

Writing competition

Reading is magic and can transport you to amazing and curious places.

Write a short story about a wonderful and magical place.

The sparkling waterfall was a continuous line gleaming with rays of golden sunlight, a blinding white on the jewel-like water. The waterfall led into a lake, its sparkling surface hiding its dark depths. Birdsong told of happy times and places of pure joy. Wind whistled through the tall sentinel-like trees. Branches swayed together, forming a roof, only allowing slivers of light through, creating a dappled mosaic of light and shadow. This cheerful image covered for the sinister secrets behind the curtain of water. Behind the waterfall lay a chamber of knowledge and secrets, cruel lies and radiant truths.

Elena skimmed her fingers onto the spines of the leather bound books, once again in awe of the sheer amount of knowledge held in the large stone chamber. Was it possible that the secrets of her past were held in these very books? Was it possible that she had finally travelled to the right place? In the background

The rush of water filled the room, echoing off the stone walls. Peering behind her shoulder, she could see the curtain of water, hiding her search for information. Elena had no idea what kind of secrets she would find there.

Steps echoed off the floor as Elena approached the last aisle. An invisible force pulled her towards the column of books at the end. Elena stumbled towards the magnet, involuntarily locating it. Without thinking, her pale shaking hands reached for the book. 'Elena's Reach for Freedom' was neatly embossed in a bright gold lettering on the spine and cover of the book. She smiled. Maybe she was included in the story.

As soon as she opened to the first page the book jumped to life. An iridescent glow surrounded Elena and the book. Memories flooded her mind. She saw herself, as an illustration desperately breaking out of the pages. Elena remembered everything. Every word of the old book, every moment of her previously fictitious life. It explained everything. The lack of belonging in the world, her longing for knowledge and books, even her seemingly stolen memories.

Elena set the book down in its place, her yearning for secrets finally sated. Ready to enjoy the taste of freedom, she stepped out of the cave, filled with anticipation of what the real world could offer.