had never seen. Occasionally, they recognized a box of baby clothes they once wore, smelling of old dryer sheets and hiding long-forgotten stains. They only knew for certain the clothes belonged to them because of the hundreds of baby pictures their mother had displayed in every corner of the house.

Skyler groaned, "I guess I shouldn't have complained about being bored. Clean, clean, clean. We have to stay stuck inside thanks to this virus and they find more and more things for us to clean. That's how you know you're an adult- when you clean things that don't need it and then you do it again."

Kayla sighed. She couldn't deny that Skyler had a point. She moved the last box out from the wall and put it on top of a stack of old books. When she turned back to the wall, something caught her attention. Now that the box was moved she could very clearly see a line on the wall. No- not just a line, but an entire rectangle, clearly defined underneath the worn wallpaper.

She moved over to it and ran her finger along the edge making it more defined. It was now a deep line and seemed to jiggle, as though a piece in the wall wasn't set in all the way.

“Hey, Skyler. What's this?” She called over her shoulder to her brother.

Skyler came closer and shrugged. “Huh. I dunno. But look- a tiny piece is showing down here at the bottom.”

They looked down at the corner and there did seem to be a bit of bright something poking through the drab wallpaper. Without a word, and scarcely without thought, Skyler found a corner of the wallpaper and pulled it up. The whole section ripped off in a flash, surprising them both. Even more shocking was what they found underneath.

“Kayla, look! I think... I think it's a door!” Skyler exclaimed as he continued to rip wallpaper off in strips.

And it did seem to be a door. For there, about halfway up the right side was a latch that you could stick your finger in and pull out a loop to open the door. To two bored and curious children, a sudden surprising doorway that seemed just their size, was an invitation they couldn't resist.

Skyler reached out a hand, pulled up the loop and gave the door a small tug, not really expecting it to open. The door groaned a bit, creaked a bit more on hinges not used to opening, then with a cough of dust, opened completely. Behind it was a dim space with a grey light filling the air. They couldn't tell exactly where the light was coming from, but it was just enough to illuminate a long corridor. As Skyler moved to go in, Kayla held him back, pulling on his arm.

“Skyler, we can't go in there! We don't know where it leads or if it's even safe.” Kayla sounded a bit fearful.

“Well, it looks okay, like part of the house we didn't know about.” Skyler was excited by the unknown and was just interested enough to be brave.

After some debate, Skyler and Kayla both decided to go through the mysterious door. Skyler was determined to satisfy his curiosity, and Kayla was adamant that he wouldn't have an adventure without her. They crouched down on hands and knees to crawl through the low doorway but found that there was plenty of room to stand up on the other side. To their surprise,

they couldn't see or feel any ceiling. It was almost as if there wasn't one, and they were kept company only by silent watching night stars.

"Look!" Skyler pointed. "That door wasn't the only one."

Kayla looked around and saw what he was pointing at. Along both sides of the corridor were other doors, at least a dozen, in varying shapes and sizes and colors. One door was round, another was star shaped, one was very tall, and another purple door was short and long so that in order to get through it one would have to lie down on their stomach and roll through.

Kayla's jaw dropped. "Listen, Skyler, behind this door, I hear music! It sounds like fairy music. It's so beautiful!" She was leaning against a pink glittery door that had a soft green light coming from underneath.

Skyler barely heard her. He had his ear pressed to a door covered in psychedelic colors that were swirling and shifting. He took a deep breath and filled his lungs with air, then let it out with a happy look on his face. "Can you smell that? It smells like barbeque chicken and cotton candy and chocolate ice cream- all my favorite foods!"

He took another deep breath and exhaled closing his eyes. "And fresh bread and popcorn." He reached for the knob to open it.

"Wait!" said Kayla, "Why are we going in that door? Let's try this one or that one!"

Kayla turned her head around, eyeing the corridor. "What do you think is behind all of these doors? Do you think mom and dad know about this place? Where did this come from? Has it always been here?" Kayla peppered Skyler with questions as she continued turning, trying to see exactly how many doors were in the corridor.

"Let's try them all! It will be fun to see what's here. I can't believe we didn't know about this place!" Skyler began twisting the knob of a door he moved to.

Kayla gave him a look and raised one eyebrow.

Skyler shrugged his shoulders. "Besides, it's not as if we're actually *leaving* the house anyway."

Kayla giggled and followed her brother as he began to step through the door.

Foodland by Charlotte Ardern



As soon as Kayla and Skyler opened the door, there was a huge whooshing sound, followed by stomping noises.

“Aaah! What was that??” Kayla shouted.

“I don’t know, let’s find out!” Skyler replied.

The two started walking in, almost tripping on rocks and sticks. The sky was a strange pinkish orange color, like the color of the sky at sunset. There were lots of food creatures, walking

around and doing crazy stuff. Some were doing crazy tricks and others were playing games and gardening.

“Wow! Do you think we can eat one of them?” Kayla wondered.

Before Skyler could respond, a fried egg jumped on them, followed by syrup squirting at them.

“Stop it! Stop it!” Kayla cried.

“You stop it, strange egg dude!” Skyler shouted.

“I’m so sorry! I get too excited when I meet new people. By the way, my full name is Eggster Syrup Hamlet the Third. You can just call me Eggy though,” Eggy quickly introduced himself.

“It’s nice to meet you! My name is Skyler, and this is my sister, Kayla,” Skyler responded.

“It’s nice to meet you guys! Come with me, I have something to show you. It’s the best place in all of Foodland,” Eggy said excitedly.

“Goody!” Kayla and Skyler said at the same time.

Later, while they were walking around, someone really familiar flew by. There was a beam of pink, glitter and sparkles. It zoomed around in a circle around Kayla, Skyler, and Eggy. Then, the mystery person landed. It was the Tooth Fairy.

“Wow! That’s the Tooth Fairy. A real one!” Kayla managed to say.

“Yes! You can call me Fairy Sparkles. Special friends like you guys get to call me by my first name,” Fairy Sparkles introduced herself.

“Did you guys know that Fairy Sparkles is my cousin?” Eggy announced.

“Really? Truly?” Kayla and Skyler exclaimed at the same time.

“Yes! Cross my heart and syrups,” Eggy replied with honesty.

“Hahaha! Syrups!” Skyler laughed.

“Do you guys want to see how many baby teeth I have? Then afterwards, we can have cookies and milk,” Fairy Sparkles offered.

“Yeah!!!!” Skyler and Kayla cheered.

A few minutes later, the trio, plus Fairy Sparkles, arrived at her house. It was really magical. It had lots of cute pink sparkly rooms and lots of hallways. After they went up two levels of stairs, they finally went through the door to the Tooth Room.

“Wow!! This is so cool!” Kayla squealed.

“There are approximately two tons worth of teeth in this room right now. Tonight, I’m going back to Earth to collect more teeth from children and adults too!” Fairy Sparkles explained.

“Now, I can cross off meeting the Tooth Fairy from my bucket list!” Skyler revealed.

“Really? I thought you didn’t like fairies,” Kayla responded surprised.

“There’s some things you don’t know about me,” Skyler spoke.

“Let’s go and eat some cookies and milk. I want you guys to get home before it starts to rain chocolate syrup,” Eggy informed.

“Alrighty! Let’s go!” Fairy Sparkles spoke.

Five minutes later they arrived at Eggy’s house. They ate some Pumpkin Chocolate chip cookies and milk. They chattered for a minute, when all of the sudden, it started to rain chocolate syrup.

“Oh No!” Kayla whimpered, “How are we going to get home?”

“There is a special tunnel in my basement that will lead you home. You don’t need to even go outside and get wet,” Eggy assured.

“Let’s go! Thank you so much for the fun trip!” Skyler said.

“You’re welcome. You guys are awesome! Eggy will lead the way, because I need to get going on collecting tonight’s teeth,” Fairy Sparkles rushed on.

“Bye Fairy Sparkles!” Skyler, Eggy, and Kayla waved goodbye. Then, Fairy Sparkles left in a flash, with the same pink sparkly and glittery beam they saw earlier.

“Follow me!” Eggy said importantly. They went down two levels of stairs, down a hallway and into a door portal.

“Goodbye Eggy! It was fun!” Kayla said happily.

“Yes, it was!” Skyler said, opening the door.

“Have a safe trip home.” Eggy hugged them goodbye. Then, Kayla and Skyler walked out the door. It led them back to the corridor, and which door they went to next will be a mystery for a while.

Even though the corridor of doors was an oddity to them, Skyler and Kayla were relieved to see it unchanged when they returned.

“I smell like breakfast,” Skyler observed, as he brushed off his clothes like it could remove the scent.

“No, I think that’s me. I’m pretty sure I smell like breakfast.” Kayla’s nose twitched as she took a deep whiff. “It’s a pretty delicious smell though.”

“Come on! There are more doors to open!” Skyler grabbed her hand and led her to another door.

Kovidians Attack by Kevin Rigby



The next door that Skyler and Kayla walked to was made of metal and was covered with tiny blinking red lights, but there was no handle on the door. As they looked closer at the lights, they noticed a little blue light in the middle of all of the reds. Kayla reached out and touched the blue light, and all of a sudden everything went black.

The next thing Skyler and Kayla saw a medium-sized room filled with large metal crates. All around them were sirens ringing and flashing red emergency lights.

“What’s happening?” asked Kayla.

“Where are we?” asked Skyler.

They both turned to find a young man in futuristic clothing running down a hall outside of the room. He stopped dead in his tracks when he saw the siblings.

“How did you get on the Century?” he asked. “Never mind that. We could use some extra hands. Follow me.”

He led them through what appeared to be a spaceship to the main control station. There, through a thick glass window, they could see hundreds of other ships blasting their laser cannons at the Century.

“Who are they, and why are they shooting at us? And why are we not exploding?” asked Skyler.

“I will explain,” the young man said. “But first we must introduce ourselves. My name is Joey. And you are?”

Skyler answered first. “I’m Skyler, and this is my sister, Kayla.”

“What planet are you from?” asked Joey.

