

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...

It was a rumour from a long time ago and now nobody believed it, nobody but me. The rumours were about Goldreash trees, extremely rare. Secretly I had one right in my garden! Another name for it was 'big tree' because of how large they were. Nobody knew this, grandfather had taken the seed and planted it in our garden. He didn't care about the golden leaf "You are my magic," he used to say. I was sitting on the tree when I saw something shimmering mysteriously...

I climbed down and approached cautiously, there it was — a golden leaf glimmering in the sun, basking in its light. I picked it up and it took me some time to process what happened. "Time to make a wish," I told myself, but what should I wish for? Unlimited money? Endless chocolate? But then I knew what to ask for. "I wish never felt sad again." "Come with me," a silky voice said and then without warning I was transported to a whole new world...

I saw myself in my classroom taking a test, I was in grade 3 again and I ~~remember~~ remember crying. I heard the voice again. "Do you remember this?" it asked. "Yes, I didn't really know what to do and I cried." "If you hadn't cried you wouldn't have gotten better." I looked on in curiosity...



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"You see there needs to be a balance between happiness and sadness, too much of the other could affect you, your wish is disturbing this balance." "I understand!"

As the memory faded and I was transported back home, I went inside to find my sister, crying. "What happened?" I asked her. "It's just I think I failed," she said. "Learn from that and try to improve," I said, she nodded and got to work, as she sat down she said "I'll try." I sat down next to her and thought "Maybe the tree is magical, but not in the way I thought it was, it helped people understand the ~~balance~~ balance of life."