

English - Fantasy Story

Alice, who is seven years old, sat in her bedroom on a cold evening. She walked to the window and was fascinated when she saw the dark night sky filled with twinkling stars. Immediately, she reached for her telescope, which was new, and looked again. To her amazement, she witnessed a glistening, purple pathway unroll before her eyes. It was sparkling and illuminating the surrounding even more than the sky already was.

Out of nowhere, a voice echoed around her. "Follow the path," it whispered. With slight hesitation but overcome by excitement, Alice carefully opened her window and stepped cautiously onto the path. She steadied her feet and stretched out her arms before beginning to walk along the route, which allowed her to defy all she knew of gravity. As Alice looked around her, she could see shining stars dancing across the sky below the bright, white moon. Not a single sound could be heard except for the faint rhythm of calm music somewhere ahead. She kept walking until she reached a single, lonely cloud floating in the navy sky. She stepped onto the cloud, allowing herself to fall into it.

Suddenly, the cloud had zoomed through the sky and she was looking at Mars (a large, red planet). In every direction, she could see pink unicorns with pearlescent, pointed horns dancing to music that filled the air. She approached one that had the brightest, bluest eyes she had ever seen. "Where am I?" she asked, "How do I get home?" Before responding, the creature swiftly moved to below Alice and picked her up (almost like a hug), causing Alice to scream with a mixture of fear and delight. "Don't be afraid young lady, you are in the land that never

sleeps. The land where dreams become true! The land where anything is possible!" exclaimed the unicorn in a gentle but assertive voice. Alice, confused, looked around once more. Without warning, a glass appeared in her hand filled with a thick strawberry milkshake. Alice joined in with the dancing and sprung into song when she recognised the words, but in the back of her mind was worry. She was afraid she would not get home. Although she wanted to explore the land she found herself in more, she felt anxious at the thought of never returning to her kind, loving parents.

With this in mind, she approached a wizard that wore a long purple cloak. In a quiet voice, Alice said, "Excuse me, is there a way back? I came along a pathway that lit up the sky but I can't see it any longer. I really want to see my family."

"Hmm, a way back? Only way I know of is this sweet!" explained the bearded man whilst handing Alice a small, paper-wrapped sweet. It smelt of lemon and glowed in the centre. A faint sense of fear rose within her but she ignored it, carefully placing the sweet on her tongue regardless. She closed her eyes and felt a fluttering in her stomach, a tingling in her toes and warmth in her fingers. She could feel something extraordinary happening, but she didn't know what it was.

When she opened her eyes, she found herself back at her bedroom window. The window was open and she could feel the cold wind dancing across her face whilst music played in her ears. She looked around her. Everything appeared exactly as she had left. Astonished, she laid down on the comfort of her bed and closed her eyes. "Was it a dream?" she

thought to herself as visions of the dancing unicorns flashed in front of her eyes once more.

Planet Earth

We all live on Earth...why? Well, Earth is the only planet in our solar system that has all the things we need to survive: 21% oxygen in the air to breathe, water to drink and all at just the right temperature warmed by the Sun. Its name comes from the Old English word 'ertha' and the Anglo-Saxon word 'erda' which means ground or soil.

The Blue Planet

Earth, the third planet from the Sun after Mercury and Venus, is referred to as 'The Blue Planet' because of how it looks from space. This is due to the fact that over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Earth's surface is covered in water.



Did you know?

- Age: approximately 4.54 billion years
- Diameter: 13,000 km
- Distance to Sun: 150,000,000 km
- Surface Temperature: 15°C
- Highest point: Mount Everest 8.8 km
- Lowest point: Challenger Deep 10.9 km below sea level

I'm Spinning Around

The Earth spins on its axis once every 24 hours – that's what gives us day and night as we spin to face the Sun and then away from it again. You wouldn't notice but the Earth's spin is actually slowing down by 17 milliseconds per hundred years. Eventually this will lengthen our days but it will take around 140 million years before our day will have increased from 24 to 25 hours. I wonder if children 140 million years from now will have an extra hour at school.

Whilst it is spinning, the Earth is also orbiting The Sun, which takes $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days to do one full circuit. This gives us the length of our years. Our seasons are also dependent on the orbit of the Earth as our planet is tilted at an angle. This means that around one side of the Sun we are tilted towards it – giving us warmer temperatures and longer days...our summer. However, around the other side of the Sun we are tilted away from it giving us less light and cooler temperatures – this is our winter. All in all, it's a pretty amazing planet and I, for one, am glad to call it home.

Maths

$$\frac{11}{12} + \frac{1}{4} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{9}{10} + \frac{4}{5} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{5}{6} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{3} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{8} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{5}{6} + \frac{7}{12} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{7}{8} + \frac{1}{4} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{5}{12} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{5}{8} + \frac{1}{2} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{12} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{3} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{11}{12} + \frac{1}{4} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{6} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{5}{6} + \frac{7}{12} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{8} = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{11}{12} + \frac{1}{6} = \boxed{}$$