“Um, Earth. You're not?” Kayla said.

Joey seemed surprised that Skyler and Kayla were from Earth, but quickly explained that he was from a planet called Maskolia, which was located in the Galaxy of the Worlds.

“I don’t have time to figure out how you got here, or why... Now to business.... Our galaxy once had a massive fleet of spaceships called the Blue Hawks. The Century was one of those hundreds of spaceships. The other ships that you see firing at us made up the rest of that fleet. One day, a new ship came into the Galaxy of the Worlds. The fleet went to investigate. They were so confident of success that they did not notice the red and green Kovidian flag on the ship's tail. Not until it was too late anyway.

“Who are the Kovidians?” Kayla asked.

“Not a great group of creatures. Their turbo blasters send an electric shock through the ships they fight. This shock brainwashes everyone on board and allows the Kovidian leader to control the ship,” Joey explained.

So, each ship they blast adds on to their fleet, like sharks and minnows!” whispered Kayla to Skyler.

Joey kept explaining. “The only way to save the galaxy and the Blue Hawks are if we and the 6 other people on the Century get to the Kovidian command ship, take all of the Kovidians

prisoner, deactivate the signal to the Kovidian planet, and then destroy the Kovidian ship before they can get the signal back up and running.”

“That’s all?” Skyler asked sarcastically.

“It's very risky.” Joey said, ignoring the sarcasm. “Also, to answer why we are not being blown to smithereens, all Blue Hawks have high powered force fields around them while we still have fuel...but we are running low on that. It does not look good.”

Meanwhile, Kayla had wandered over to a bank of blinking screens. “So ... how do you drive this thing?” said Kayla pushing some buttons on the screens. “Beep Boop Beep Bop.”

“DON’T PUSH THAT!!!!!!!!!!” yelled Joey, as he rushed over to Kayla.

The Captain of the Century ran over as well, “Noooooo!!! Our force field is going down!”

“Everyone into the life pods. Hurry!”

Joey told everyone to get into space suits and yelled to Skyler and Kayla to get with him into a small car-sized ship.

On the way there, Skyler was scolding Kayla. “Why did you do that? Now the entire Galaxy of the Worlds might be overrun by the Kovidians!”

Joey told them that they probably had 15 minutes before their shields were all down. At that point the Kovidians would have complete control of the ship, and everyone left on board. “We can’t allow the Kovidians to have every ship in the fleet,” Joey shouted over the noise of the blasts. “As soon as we leave the ship, I will activate the self-destruct button.”

Once in the pod, Skyler and Kayla finally had an unobstructed view of the Kovidians' many ships. “Wow, we never really had much of a chance, did we?” asked Skyler.

“Don’t say that, there is always a chance! We just have to do some fancy flying. Plus, now we have four different ships that the Kovidians have to hit instead of one. Even better, these escape pods are much smaller than the Century which will make them a harder target. So, let's go!” said Joey.

As they weaved in and out of the Kovidian ships, Sklyer and Kayla were impressed at how good a flier Joey was. He was amazing! Finally, they could see the command ship. Just then, the pod with the Captain of the Century was blasted by the Kovidians and was now under their control.

When one more of the pods got hit, even Joey began to lose hope, but Kayla accidentally pushed a random button that made the pod go into overdrive! Joey tried to slow down, but the pod was going too fast! As they got closer to the Kovidian command ship, Joey saw that the signal generator was on the *outside*, and not the inside like they had suspected.

Joey gained control and did the best flying he ever did. Right as he got over the generator he aimed and fired for the generator that was causing all their problems with his laser canons!

Pow! Direct Hit! Every single ship in the Kovidian's hijacked fleet lost the controlled red glow and turned back to their correct blue color. Joey, Skyler, and Kayla had done it! After they gave high fives, Skyler and Kayla were suddenly whisked back to the corridor of doors. It seemed that as soon as they accomplished what they needed to do in that door, they were sent back to the rest of them. As they stood in the corridor, still reeling from their adventure, they looked at the door they had gone through. All the lights had gone out. No blue, no red. Just a plain, solid metal door.

"Whoa, a trip through Foodland and then the craziest ride through space. I hope the next door is easier on my stomach," Skyler moaned quietly as he rubbed his middle.

Kayla smiled to herself at this. Of course, even a queasy stomach wouldn't dampen Skyler's curiosity and adventurous spirit. She wouldn't bring it up, though. She wasn't ready for their exploration to end either.

"Don't worry, it will be. After all, I'm picking the next door," she reassured him.

She peered around, and after giving it a moment's thought, walked over to a door that looked to be made of blue glass. The glass wasn't smooth and looked rather bent so she couldn't see through it. There was no obvious doorknob. She placed her hand where she thought a knob should and the door began to glow. Skyler stepped up beside her with a bewildered look on his face. When it opened, Kayla and Skyler stepped inside.

Sapphire Land by Brynlee Arnell

When Kayla and Skyler had entered the room, they closed the door behind themselves and in front of themselves they saw nothing. The room they had just entered was filled with a vast space of whiteness. Kayla and Skyler turned around to leave the room that they had just entered when they saw something on the back side of the door that they had not seen when they had entered the room. They saw a sign that said *Sapphire Land*. The only thing that Kayla and Skyler knew about sapphires were that sapphires are diamonds that are usually a blue color but that they can come in different ranges of colors.

Kayla and Skyler turned back around and the room that was once full of... well... nothing, was now full of all sorts of colorful trees and plants. There was a stone path that led to a bridge. The bridge went over a little blue stream. Kayla wanted to walk across the bridge but Skyler wanted to climb a tree. Skyler figured since he was the older of them two and that they needed to stick together, Skyler would walk across the bridge with Kayla.

Though before they left to walk across the bridge, Skyler made Kayla promise that after they had crossed the bridge that they would come back to the tree and climb it. (The tree looked very odd, it had a brown trunk like normal but its leaves and branches were a pink color and it almost seemed that there was pink glitter floating around it).

On their way to cross the bridge they passed by a grove of flowers. Kayla and Skyler stopped and took a closer look at the flowers. The flowers all had blue petals and a yellow stamen. When Kayla and Skyler looked even closer at the flowers they realized that the petals were actually blue sapphires and that the center part of the flower (the stamen) was actually a yellow diamond. Kayla and Skyler thought that the flowers were super cool.

Kayla and Skyler kept on walking down the path towards the bridge. Kayla and Skyler had just barely started walking on the bridge when a troll popped up in the middle of the bridge.

The troll was a brownish color and was also a little fat. The troll was very dirty and had spots of dirt all over himself. The troll was wearing a shirt that did not fit him very well. The shirt was a little short on the troll. It was short enough that you could see the troll's belly button.

Kayla and Skyler tried to ignore the troll and tried to walk past the troll but that was hard to do. It was hard to ignore the troll because its stomach kept on making noises. It was also hard to try and walk past the troll because when Kayla and Skyler walked to one side of the bridge the troll would go to that side of the bridge and block them from crossing the bridge. That kept on going for about a minute until Kayla did something about it.

Kayla walked to the middle of the bridge and stood there. "Why do you not want us to cross the bridge?" Kayla asked the troll.

The troll responded in a deep low voice, "You are unknown travelers and you come from an unknown world."

"Do you mean Earth?" asked Kayla.

"Yes," said the troll, "That planet Earth place," the troll continued, "that place is full of crazy people."

"That still does not explain why you will not let us cross the bridge," Kayla fought back.

"I will not let you cross the bridge," said the troll, "because you are in danger here."

"That troll speaks nonsense," said Skyler.

"I agree," said Kayla.

"Well then," said the troll, "if you think that I speak nonsense then you may pass me and see for yourselves," finished the troll.

"That would be great," exclaimed Kayla and Skyler together. So the troll moved aside so that Kayla and Skyler could pass him. When Kayla and Skyler were on the other side of the bridge they saw a wizard. The wizard was wearing a blue robe with yellow stars. The wizard was also wearing a hat. The hat was also blue with yellow stars. The wizard was also very tall and slim. Kayla and Skyler were so excited because they had never seen a wizard in their life so they started running toward the wizard. Once they had reached the wizard he started talking immediately.

"My name is Merlin, and you must leave," said Merlin.

"We just got here, and we do not want to leave," said Kayla.

“And why must we leave?” added Skyler.

“You are in great danger here,” said Merlin.

Kayla pulled Skyler aside for a minute and said, “Now two living things in this world have warned us that we are in danger, don’t you think that we need to leave this land so we know that we are safe?”

Skyler responded to Kayla’s question, “We are safe Kayla, just be brave and strong.”

“Ok,” said Kayla.

They turned back to Merlin and said together, “We would like to keep exploring this land.”

“If that is your wish,” said Merlin, “then I cannot keep you from exploring this land but before you go any further you must find a willow tree with a brown trunk and pink willow branches. This tree looks like there is pink dust floating around it. Once you find this tree you must climb up into its branches,” finished Merlin.

Skyler turned to Kayla and said, “Remember the tree that I wanted to climb, and I said that it looked like pink glitter was floating around it?” Skyler asked Kayla.

“Oh yeah!” said Kayla smiling, as she remembered the tree that her older brother had wanted to climb.

“I think that is the tree that Merlin is talking about,” concluded Skyler.

Merlin said, “That *is* the tree that I am talking about.”

Kayla and Skyler both turned and started running in the direction of the bridge. Kayla called behind her back, “Thanks, Merlin.”

Kayla and Skyler were too focused on getting to the tree that they did not notice the mischievous grin on Merlin’s face.

Kayla and Skyler crossed the bridge, passed the grove of flowers and then ran off to the side of the stone path onto the grass and to the tree.

“Well this is it,” said Skyler.

“All we have to do is climb it,” finished Kayla.

Kayla and Skyler climbed the tree and were sitting on one of the branches of the tree when they felt the oddest sensation. They felt like they were flying! And the thing is... that they *were* flying! But the weird thing is that they could not control where they flew. Kayla and Skyler were heading straight for the door.

