

The Magical Wishing Star

Once there was a 12 year old boy called Reggie who lived deep in the city in a block of flats on the 17th floor. One day on a frosty morning and he stood and looked out of his window across the city of Birmingham. He watched the sun rise from his balcony, where he had been for the last 6 months he had been living with his mum and their rather unusual pet, a wolf.

His mum was often sad as things were difficult as something had happened to change their world. There was a big war in Warwickshire, where Reggie and his mum were from, because a group of old people from the bowling green had, for some reason, become very aggressive and Reggie's mum was frightened of the old people who were walking around in gangs, bowling their bowling balls at people. The wolf was a problem too, the only place that the wolf could go to the toilet was on the balcony and it was beginning to get a bit pongy.

The something strange happened, a box arrived and in this box was something that no one had ever seen before. In the box was a magical toy, it could change things. It looked like a blue star and if you held it, it rattled and shook.

Reggie didn't know it was magical until one day he got up and he was playing with the blue star in the kitchen and he said to his Mum, "What's for breakfast?" His mum said, "I am sorry there's not much food and I sent the chocolate to grandma in Warwickshire where the war is going on. There is nothing to eat but rotten old toast."

He took the star in his hand and said, "I wish we had something else to eat. I wish I had strawberries and cream and cocoa pops," and he turned round and saw, on the plate that had been empty a moment ago, all of the things he dreamt of.

He couldn't work it out at first and he put the star down and scratched his head and said, "I wish I could have a new bike." But a new bike didn't appear. He picked up the star crossly and said, "Why can't I have a new bike? And then a new bike appeared. It wasn't long before he realised that it was the star that was making things appear.

Now, he was sad because he couldn't see his grandmother and he was fed up of being inside and he missed his friends and he thought, 'Is there a magical way I could gather them all together and have adventures and go on journeys?' He wished for a way, if only there was a way he could travel the land and see all of his friends again.

He went onto the balcony holding his star. Considering he was on the 12th floor, the strangest of things happened. There, next to the balcony was a car. It wasn't

on the floor and it wasn't really in the sky, but it hovered like a stick on a river, like a 4 yr year old's spiderman birthday balloon in the sky. He got into it and there were hundreds of seats. It was like a hallway in a school and when he wound his window up there was what seemed like the reflection of a chauffeur. So, he wished that the car would travel around Birmingham and the West Midlands, and it did. It went to Dudley, Walsall, Stirchley, Bilston and Smethwick and picked up all of his mates.

They were so pleased to see each other as they hadn't seen each other for months and months and months. Then they travelled all around and someone said, "Let's go somewhere wonderful!" And because it was a magical car it could go anywhere and they decided to go above the clouds up, far above the miserable day, and there were glittering lights that spun round and around. There was a stairway and they got out of the car and walked up the stairs and in this magical land there were unicorns that strode around with Pegasus wings and they each took turns to ride and gallop upon them.

The children said "This is a wonderful land!"

But the unicorns said, "No it's not wonderful because we have a problem here. We have a vicious ogre here and in the ogre's garden there are magical herbs we need to eat but can't. We have been stuck here for so long and this ogre has been angry and no one knows why. He keeps spitting and holding his face and growling at us." Everyone turned to look at the ogre.

It is something that most people do not know, that when ogres get too cold their blood begins to freeze in their veins, and when it freezes in their veins it sends little sharp spikes around their body and they fall into their brain and it sends them cross and angry. This is what had happened to the ogre and everyone in the car could see that he was shivering and they didn't know what to do about it, except one clever boy whose birthday it had been. Ronnie had been given the most amazing spider man jumper and he loved it deeply, it was warm and cosy, but because Ronnie was clever he could see that the ogre was cross and he started to go near him but as he started to go close the ogre started to get vicious and, stamping his feet, he grabbed Bexy by the throat and started to pull her hair. She was so upset and angry that Daisy tried to help and would have pulled his hair but ogres don't have hair so she grabbed his ears and pulled them back and Ronnie jumped in and said, 'No, no, you mustn't be angry with him!'

Bexy said, "Why not? He's vile and horrible and to be honest he stinks of something the wolf would do."

And then the ogre started say words that you shouldn't say, not an adult or a child, because the icicles were so sharp and painful in him and he let out a screech as Daisy pulled on his ears, and icicles shot out of his mouth.

Jez said, "I think I know what it is, I think I know why he's so upset and angry, can you not see that rather ridiculously all he is wearing is a tiny pair of pants? He must be freezing cold, what can we do?"

Ronnie said "I will give him my jumper." And he took it off and gave it to the ogre and almost instantly there was a change and he started to mellow.

The children who knew what to do, as they sometimes also lost their tempers said, "Calm down mate, breathe in through your nose, breathe in for 4 and out for 5, breathe in for 4 and out for 5."

The ogre did this and, as he did it, unfortunately bogies began to shoot out of his nose. Frozen bogies. One landed on Jez. He thought it was disgusting he flicked it off and it made a ping ping ping ping noise on the car and then it landed and started to melt.

"It's working," said Jez, "I think I know what's wrong. It's right, it is because he is frozen."

They put the jumper on him and Bexy who had hold of him to stop him fighting started to rub his back and asked the ogre, "Is this alright ogre?" The ogre gave a little nod. We all know that we should never touch anyone and or let anyone touch us unless we've given permission first.

"No it's fine," said the ogre, and the words hovered and sort of huffed and puffed and came dribbling out of his mouth and before long the spiderman jumper made him feel happy and cosy.

Bexy kept rubbing his back and said to the ogre, "Why didn't you tell people that you were upset and sad?"

He replied "Sometimes there are no words, sometimes I feel things inside of me and I don't know how to tell people."

So, what they did was they decided to make a poem that explained it. The ogre said to them,

"..... Inside my tummy are icicles that spike and burn
and cut into my lungs and my heart
my heart moves and curls and shivers like a cold polar bear
that can barely breathe."

They said to him, "You've just described beautifully what it is to be sad, so the next time that you feel angry and cross and cold you need to tell people this beautiful poem that you have made. The ogre said, "Thank you."

Reggie said, "Can I have my spiderman jumper back now?"

Everyone could see a small icicle tear rolling down the ogre's face and Reggie said, "You know what mate I had lots of wonderful spiderman things for my birthday and I'm going to give you my spiderman jumper." And he gave it back to the ogre.

They all piled back into the car and down the stairs of the magical land and the unicorns ran alongside them, throwing their heads back, their mane's flowing, drinking the wind. The unicorns said to the children, "Thank you for helping us, what can we do to thank you for all the wonderful things you have done?"

Reggie said, "In Warwickshire there is a war going on, can you come with us and help us and make people have love in their heart and kindness again?"

The unicorns ran either side of the car as they made their way to Warwickshire and as their magical hooves stormed in the clouds glitter rained down and fell upon the angry people in the town. Their hearts began to beat with love again and instead of being angry and cross and aggressive like the ogre, they showed each other kindness and love. A big party was thrown in the streets and they all wore masks of course, and kept a metre away from each other cos it is covid times! They then met each other on zoom and everything changed.

They made their way back to the flat and the sad mother (who was missing grandmother) was surprised to see that Grandma Margaret was on the balcony, as they had brought her back in the car with them. They all sat round happy and blessed. Reggie turned to pick up the star again, but it had gone. It was no more. He felt a little sad as he couldn't have other magical things but then remembered he had the one thing he wanted more than anything, his friends Bexy, Daisy, Jez and Ronnie around him.