

Coventry Building Society's Young Writer of the Year competition 2026

People said the big tree was magical. And if you found a golden leaf under it, you could make a wish and it would come true...

Lds be real here, you wouldn't believe people if the said "Oh well that golden leaf from the tree made me rich," would you? Yeah, no that will I, BUT little did I know that would change... Hi I'm dianna I live in Ukraine. Life is hard espically with war I lost my dad and life's not getting easier. Every now and then, we have to go to the bomb shelter (bomh shelter) and hope not to hurt. This has been going on for years now I know this is dangerous but I was taking a stroll. Then I found a golden leave underneath a hawth tree. I crept a little closer to get a better view. I was right it was golden! I glanced around to see if anyone was looking. Then I made a wish "I wish my dad was alive and the war ended." I sighed because I knew it wouldn't come true. I ^{tell myself} ~~felt~~ about on the grass. Dabbling idly I woke to find myself in a blue world. An unusually ^{spice} ~~spice~~ called out my name. "Dianna!" It said, she had wrong. It sounded different, unfamiliar and confusing. Staring directly at me was a shadow of a girl. "Hey! It began." "I've been looking for you!" "Um... who are you exactly?" I asked. "Don't be silly, it's me Emma!" she replied. "Emma?" I exclaimed. Memories resurfaced into my mind. It was Emma my best friend, but she was beige and warm instead of being tan but she was also slightly blue. She was fading away like a breath in the cold. "That's because of the war," she interjected we are losing, so everyone is slowly fading. "Um... I'm so sorry," I continued. "I shouldn't have stared, but!" My voice halted with a pause. "Do you hear anything about the war and how to stop it?" "No yes you have like the chosen one to do it," she explained. "I think your the chosen one," she whispered. I think your the chosen one...



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because your not guiding." "Why are you whispering?" I asked. "Russian
tayermyyagant (Russian secret agent) also you can go through the forest
to find the book of Slava Ukraini (Glory to Ukraine)!" He elucidated, "If you
truly are the chosen one you will find your way through, good luck obromy!"
(Chosen one) "Thank you!" I cried. The mystical air twisted and twirled around
me. In the forest, the trees and leaves sang in harmony while the flowers
danced. A meandering path slid between the forest. Suddenly, I bumped
into outline of a girl. "Who are you?" I questioned. "Tessia, Tess for short!"
She answered. She shook my hand. "I'm Dismal!" I replied. On and On we
went and saw many things together. Then we stood in front of the
hedge maze. We disappeared into its depths. When we made it out, there
was a bottle full of hearts. Tess grabbed my foot I grabbed her's
we began to fight over the bottle. Then I felt the warm twinkle of the bottle
reach for me. I was teleported to the heart of the battlefield. Dodging
bullets, I remember seeing an inscription in the maze, "He whom breaks
the Twelve stops the duel. A soldier shot me, the bottle fell but somehow
the hearts brought me back to life! I was surprised to see the soldiers
hug each other they were weeping from ^{causing and showing} ~~causing~~ destruction, and pain
I turned around and my dad gave me a big ~~big~~ hug.

Love conquers all.