“It was a trick,” exclaimed Kayla. “Merlin tricked us. The people and creatures of this land made this tree so that if people came and they did not want them here they would tell them to climb this tree which would *make* them leave.” They were close to the door now and still floating towards it.

Then Skyler said, “I guess we did have an adventure here.”

Kayla agreed. They were both ready for their next adventure that they would have in the next door that they entered.

Kayla and Skyler both exclaimed, “So long for now *Sapphire Land*,” as they floated out of the door.

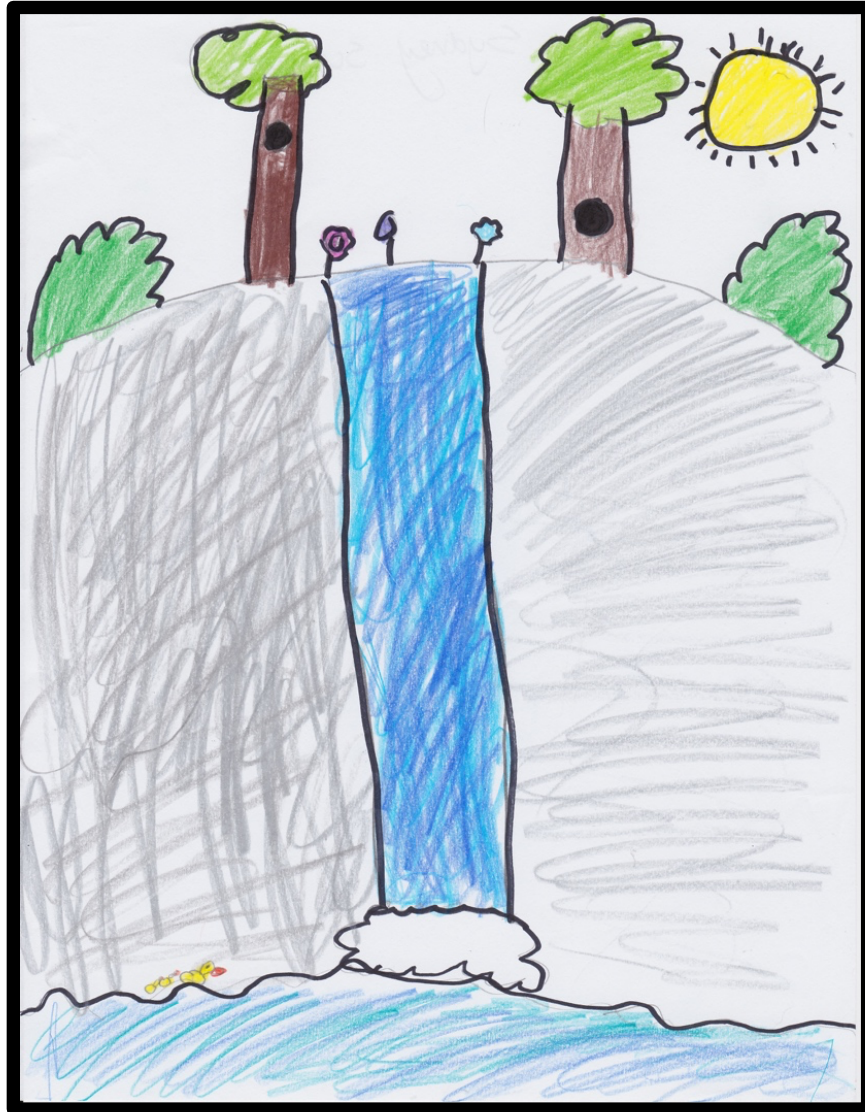
“Make a note,” Kayla said when they drifted to the ground, “We should not trust strange wizards.”

“Okay then, I think we should add that *all* wizards are strange until we know them better.”

Skyler huffed.

“That’s a good idea. Let’s try a different door. They can’t all have grumpy trolls and wizards.” Kayla said.

A Neon Door by Sydney Schmalz



"Look!" said Kayla. "Look at that door!" It had neon colors. They went up to it, they could hear lots of laughing kids.

"Let's do this one," said Kayla.

"Ok," said Skyler. They slowly opened the door; they saw lots of little elves.

"Wow, this is amazing!" said Kayla.

Just then they saw a unicorn and a dragon overhead. Kayla screamed with joy! Then a little elf came to Skyler's legs. "Hello," said the little elf.

"Hey," said Skyler. "What's your name little elf?"

"My name is Mola," the elf said.

"Cool," said Skyler. "What is this place?"

The elf answered, "This is Armya, this is home to all mystical animals like unicorns, dragons, Pegasus, griffins, manticores, centaurs, and mermaids. But there is also the land of monsters. Their leader is Medusa. There are cyclops, werewolves, kraken, vampire, cockatrices, and ogres! And the prettiest phoenix!"

"Wow, that's a long list!" said Kayla.

"Yes," said Mola.

"Wait", said Kayla, "Something doesn't feel right. Where's Skyler??" She looked around and saw him in the sky on a giant red dragon!

"Come on Kayla," said Mola. "We can get to the stables and get a Pegasus!" They started to run fast! They got to the stables. Mola got a blue Pegasus, and Kayla got a white one with red hair. They got out of the stable and took off into the air. Wow, they were high up!

"Look there he is!" said Mola. They flew up to his side.

"Help!!" yelled Skyer.

"Ok, you need to jump to my Pegasus!" said Kayla

"I'm scared!" said Skyler!

"Well if you don't, that dragon is gonna kill you!" yelled Kayla. "K, on the count of three you jump, one, two, THREE!"

Skyler jumped. He almost made it, but he started to fall. Mola caught him just in time. They got back to the ground. As Skyler kissed the ground, Mola and Kayla put both pegasus back. The one Kayla rode was named Peppermint, and the one Mola rode was called Blue.

"Well this has been awesome, but it's time to go! Goodbye Mola, this has been great!" said Kayla.

"Look there's the door!" Said Skyler.

They opened the door and went back into the corridor.

"That dragon was *not* equipped with seat belts. I should take his flying license for that," Kyler quipped.

Kayla could see that he was really shaken though.

"I Thought you were brave. How did you even get there? Kayla asked.

"I was crazy enough to let the dragon grab me. Let's check a different door!"

They both found a door that looked like it was made of the blackest of night, as if it were not a door but a void- a black hold compressed and held to a door shape. Looking at it closely almost made them feel blind. It mesmerized them and opened automatically as they walked in.

The Empty Room by Ann Hegemann

As Kayla stepped through the door behind Skyler, she couldn't help feeling a little excited. She was curious. Curious about what could be behind yet again another door, but the first thing she noticed was how dark it was. The only light came from the small opening in the door through which she had just come through. "What do you think is out there?"

"I'm not sure," replied Skyler, trying to keep his voice calm. He was wondering about turning around but thought that surely there must be something worth waiting for in there."

"I wish it was lighter in here," said Kayla.

Seth could tell that she was a little nervous. Then a deafening CRACK filled the air, and there was light.

It was a wide room. In fact, it didn't seem much like a room at all, for no ceiling or walls could be seen. Everything was a dusty white, which was a relief compared to the blackness that had once been there. "That was weird."

Seth couldn't agree more with Kayla. "Do you think this room knows you wished for the light?"

"One way to find out. I wish for pizza..." Kayla said.

Silence, and then another Crack! Faster than you can blink, a pizza box was sitting on the ground in front of the two bewildered children. They looked at each other and saw that they each wanted to be the one to wish next. They both started talking at once and CRACKS filled the air as things started to appear all around them. Foods, drinks, clothes, games, and so much more started to pile up at their feet.

Soon enough, the sound of wishes began to die away, and silence once again filled the air. Skyler and Kayla began to look at what the other had wished for." This room is amazing!" shrieked Kayla."

"I know!" said Skyler," I wish we could stay here forever." CRACK. They stopped dead in their tracks. Nothing looked different, but both of them could tell something was wrong.

Kayla asked, "What did you wish for?"

“I just said ‘I wish we could stay here forever’,” Skyler said.

And that’s when Kayla knew what was wrong. She couldn’t remember how they got there.

Worse, she couldn’t remember how to leave.

“Skyler,” She began hesitantly, “How do we get out of here?”

“That’s easy we just... we just...” But try as he might, he couldn’t remember what they had to do. “We’re stuck because you wished to stay here forever.” Kayla could feel the panic rising inside her. Skyler, not liking the blame, started to defend himself by saying, “It was an accident. Besides, if we wished to stay we can wish to go. I wish we could leave this place.”

They waited, but no CRACK rang out. Instead, a loud booming voice yelled, “In this room, wishes are free, try to fix a wish and you’ll pay a fee. What once was wished must always stay, remake that wish and now you’ll pay! The wish made first will now be lost, that is the price, that is the cost.”

The words rang in their ears for several seconds, and when it finally stopped blackness filled the room once more.

“Great idea, Skyler,” said a now angry Kayla. “What are we going to do? It’s dark again, we can’t wish for light, we don’t know how to get out of here, and can’t wish for help.”

“Calm down!” Seth too felt angry, but he knew they had to do something if they wanted to get out. “We just need to think things through.”

“And what do you suggest?” asked Kayla.

“Maybe we can get our wishes back. We just have to re-word them.”

“What do you mean?” asked Kayla as she blindly stumbled over boxes towards Skyler. “What if instead of saying ‘I wish it was lighter’ say something like, ‘I wish I could see.’ ”

“I wish I could see.” Nothing happened. Kayla was about to get mad at Skyler again, but a loud CRACK stopped her. And then she could see Skyler standing not far in front of her. It was still dark, but they could see everything, everything but a way out. “We can see, but now how do we get out?” questioned Kayla.

“Well,” started Skyler, “We need to do the same as before. We need to make a wish that will help us get out without wishing we can leave.”

“What about, ‘I wish I knew how to get out of this room,’” Kayla said.

A loud CRACK rang out as she finished the sentence. Kayla suddenly remembered coming through a door into the room, so they must need to go through the door back out into the hall. She looked at Seth to see if he had come to the same conclusion, but when she saw him he still looked confused.

“I don’t get it,” he said. “Your wish made sense, but we still don’t know how to get out.”

“You don’t know how to get out?” Kayla questioned.

“And I suppose you do?” joked Skyler.

“I do,” Kayla said.

Skyler was about to tell Kayla to stop joking, but when he saw the look on her face he knew she wasn’t. “When you made you wish. You said-”

“I wish I knew how to get out of this room,” repeated Kayla.

“You wished *you* knew, but not that *I* would too.” An awkward silence followed.

“It’s ok.” said Kayla “All we have to do is go out the door we came in through.”

“We came in here through a door?” asked Skyler.

“Yes, we just have to find it. I don’t see it, so we need to make another wish. I wish I-”

“We!” stopped Skyler.

“Right. I wish we knew where the door to get out of here is,” Kayla said. As usual, a CRACK filled the silence and when it finished Skyler turned to see a shimmering door behind him. They both took off running towards the door. Skyler got there a second before Kayla and started to open the door. They both walked out into the hall, not even looking back.

“Whew, it feels good to get out of that room,” said Seth. “I don’t think I’ll ever wish for anything again!”

“Let’s find a nice, calm quiet door,” Kayla said.

An Ocean Breeze by Allie Rigby



As Kayla walked along the corridor of doors, one door caught her eye immediately. Kayla had always loved the ocean. Ever since she was a little girl, she had been drawn to the ocean in a mysterious way. She felt like it was calling to her! She had grown up living by the sea and knew how to swim, surf and dive. Seashells decorated her bedroom top to bottom. So when she saw the seafoam green door with a small white carving of a wave in the middle, she headed right for it. As she approached, she could faintly smell the refreshing salty sea breeze.

“Skyler?” she said. “I’m going to go in this door. Want to come?”

Skyler shook his head. “No thanks. Go ahead.” He had found a door of his own.

“Suit yourself!” Kayla called to him. She turned her attention back to the door in front of her. What would she find behind this door? Would it be dangerous? She didn’t think so. Sure, the ocean could get rough at times, but she had been through many storms. She could handle whatever was behind the door.

With a deep breath, she reached for the handle made of bright orange coral. She turned the knob and opened the door. Whoosh! With a swirl of sea blue sparkles and a splash of cold water on her face, she was rushed inside the door before she could say “Surfs up!”

When the mildly frightening sensation stopped, Kayla opened her eyes to find herself standing on warm, soft, white sand. She wiggled her toes and giggled. It was so squishy! She looked up to see a shimmering blue ocean only a few feet away. As she looked around, she saw tall palm trees waving in the breeze, seashells glittering in the sand, and felt the warm sun beating down on her back. She heard seagulls squawking to each other in their own unique language, the crash of waves as they collided with the sand, and her name being sung in a unique harmony.

“Wait,” she thought. “My name? Who is singing my name?” Kayla looked all around but couldn’t see anyone on the beach.

“Am I going crazy?” she wondered. “Did I bump my head on the sand when all those crazy sparkles came?”

Then she heard it again. That unique but strangely beautiful harmony. “Kaaaylaa. Kaaaylaaa.”

“Who’s there?” she shouted. Again, she looked around but saw no one.

Now she only heard giggling. “Out here! In the sea!” said that same voice.

Kayla looked out into the shining water. Faintly, only a few feet away, she saw a small head poking up out of the water. When the mysterious person saw Kayla looking, she quickly went back under the water.

“Wait!” Kayla said. “Come back! I didn’t mean to scare you! Please come back!”

Slowly, very slowly, a head broke the surface of the water. The mysterious girl had dark blue hair that went all the way down her back, with an orange starfish holding the hair out of her sapphire blue eyes. She looked to be about 15. Kayla thought she was beautiful!

The mysterious person came and slid onto the sand with the water still covering her legs. She had a dark blue shirt on to match her hair.

“Hello!” Kayla said as she ran over to this beautiful girl.

“Hello Kayla” the girl answered.

“How do you know my name?” Kayla asked.

“Oh we all know your name around here,” the girl said.

“Who are you?” Kayla said, puzzled.

“My name is Coral. I am a..... well, see for yourself.” With that, Coral lifted her tail and waved it around, splashing Kayla with drops of water in the process.

“Whoa! You’re a... a... a..” “ A Mer-maid! This is so amazing! I’ve always dreamed of meeting a mermaid! You are so pretty! Your tail is beautiful!” Kayla gushed.

Coral replied with a small laugh and a glance at her tail. “It isn’t it.”

It really was! It was a dark blue to match her shirt and hair, with flecks of coral pink spotted all around it. On the flipper, designs were placed to look like coral waving in the water.

“Your tail looks like coral!” Kayla said. “Is that how you got your name?”

“Sure is!” Coral replied. “Ok. I’m going to get straight to the point. I can make you a mermaid for half an hour before you get transported back to your home where you can choose another door to explore. Would you like to?”

Kayla was shocked. “Are you for serious? This is so cool! Of course! Make me a mermaid!”

Coral touched a necklace made of coral that was hanging around her neck and said some unintelligible words. The next thing Kayla knew, she was in the water with a pearly white tail replacing her legs!

“This is amazing” Kayla exclaimed.

“What would you like to do first?” Coral asked.

Kayla thought for a minute and then said with a shy grin on her face, “Well, I’ve always wanted to ride on the back of a dolphin...”

“Say no more.” Coral interrupted. “I know just the dolphins.” Coral whistled loudly until two sleek grey dolphins with shell necklaces around their necks came and nuzzled Coral with their noses.

“Meet Flipper and Flopper!”

“Hi Flopper! Hi Flipper!” Kayla said with a wave.

Coral turned to look at Kayla. “Which one would you like to ride?”

Kayla already knew, “I’ll take Flipper.”

Flipper swam in a circle around Kayla. Kayla laughed and grabbed on to Flipper’s fin.

“Let’s go!” Coral shouted. When the dolphins heard the command, they took off. For the rest of the time that they had together, Flipper and Flopper took Kayla and Coral all around the ocean.

“Now I know how Flipper got his name!” Kayla shouted to Coral as Flipper jumped up out of the water and did a flip, then landed back into the water.

Kayla saw buried treasure, a sunken ship, seaweed forests, a giant squid with a ring of flowers around her head, a school of tropical fish and the great city of Covidia- the mermaid kingdom.

When it was time to head back, Coral gave Kayla a seashell necklace to remind her of the adventure they had together.

“Thank you so much for this amazing adventure! I will never forget it.” Kayla said as she hugged Coral.

“You are so welcome. Come back and visit anytime you want. Also, that necklace I gave you will work as a communicator even in your world. So keep in touch! I am going to miss you!” Coral said.

“Me too.” Kayla replied. “Goodbye Flipper! Goodbye Flopper! Goodbye Coral. Until we meet again.” And with that, Kayla hurried back through the white sand and through the seafoam blue door back into the corridor of doors, mind swirling with the thoughts of her adventure with Coral and the dolphins.

As Kayla stepped out into the corridor, she saw Skyler running towards her.

“You do *NOT* want to go into the black and orange door with tiny spiders all over it” Skyler huffed.

“Why, what happened while I was gone?” Kayla asked.

“Nothing I want to talk about right now,” Skyler said. “Hurry, let’s just get into another room!”

The Land of Talking Animals by Dane Darrington



The next door they came to was green with lots of shapes on it. Skyler watched closely and the shapes created creatures. He reached for the doorknob which looked like a butterfly and turned the knob. The door opened and saw the most surprising thing. It was a giant T-Rex about to eat a hamburger. He opened his mouth and swallowed the hamburger in one giant gulp.

Then the T-Rex welcomed them in by saying, “Hello my name is Rex. Welcome to the Land of Talking Animals.”

Kayla was about to run when Skyler grabbed her hand and said, “Wait, I think he is friendly.”

Rex said, “Of course I am friendly! I only eat hamburgers and hotdogs. I get them from the cart over there from Katie the Koala. I have got to say she makes the best food. I love when she puts

eucalyptus leaves on my hamburgers. She also gives lots of tours. You should head over! Oh, don't forget a hamburger!"

Kayla whispered to Skyler, "This is a weird door. Let's just go."

Skyler whispered back, "No one will hurt us. Let's go check out the tour."

They both headed over to the cart to meet Katie. When they arrived, Katie said in an Australian accent, "Welcome! Rex said you would be coming soon! He can tell the future! You are more than welcome to get a map. Everything is free here!"

A sloth popped up behind Katie in the tree and said, "Katie! We are almost out of hamburgers! Should I go pick some more in the forest?"

Katie replied, "I am going to give a tour and will pick some more up on my way."

"A tour to whom?" the sloth asked.

"To Skyler and Kayla of course!"

"Who are they? Are they the new velociraptor babies?"

"No, they are the siblings that came through the secret door" Katie replied.

The sloth looked over Katie's shoulder and gave them a warm welcome. Skyler and Katie stood like statues in awe and confusion. They had never heard animals talk before much less see a live T-Rex!

Katie asked the siblings, "You talk right?"

Kayla exclaimed back, "Of course we talk!"

Skyler chimed in, "In our world we don't have animals that talk. So, I guess we are going on a tour?"

They started on the tour when Kayla asked, "What's in the forest?"

Katie stated, "Our food grows in the forest from apples to hamburgers to treats."

They started walking and the sloth stayed behind to watch the cart. Katie led Skyler and Kayla into the forest and heard a bird singing Kumbaya. The group watched the bird finish singing, eat some berries, and take off.

Skyler asked, “What kind of bird is that?”

“That would be Blueberry, our singer, and he gives out concerts every Saturday. You should come tomorrow and listen.”

Skyler said suddenly, “We actually need to head back soon.”

Katie sadly said, “I wish you could stay but let’s pick the hamburgers from the tree and head out.”

They strolled back, talking back and forth when Kayla said, “I’m starving! Could we eat some of your hamburgers?”

Katie excitedly squealed, “I would be happy to share!”

The group arrived back where they started, and Kayla and Skyler each got a burger.

Skyler exclaimed, “Rex was right! These are amazing!” They headed back to the door and sadly said farewell to Rex, the sloth, and Katie.

Rex asked, “Will you come back?”

Skyler looked at Kayla and said, “we don’t know.”

Rex gave them two tickets to Blueberry’s concert and told them to come back anytime. Skyler and Kayla went back through the door, ready to adventure on to another door.

Dinosaur Land by Paul Rolf

Skyler and Kayla stood in the corridor in front of a green, brown, and purple door. The colors were all swirly. It was taller than they could see, and it was so skinny they would have to enter sideways. It was rough, and if they touched it, they would get splinters. But they didn't touch it.

They couldn't hear anything from behind the door. The doorknob looked like a normal doorknob that they would find in their house.

Skyler opened the door. They couldn't see anything. The land was dark because it was nighttime. The sky was filled with stars and one, tiny, baby moon. The baby moon was dim. Skyler and Kayla's eyes adjusted to the darkness, and they stepped into the land.

They looked around. All they saw were palm trees. Some were tall and fat, some were short and skinny, some were tall and skinny, and some were short and fat.

They walked a few steps into the land and saw a dinosaur hiding behind a tree! It wasn't just any dinosaur, though, it was a green and blue long-necked dinosaur called a dreadnoughtus! They were so scared they couldn't even speak to each other!

While they were still scared, they noticed other dinosaurs hiding behind other trees. There was a Tyrannosaurus rex, a giganotosaurus, an allosaurus, a deinonychus, a Utah raptor, a dreadnoughtus, a triceratops, and many more! The long-necked dreadnoughtus whispered, "Hi!"

The dinosaur seemed friendly. In fact, so did the others. None of them looked like they were going to attack. "We are playing hide-n-seek. Do you want to play with us?" one of the dinosaurs asked.

Skyler and Kayla were confused because the dinosaur was talking. They looked at each other with surprise and then said, "OK."

They found a hiding space together so they wouldn't get lost if they were separated. They hid in a circle of trees that hardly had any space between them. While they were waiting to be found, they noticed a cave with light coming out of it. It looked like a torch was burning at the entrance of the cave.

Skyler started walking over to the cave, and Kayla followed. Skyler picked up the torch, and they both went inside the cave. They found treasure in the cave and a baby dinosaur! They looked around and didn't see any parents near the baby dinosaur.

Skyler and Kayla decide to take the treasure and the baby dinosaur back to the corridor. But then, the parents of the baby dinosaur showed up! The parents wanted to stay with the baby and go on an adventure, so Skyler and Kayla decided to bring the treasure and all three of the dinosaurs back. They carried as much of the treasure back as they could. The dinosaurs followed them, and the mama dinosaur carried more of the treasure in a chest on her back.

As they walked back to the door, they noticed that the other dinosaurs were still playing hide-n-seek, so they decided to play for a while.

After a while, the T-Rex came and found them in their hiding places. Then, they saw the tree that the Dreadnoughtus was hiding by when they first entered Dinosaur land. It had been a couple of hours, so Skyler and Kayla decided to go back to the door. They found their way back to the door and took the three dinosaurs and the treasure with them.

It was a tight squeeze, but they managed to all fit through the door, though Kayla would swear that the door bend to allow the dinosaurs to come through.

“Gee, dinosaurs and all this treasure right in our basement. At least, I think it's still our basement,” Skyler mused.

“I'm not sure about that,” Kayla looked thoughtfully up into the sky above the corridor. “But whatever it is, it's incredible.”

They weren't sure if the dinosaurs understood everything they said, but they were able to lead to a giant leaf sized door that they seemed to like what was behind.

So many doors left and Skyler and Kayla weren't ready to be finished. Together they decided on one shaped like an upside-down triangle in a sky blue color and stepped inside.

A Tricky Troll by Hailey Arnell

When Kayla and Skyler entered the room, they saw a nest but it was empty. There was no sign of a bird but they saw a hole in the tree, so they climbed up to the hole and when they got there it was big enough for them to go in, so they went in.

Another nest was in there. Inside the nest were five curled-up potato bugs, fast asleep. Kayla and Skyler tip-toed around the potato bugs.

Now they could see a black swirling circle that looked like a portal. Skyler wondered what would happen if they went in the portal but Kayla thought it wasn't safe.

Before they could go in the portal they heard a noise that sounded like two horses. So they peeked at the horses and there was a troll chasing the two horses. Kayla loves animals, so before Skyler knew it she was out of the tree and climbing down to save the horses.

She said, "Hey troll, stop messing with the horses!" Then she threw a rock at the troll.

The troll said, "Goo goo gaaa gaa," and ran away.

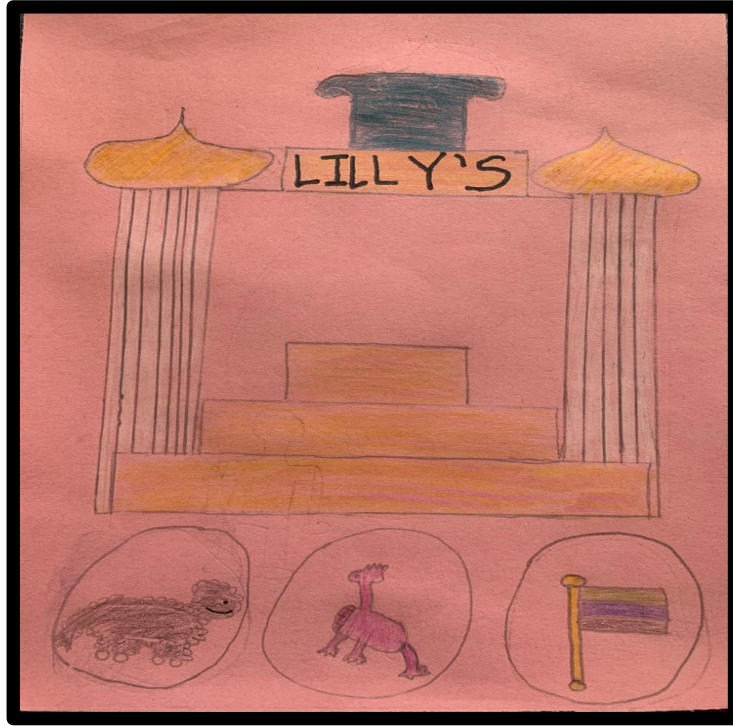
As the troll ran, Kayla could hear some laughing and it sounded like Skyler. She looked up, but Skyler was gone from the tree. Then she saw Skyler walking towards her and laughing.

She said, "What's going on?" Skyler said, "I went down the other side of the tree when you were a little bit down and I was quiet. One of the horses came to me and it turned me into a troll so I could trick you. "Goo goo gaa gaaa," Skyler said and then they both started laughing together.

The two horses came to them: Skyler's was a boy and Kayla's was a girl. They got on the horses and went for a ride in the forest and then they were back at the corridor.

And they said, "Let's come back and pick another door."

Wipperville by Kaybree Arnell



The next room was empty. Skyler and Kayla took a couple of steps in to see if they were missing anything and all of a sudden they were teleporting! It finally stopped but they weren't in their house. They were in a different world.

Skyler, realizing he'd rather be at home, looked for a doorway to teleport back, but Kayla wanted to explore. They both ran off in different directions.

Kayla, not knowing they were separated, started after a huge bird-it almost looked like a dragon. A dragon?? It was a dragon! A pink dragon. Because her favorite color was pink, Kayla continued running after it.

"Lilly!" She had named it Lilly. The dragon looked at her and swooped down to get her. But Kayla felt like she was being followed. Skyler had found her and could see who was following her. It was goblins.

Kayla looked behind her and saw the goblins. She started to slow down.

Skyler was yelling, "Come to me. I will help you!"

But Kayla had faith in Lilly. She jumped and Lilly caught her in mid-air. Then they got Skyler. Now Skyler liked this world. They were flying for a little while until Skyler found a flag he wanted to look at. It had some green, some purple and some gray lines!

Then Lilly said something that Kayla understood! She said, "That is our world's flag."

Then Kayla told Skyler and they decided to look for something that they can explore or help since they knew what the flag meant. So they started to fly again.

Soon Kayla spotted a black baby sheep all by itself. Lilly scooped down and saw that the sheep was scared. Lilly picked it up on her wings and flew to find its mother while Skyler and Kayla tried to keep the sheep calm.

"What should we name him?" asked Kayla.

"Buddy!" Skyler answered.

Finally, Lilly found some sheep that were Buddy's parents. She flew down to return him to his parents who were happy to see him, and they flew off to find some new adventures.

Soon Skyler spotted a bear cub that looked like it was all by itself. Lilly swooped down, but the cub wasn't by itself. The mother bear, who was in the bushes, came charging toward them and got one of Lilly's wings. Skyler and Kayla got away on foot but Lilly's wing was hurt.

Skyler and Kayla stayed by her. A woman came up to them and said she was the queen of Wipperville. The queen healed Lilly with magical powers. Skyler and Kayla said goodbye and thanked the queen, who went on her way.

Then they flew around the world and Lilly showed them her favorite places. The first was a great big waterfall which she used as her watering hole. The second favorite place was a hill covered with wildflowers and buzzing bees that smelled like perfume. Her next favorite place was her house built out of clouds. Lilly's final favorite place was just below the clouds where she could look over all of Wipperville.

Skyler and Kayla said they needed to get back to the corridor to explore behind other doors, but promised Lilly they would come back to visit sometime soon. Lilly told them to walk between two trees and they would immediately be in a portal to take them back to the human world. Skyler and Kayla did so and soon were back in the corridor.

The Room of Balls by Nathan Hegemann

As Skyler stepped through the next door, he saw a mountain of soccer balls. He also saw a field full of footballs and a set of basketball courts. He instantly ran over the basketball courts, but right as he stepped onto the court a wall appeared right behind him.

The walls were in the shape of a basketball. It was like you were inside a hollow ball. Right as the ceiling was finished there was no gravity. The hoops stayed on the ground though.

Kayla found a door to the basketball court and ran inside. Right as she went inside she started to float. They found a basketball ball and started shooting.

“How are you making those shots Skyler?” asked Kayla.

Skyler wasn't sure how he was doing it, but every time he shot the ball it would swoosh through the hoop. Skyler and Kayla invented a new game of basketball. Instead of the ball going down through the basketball hoop it had to swoosh up through the hoop.

“This is so much fun!” said Kayla.

Next, they went to the football field and grabbed a soccer ball. They started a new game where you only had 20 seconds to grab a ball and dribble down the field and kick it through the field goals.

After all this fun they were super thirsty and they ran to a river that they saw. When they got closer, they realized that it wasn't water but it was chocolate milk!

Skyler wanted orange juice and not chocolate milk. Instantly the chocolate milk turned into orange juice!

“Wow, this river is magical and will give us any drink we want!” said Kayla.

They both filled their hands with orange juice and drank until they were so full that their stomachs ached.

They wanted to go back to the basement to get some rest. They searched and searched and finally found a door that they thought would get them back to their basement.

“Whew, I’m glad we were able to get something to drink in that room. All this adventuring was making me hungry,” said Skyler.

“Are you ready to stop?” asked Kayla.

“No way let’s keep going!” exclaimed Skyler.

The Land of Talking Animals by Zackery Findlay

Kayla and Skyler entered another door.

“Wow!” Kayla breathed. There were flowers and they were green, purple, blue, yellow, and red.

“Look at those flowers. They are so colorful,” Kayla said.

“Let’s walk up the path to the forest,” Skyler said.

“Okay,” Kayla said.

Kayla gasped. “Look at that purple bunny. Oh no!! The bunny stole my bracelet,” she yelled.

“Let’s get it!” Skyler yelled.

They chased it and chased it, but it ran under some flowers and they lost it and the door.

“Do you hear someone crying?” Kayla asked Skyer.

“I think it is that frog,” Skyler said.

“Hello,” said the frog.

“AHHHG!” they screamed.

“My name is Cricket,” said the frog.

“Why are you crying, Cricket?” said Kayla.

“Because I can’t croak,” replied the frog.

“Do you know where the door is?” Skyler asked Cricket.

“Yes,” said Cricket.

“Will you tell us where the door is? My name is Kayla and this is my brother Skyer,” said Kayla.

“Only if you can make me croak,” said the frog.

“Sure,” said Kayla.

“What happened when the poison dart frog licked his lips?” Skyler asked.

“I don’t know,” Cricket said.

“He croaked!” said Skyler.

“Whaaaaa,” cried Cricket.

“What do you call a Spanish frog?” asked Skyler.

“I don’t know,” Cricket said.

“A bullfrog!” Skyler said.

“Whaaaa,” Cricket cried again.

“What kind of a pole grows over time,” Kayla asked.

“Tadpole,” Kayla answered.

“Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit,” Cricket croaked.

“The door is behind the waterfall,” Cricket said. “Thank you.”

Skyler and Kayla went behind the waterfall and there was a troll. “Thou shalt not pass unless you answer my riddle right! If you answer wrong, I will throw you down the waterfall.”

“A boy met a dragon, but the boy never found a dragon. How can this be?” said the Troll.

“He was blind?” said Skyler.

“Nope! The dragon found the boy,” said the troll. “Down the waterfall you go!!”

“Brutus!!” said a purple, sparkly dragon from behind the troll.

“I’ve been expecting you,” said the dragon to the children.

“I am Jasper. Here is your bracelet, Kayla.”

“Thank you,” said Kayla.

“Will you fly us back to the door?” asked Skyler.

“Certainly,” said Jasper as put Skyler and Kayla on his back and flew them back to the door.

“Thank you,” they said as they slid off his back and walked through the door back into the corridor.

“Whew! We’ve been really busy today!” exclaimed Kayla, as they landed back in the corridor. “In fact, I’m really thirsty again! Look, a whole hallway full of doors and not a single drinking fountain!”

As Kayla said this, they heard a loud WHOOSH, and a drinking fountain and a vending machine appeared.

“Um, wow. How did you do that? Is this place magic?” Skyler looked around at all the doors and the sky above. “Well, I guess that’s a silly question. Of course, this place is magic. Lemme try.”

At this Skyler squeezed his eyes shut and cried out in a loud voice, “I wish for video games and a big bowl of cheese puffs!”

He opened his eyes expectantly but saw only Kayla giving him a level look over her cup of water and a chocolate chip cookie she got from the vending machine.

He let out a heavy sigh. “I’m not sure any of that qualifies as something we need. So grab a drink and let’s get to our next door.” Kayla smiled because Skyler always made her laugh.

The Lava Room by Tyler Rigby



The next door Skyler and Kayla came to was shaped like a Volcano. It was red and when they got close to it, it felt hot!

“Let’s go see what’s inside this door!” Skyler said.

“No way, I’m going to the next door. ‘Cause I don’t want to get hurt,” Kayla said.

“Okay, I’m going in,” said Skyler as he opened the door.

Skyler walked into the room and immediately fell. Down. Down. Down. 200 feet! And he lands on a bed. He looked around and there was a huge room that had a lot of stuff, like a very hot Hot tub, a hot elevator, and a hot bed. Why? Because he had landed in a lava world. Skyler wasn’t getting burned because it was special lava that was hot, but harmless. The lava covered the walls and the ground all around him. The coolest part of the lava world was up on the ceiling there were lava-cicles. They were like icicles but made of hardened lava.

“I really want one of those lava-cicles!” Skyler said.

He looked around and decided he could get on the lava elevator and get up to the top where the lava-cicles were. He was a little scared to get off the bed because the floor was covered with Lava. He didn't know that he could walk on this lava! But Skyler decided that he was going to be brave and try to get to the elevator. He puts his legs over the edge of the bed and put his feet in the lava. At first the lava tickled his feet, but then he realized it wasn't hurting. He jumped off the bed right into the lava. He knew he was going to have to swim in it.

Skyler started to swim in the lava. It was like swimming in a hot tub, but it didn't even hurt to open his eyes under the Lava! When he looked in the lava, he could see lava fish and lava crabs and lava shells. He kept swimming and made it to the elevator.

He climbed up inside but didn't want to touch the buttons because he thought they might be hot. He uses his elbow to press the up button. The elevator moved up to the ceiling. The elevator wasn't closed off like a regular elevator it was just a platform with three walls and a roof. There were things to hold on to so you didn't fall because there was no door.

When the elevator reached the ceiling, Skyler grabbed a lava-cicle, it was the biggest one he could find. It felt like grabbing a regular icicle, but it wasn't cold. It was just a little warm and very grippy and easy to break off the ceiling.

Skyler wanted to go show Kayla his lava-cicle, so he pressed the other button in the elevator to go higher up. The elevator took Skyler up super high and he was able to walk out the volcano shaped door.

"Kayla, look what I found," Skyler said to Kayla, who was standing in the corridor waiting for him.

"Wow that's so cool. What is it?" Kayla said.

"It's a lava-cicle, from the volcano shaped door. I even swam in lava and didn't get burned up!" said Skyler, "What did you do?"

"I'll tell you all about it!" exclaimed Kayla.

The Gold and Silver Door by Elizabeth Duncan

I, Kayla, came to a door at the end of a hallway, it was a very mysterious looking door, with gold and silver swirls etched into the whitewashed wood. When I began to look closer, I saw what looked to be small jellyfish-like creatures floating about the door, their small glowing tentacles gently tracing the silver and gold inlay.

My attention was drawn to a shining gold knob, I reached out to touch it when the door opened to reveal a beautiful seascape full of a myriad of wondrous creatures, all of them glowing with a sort of bioluminescent light that is not commonly found above the surface of the ocean.

I stepped into what seemed to be water, but as I walked it felt normal, like I was just walking on land. It puzzled my mind that I could breathe just fine as well. I could taste the salt in the water, feel the slimy scales of fish brush up against my arm, and in the distance, I heard the moan of a whale as it sang its song. Pressing forward with curiosity of what lay ahead I took another step through the water. I came to an edge and as I looked down my breath was whisked away at the sight I saw.

It was of the most magnificent coral reef spanning what looked to be the whole ocean. I could see the coral fans waving in the current, starfish moving on the floor, and fish weaving through it all. I glimpsed an octopus as it came out from its hiding spot. The whole reef was teeming with life. I looked up and saw dolphins dancing on the waves, and the sun glinting off the waves as if they were made of crystal, sending fractals of light through the ocean.

I jumped off the edge and into the reef beyond, gently drifting down to the bottom of the sea. As I neared the sandy bottom, the fish swam all around me, showing their bright scales. Then the fish cleared, and I saw all of the creatures finding crannies in the rocks, and some going to hide in the coral.

I wondered at the reason, then as I turned my head, I suddenly saw why. There was an enormous shark swimming directly for the reef, directly for me. I didn't know what to do. As I frantically scanned the ground for anything that I could defend myself with, my hand brushed up against something smooth and round. I looked down and saw a bright blue rock, glowing with the same iridescent light that all of the sea creatures shared.

Grasping at it I pulled and pulled but it would not come out of the sand. I ducked just in time to miss the shark coming at me like a torpedo. I looked back at the rock, somehow knowing that it was my way out, my way to safety. The rock turned in the sand and started to rise out of the seabed. It turned out to be a huge blue shell the size of a truck, not a blue rock at all. It had an opening big enough for me to fit through, so I hurriedly swam through, just as the shark's massive jaws slammed shut in the space I had been just moments ago.

I looked around at my surroundings, it was no longer the seascape full of sea creatures, but it was a hallway. The same hallway that I had been in before. Except, at the end of the hallway was a different door, waiting to be opened to reveal an adventure all its own.

Pirates? by Pearl Rolf

Kayla and Skyler looked for another door one to go in. Kayla spotted the first door she had seen, the glittery, pink one.

“Let’s go to this one,” she said.

“No, that one is too girlish, how about that one?” Skyler asked, pointing to the door with delicious smells coming from it.

“No, that one will make us sick if we eat too much,” Kayla pointed out.

“You sound just like mom,” sighed Skyler, “How about that one?”

Kayla followed Skyler’s finger to a door with a picture of the beach with the sea stretched out before it and above the sea was the peep hole, with painted sun rays around it.

“It’s weird that there are no umbrellas or towels anywhere on the beach.” Kayla said.

“Look, I think there is a ship on the painting,” Skyler said as he squinted at the ship, “It’s a pirate ship!”

“Let’s go check it out!” Kayla said, pushing past Skyler.

They went through the door and stepped onto sand.

“Let’s take our shoes and socks off,” Skyler said, “It will feel nice on our feet.”

They slipped off their shoes and socks and ran to the sea.

“Ooh, the water feels so nice!” sighed Kayla.

Skyler nodded in agreement, but then Kayla suddenly exclaimed, “Look, there is something in the wet sand under the water!”

Kayla was right, there was a silver chain glittering through the sand just barely under the water. Skyler stuck his hand in the water and grabbed the chain. The water went all the way up to his elbow.

“I think it is a necklace,” Kayla whispered to him.

“Why are you whispering?” Skyler asked.

“The pirates might hear us,” Kayla whispered frightfully.

“The pirates are nowhere near us, we don’t need to worry,” Skyler pointed out.

“I wouldn’t be so sure about that, boyo,” rasped an unfamiliar voice.

The next few seconds were a blur for Kayla and Skyler. They were grabbed and Kayla screamed and they started struggling. The pirate hardly lost his grip on them, and they were taken aboard the smelly, dirty pirate ship. The pirate, which all the other pirates called Captain, threw them into a room and locked them up.

“What are we going to do?” asked Kayla.

“I don’t know,” replied Skyler.

Skyler and Kayla did some quick thinking and came up with an idea. Kayla said, “We are in a shallow part of the ocean, so the window here is above water, so we can break it and get out.”

“It will only get up to our knees and if we stay on the side of the ship, no one will notice us,” Skyler said.

“And it is so hot, we will dry off right away, and we can get that necklace,” Kayla said.

Right then they heard the pirates talking about where treasure was buried.

“We can get the treasure, too.” Skyler said, feeling excited.

“Yeah!” Kayla exclaimed.

“Shhhh, we have to be quiet, remember,” Skyler shushed her.

They found a rock in the room and threw it at the window, and it shattered. They climbed through and waded back to the beach, and right in time, too. The ship turned and left. Kayla and Skyler dug in the place the treasure was and Kayla found the necklace, and lots of chests. They dragged the small and medium sized chests through the door back into the corridor, but the big ones wouldn’t fit.

“I will go see what is in the smaller chests while you figure out a way to fit those through the door,” Kayla said quickly.

“Okay, I hope I can find a dagger to cut the door wider,” Skyler said.

Kayla found rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and a lot of gems and crystals and jewels in the smaller chests. In the bigger chests Skyler found daggers, swords, and a lot of coins. He found bronze coins and silver coins, but most of all, they found coins that were made from pure gold!

“We should put these in a museum, I think they collect these,” Kayla said.

“Yeah, we should,” Skyler replied.

They burst out laughing and started talking about their adventure with the pirates. “I think Captain found out we are gone now, don’t you think?” Skyler said, still laughing.

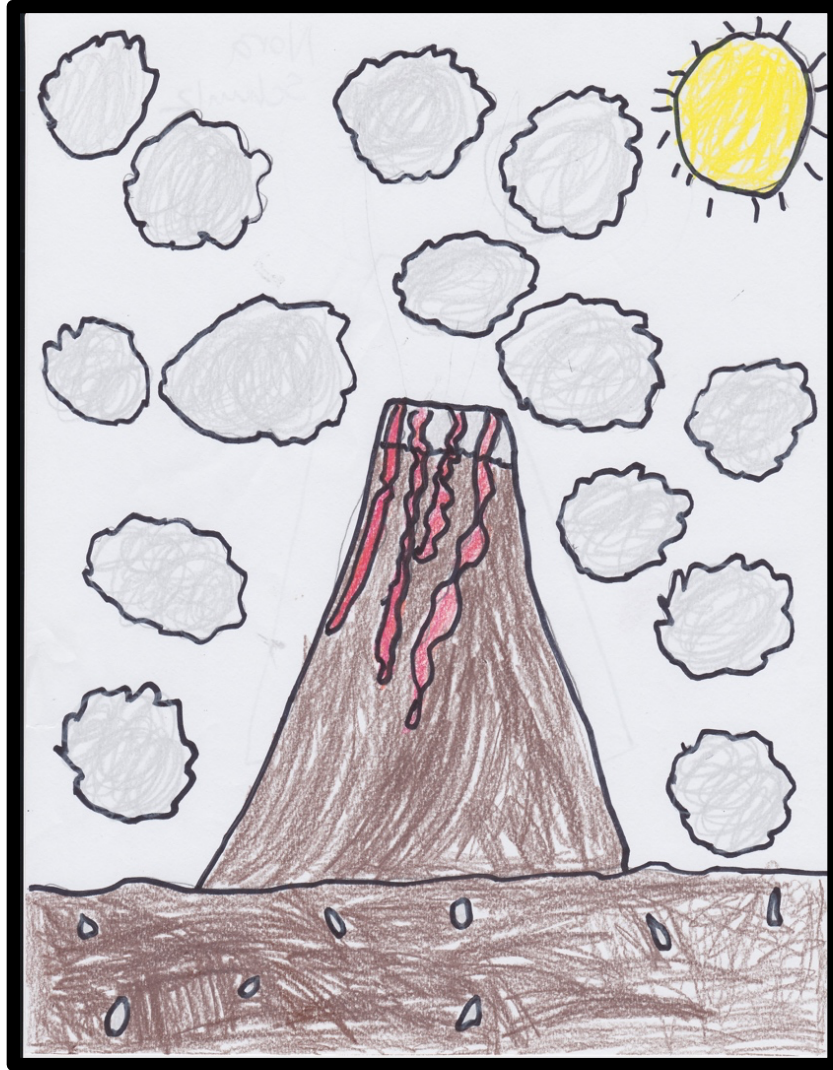
Skyler stopped and so did Kayla. “What is it?” Kayla asked.

“I think we should hide the chests until we are done,” Skyler said.

“That sounds like a wonderful idea!” Kayla exclaimed.

So they hid the chests. When they were done with all the doors at the end of this story, they went and got the chests. The chests got donated to a museum.

The Volcano Door by Nora Schmalz



Skyler and Kayla looked at the doors, looking for a good one. They found one that looked like a volcano! They crawled through the door. To their surprise they were standing in the middle of a grassy field. They heard something, then they saw it. Well, it wasn't really an it, it was a her.

"Hi," said Skyler.

"Hi," said the girl. "I'm Lily, who are you?"

"I am Skyler and she's Kayla," said Skyler.

"Oh No!!" said Lily.

"What's wrong??" Kayla said.

"I'll tell you later, but right now we have to move! Let's go!" said Lily.

Later they arrived at a small house like a hut. "What is this place?" asked Kayla.

"My house," said Lily.

"No, what is this land?" said Kayla.

"It's the land of adventure," said Lily.

"So why were we running?" said Skyler.

"Cause of the giant," said Lily.

"There are giants??" said Kayla, very surprised.

"Yep," said Lily.

"Wow, that's crazy!" said Skyler.

"Yeah!" said Lily.

"Well we better get going," said Skyler.

"Let me come with you just in case," said Lily.

They stepped outside and the first thing they saw was a giant! Skyler and Lily made it to safety, but not Kayla. The giant got her!

A couple minutes later Skyler and Lily came back. They saw Kayla in the giant's hand. Luckily Lily was a very good climber. She climbed up the giant's leg and saved Kayla!

"Let's go!" said Skyer. Kayla and Skyler started running toward the door, they made it out safely.

The Rainbow Door by Jonathan Schmalz



Next, Skyler and Kayla saw a door covered in rainbow colors. They opened it and they were on a beach! The water was so blue and they could smell coconuts.

"This is beautiful!" said Kayla.

Skyler said, "Look out there, a pirate ship! Let's sneak on and check it out!"

They were so excited and not at all scared. They got on the ship and hid behind a barrel. There were so many pirates! One of them had a long nose covered in rainbow-colored warts.

"Gross!" said Kayla.

The pirate had a chicken on his shoulder. The pirate saw them and ran toward them, they jumped out of the way and pushed him over the side!

"Let's take the ship!" Said Skyler.

The pirates all got scared and jumped after their captain.

Skyler and Kayla sailed to an island. When they arrived they saw a princess. But.... she looked just like the pirate, rainbow warts and all.

"Gross!" said Kayla.

The princess saw them and she flew away on a dragon. Kayla and Skyler jumped on another dragon and followed her. When they were high over the ocean the princess turned back into the pirate!!

They were so scared that they fell off the dragon. They splashed into the ocean right next to a speed boat. They jumped into the boat and zoomed away. Straight ahead they saw a magical portal and entered it. It took them right back through the door! They were so relieved!

Jungle-Mania by Kelsey Rigby



The next door Kayla and Skyler came to looked like it was coming to life! It was many shades of green and had lots of plants and flowers all over it. There were also little animals engraved in the wood.

Kayla opened the door and there was a huge statue of an elephant in front of them. Skyler immediately ran over to it and started climbing it. All of a sudden, the elephant trunk moved and picked Skyler up and flung him to the ground.

Kayla gasped and said, “Are you okay?”

Skyler was breathing really heavily and said, “Yes. But I'm not doing that again!”

Then the elephant said, “What is the password?”

Kayla randomly said, “I have no idea?!”

“Correct,” the elephant said.

The elephant disappeared and Skyler and Kayla saw a huge jungle. There were elephants and huge flowers. There were monkeys swinging from huge vines. Then they saw a tree house far off in the distance. They started running towards the tree house, then after a minute stopped to take a break.

Skyler said, “We're almost there.”

They started running again, and they finally got there. There was a huge rope ladder hanging from the top.

Kayla said, “What if this is a trap?”

“Naa. It couldn't be. Why would someone do that?” Skyler said.

“I don't know. But it could be dangerous,” Kayla said.

“Well I don't know about you, but I'm climbing up the ladder,” said Skyler. He started climbing and climbing and then he disappeared into the trees.

Finally, he called down to Kayla, “It's safe! It's just a regular tree house!”

Kayla started climbing and climbing and then she reached the tree house. Skyler was right. It was just a regular tree house. They looked out the window and they saw a huge herd of elephants drinking from a sparkling water hole. Then they looked out the other window and saw a million birds all on one rock.

Then Kayla noticed a little doorknob in the wall. She twisted the doorknob and a hidden door opened. There were many rope bridges leading to different little rooms.

Kayla rushed down one rope bridge and was about to open the door when Skyler called, “Wait for me!”

When Skyler got there, Kayla opened the door and there were a million different colored birds. They went inside and sat down on the little benches in the corner. Then they got some of the bird

food from a little bowl next to them. They held their hands out and immediately the birds rushed towards them and started eating.

When all the food was gone, Skyler and Kayla went to the other little rooms. One had monkeys, another had panthers, and another had baby elephants! They spent time feeding all the animals.

After a while they finally thought that it was time to go back to the corridor. They went back to the regular tree house and then went down the rope ladder one at a time. When they went back to the door, the elephant statue wasn't there.

They opened the door and then Kayla said, "That was soooo fun! I'll have to remember that door."

By this point, Kayla and Skyler were terribly hungry.

"I'm starving!" said Skyler. "Let's go back to Foodland!"

"Skyler, Kayla! Its time for dinner!" their mom called from the top of the stairs.

"Let's go eat and we can come right back after dishes are done," said Kayla.

They hurried down the corridor, making sure to carefully shut the secret door behind them.

"What are we going to tell mom?" Kayla asked.

"Better not tell her anything," Skyler told her. "At least for now."

* * * * *

After dinner was done, Skyler and Kayla both had chores and homework. They longed to head back downstairs, but bedtime quickly came and they resolved to go down first thing in the morning.

Imaginaryville by Maylee Mathis



The next day was cold and rainy.

“Let’s go find out where another one of the doors leads to,” Kayla said.

They went into their basement to go into the door that led to the corridor of doors. They were looking for a new door when Skyler said, “let’s go in that one over there”.

He pointed to a door that was shaped like the letter M. Skyler opened the door and went into it, Kayla followed.

They walked through the door, and they were standing in the middle of a village. There were all sorts of creatures like; Ogres, Trolls, Fairy’s, Elves, and much more. They started walking through the village when they heard trumpets and drums. Everybody started coming out of their

houses and huddling up close in lines. The sound came closer and closer, when soldiers started marching, four soldiers were carrying a carriage. In the carriage there was a lady in a dark green dress with white in the middle. She had reddish-brownish hair.

“Do you adore me?” she said.

Everybody said “Yes!”

She said, “Thank you, thank you,” and left. After she left everybody went back to work.

Kayla said, “Let’s ask someone where we are and who she was.”

There was an elf walking by.

Kayla said, “Excuse me,” to the elf.

The elf said, “Yes?”

Kayla said, “Do you know where we are?”

“You don’t know where you are?” asked the elf.

“No we don’t,” said Kayla.

“You are in an Imaginaryville.”

“One more question,” said Kayla. “Who was that woman?”

“I guess she is our queen, ever since Queen Louis was kidnapped,” the elf said.

“Who kidnapped her?” asked Skyler.

“We don’t know, I think it happened overnight,” said the elf.

“That’s weird. Who would want to kidnap Queen Louis?” asked Kayla.

“I bet her sister!” the elf responded.

“Why her sister?” asked Kayla.

“She’s always been jealous of her older sister Queen Louis.” Then the elf said, “If you want to know more about the kidnapping talk to Maggie Machent.”

“Okay, thanks,” said Skyler.

Kayla and Skyler started walking when they saw a sign in a book shop that said “Maggie Machnet Stories”. That must be her! They went inside. They asked the counter lady where they could find Maggie.

“She is over there,” said the lady.

“Excuse me,” said Skyler, “are you Maggie Manchent?”

“Yes I am. Why do you ask?” said Maggie.

An elf said you know why the queen got kidnapped,” said Skyler.

“Follow me,” said Maggie. They went in the back of the room and sat at a table.

“So, you want to know more about why the Queen got kidnapped? Well, it all started when Queen Louis was walking down to Tea Time and then all of the sudden her sister popped out of nowhere and said, ‘Hello sister, you headed to Tea Time?’ ‘Yes I am,’ said Queen Louis. ‘I know a shortcut. Follow me,’ said the Queen’s sister. Queen Louis followed her sister. And that’s all that I know about it,” said Maggie.

Kayla and Skyler were now very interested, but had a couple more questions for Maggie.

“Did Queen Louis make it to Tea Time?” Kayla asked

“No, she didn't,” said Maggie.

“What is Queen Louis’ sister's name?” Skyler said.

“Her sister’s name is Lindsay, Princess Lindsay,” Maggie replied.

Skyler and Kayla were leaving the book shop when they heard someone call for them. They turned around and saw the Elf. “Hello, what are you doing here?” asked Skyler.

“I am picking a cooking book up for my Grandma so we can make Vanilla Stuffed Brownies,” said the Elf.

“Yum! That sounds good!” said Kayla.

“What did Maggie say about the kidnapping?” said the Elf.

Skyler and Kayla told the Elf what they had learned from Maggie. “I wonder what happened?” said the Elf.

“I think I know what happened,” said Skyler.

“What?!” said Kayla.

“Well, don’t you think it’s weird that the Queen never made it to Tea Time? If only we could be in the castle and investigate!” said Skyler.

The Elf replied excitedly, “My Grandma was a maid in the castle and has a key to every room, even the gates!”

“Perfect!” Kayla and Skyler said at the exact same time!

Kayla and Skyler and the Elf went to the Elf’s grandma’s cottage to get the key. Once they had the key they started walking to the castle. They opened the gates and went inside.

They were walking to a red and gold door when they heard people walking toward them. Kayla, Skyler and the Elf ran to some bushes to hide. The people were talking about a hidden door that Queen Louise was captured in. Slowly the walking and talking from the people started fading away.

“That was a close one!” said the Elf.

“Yes, but now we know where the Queen is!” Kayla exclaimed.

They went in the castle door. “Let’s put our hands on the walls so we can feel for any gaps or a door handle or something!” Skyler said excitedly. They felt the walls for anything. There were no buttons or handles anywhere to be found. They were looking for clues when they noticed a very pretty painting. It was a painting of a crown. The crown was gold with green and red diamonds.

“Those diamonds look like buttons,” said Skyler.

Skyler reached up and almost passed a button when Kayla said, “Wait! What does that say?”

She pointed to a little note in the corner of the painting, it said, “You get two chances; make wise choices.”

“Oh, you have to pick the right button,” said Kayla.

“Pick that one,” said the Elf, pointing to the middle button.

Skyler pressed the button, then they heard a voice, “WRONG, choose another.” They all decided to pick the smallest button.

Skyler pushed it and the picture opened up like a door. They all went through the door and down the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs there was a room with a girl in a cage. They went to the girl and said, “Are you okay?”

“No, I am not,” said the girl.

“What is your name?” said Kayla.

“I am Queen Louis, can you help me get out?”

“Yes,” said Skyler, and gave her a key.

They opened the door and Louise came out of the cage. They all went up the stairs and went out of the door. They all returned to the village, and Queen Louis said, “People! I am here!”

Everybody came out of their homes to see the Queen and to give her hugs. Then her sister came to see what all of the commotion was.

“Where did you come from?!” her sister screeched.

“These kids helped me out of the cage,” said Queen Louis.

Then Queen Louis said to the guards, “Send her to the dungeons!”

Skyler and Kala said it was time for them to leave. They said goodbye to everybody and the Queen thanked them. When they got to the door shaped like the letter M, Kayla said she was going to miss this place.

When they got back home they heard their mom say “Time to eat!” So Skyler and Kala rushed up the stairs for dinner.

Epilogue

Skyler and Kayla spent the occasional afternoon going through the Corridor of Doors experiencing its magic and wondrous places. Even more remarkable than the adventures they had was that they had managed to keep the place and its entrance a complete secret they shared only with each other.

However, school and friends and all the business that comes with it took up more and more of their time. Their trips to this mysterious place became less and less frequent until the day when the entrance to the corridor wouldn't open for them at all. They sat sadly by the entrance thinking of all the exciting times they had had there. Then left together. For although the door was shut to them, the greatest treasure of all happened without them even noticing it: Skyler and Kayla had become best friends. Much more than what a typical brother and sister would. The Corridor of Doors had kept them close.

Years later...

"... And all of it happened right through this very door." Skyler held his own little girl on his lap with Kayla close by with her son on hers.

You see, though they hadn't been able to go through the door, Skyler and Kayla never forgot. So now, parents themselves, this brother and sister decided it was time to tell their own children of the greatest adventures they had had together.

"Dad, what's behind it now?" Skyler's little girl reached out to touch the door.

"We don't know," Kayla answered with a small smile. "We haven't been able to see."

Kayla's little boy jumped down from his lap to join his cousin at the door. His small hand touched where the knob had been. A soft glow began to pour from around the edges of the door as the two cousins touched it. Then, without a creak or a groan, the door opened.

Skyler looked on in astonishment. "Kayla! Look, it's open! Why do you think..."

He didn't have a chance to finish before Kayla was at his side peering down the corridor. It looked like nothing had changed. They looked down to their two children who were already starting to make their way through the door.

“What do you know?” breathed Kayla, in wonder. “Maybe it just needed the right touch.” She turned to her brother with a smile, “Up for more adventures?”

“This time with our kids? Absolutely!” Skyler beamed.

And they went through the corridor again. It was happy to see them.

