

Ella and Ethan were cleaning their room when Ethan tripped and fell on top of a book. Ella went to go help him up, but on her way she tripped and fell on top of Ethan. At that moment they felt themselves falling and falling. Suddenly they fell on something soft. Ella could not believe her eyes, for she and Ethan were on the biggest leaves she had ever seen. In front of them was a beautiful, lush, forest filled with any type of plant you could imagine. Just as she was taking this all in, Ethan sat up and stared at everything in amazement.

“Where are we?” asked Ethan.

“In the Enchanted Forest,” said a voice. Ethan and Ella looked around but didn't see anyone.

“Where are you?” asked Ella.

“Over here!” said the voice. Ella and Ethan finally saw where the voice was coming from. It was a tiny robin perched on a branch!

“Who are you?” asked Ethan.

“My name is Robin. Who are you?”

“My name is Ella and this is my brother Ethan. Could you help us get home? Also, have we shrunk?”

“No, you have not shrunk. As for your other question, I might be able to help you. What you have to do is find the secrets of the Enchanted Forest.”

“But,” said Ella, “Can you tell them to us?”

“No, you have to find them out for yourselves.”

“Why not?” asked Ella crossly.

“Because”, said Robin, “I cannot just tell you. You have to discover them for yourself. However, I can help you find them.”

“How long will it take us?” asked Ethan.

“Everyone takes different amounts of time”. Robin told them.

They started their journey.

By this time, the little party had gone quite a ways and it was dusk. They found a cozy spot in some brush and fell asleep.

It was late morning when they woke up and the sun was shining brightly in the sky. Birds, including Robin, were singing and flying around making patterns in the sky. Ethan shook Ella awake.

"Ella," he said. "I can't find Robin!"

"Have you looked in the trees?" she said groggily.

"Sort of."

"How?"

"Well, I looked up at the tree she was in last night but didn't see her."

"Did you climb to look farther up?"

"I can't climb!"

"Fine, I'll climb up." Ella climbed up to the fifth branch. Looking around and not seeing any one, she climbed higher. On the fifteenth branch, she heard some voices. She followed the familiar voices until she found two animals sitting on a branch. She quietly sat and listened in on the conversation. She immediately recognized one voice. Robin! The other voice she wasn't so sure about, but it sounded familiar. Then she looked in the direction of the voices and saw a badger. "That must be Badger!" she thought. "Robin told me about him yesterday."

"Why did you do this?"

"Because I think it looks funny."

"But it hurts!"

"Then I'm glad I'm not you."

"This is not right," thought Ella. I need to help Robin! And as soon as that thought ran through her head, she bolted in front of Badger and felt herself saying things as soon as they went through her head.

"What you did was not funny at all." She realized what had happened. Badger, knowingly, had tricked Robin into hanging upside down from a very sappy tree branch and Robin had gotten stuck.

"So? Just because it doesn't look funny to you doesn't mean I can't think it looks funny."

"That was mean. If Robin tells everyone what you did, you won't have any friends."

Badger hung his head. "What I did wasn't right. I should have thought before I did that." And then he helped Robin unstick herself. When Badger left, Ella asked Robin, "Is one of the secrets loyalty?"

"Yes," said Robin. "You are correct. There are two more secrets that you and Ethan must find."

They climbed down the tree to Ethan.

“So, what happened?” asked Ethan.

“Ethan, I found a secret! It’s loyalty!” said Ella full of excitement. “Let’s go try to find some more!”

“Cool, let’s go!” said Ethan. Later that day, Bear came to them.

“Do you want to come on an adventure with me and Mole?”

“Sure, where are we going?” asked Ethan.

“To a new cave mole found.”

“Let’s go!”

They walked to the cave where Mole was waiting for them.

“Are you ready?” he asked.

“Yes!” everyone shouted.

“Then let’s go!” Mole lit a lamp and they proceeded on. In the beginning it was light but as they went deeper, it got darker. Soon it was pitch black in the cave aside from their lamp light. Ethan, who was carrying the lamp, tripped and the light went out. “Shoot! I didn’t bring any matches said Mole. “Does anyone have any?”

“No,” said Bear, Ethan, and Ella.

“This really stinks,” said Ethan through the blackness. But they continued on anyway through the endless blackness. After a while, they saw a glow coming from up ahead. As they got closer, the light grew. Soon it was all around them. Then a voice spoke.

“What are you doing here?” it boomed.

“We are just exploring this cave,” said Mole.

“Then you may pass.”

Ethan, out of fear, had looked down. Around their feet was swirly, gooey muck. It was hard crossing because of it, but when they got out of it, the tunnel went straight upward. As soon as they entered it, they found themselves blinking in the sunlight. Later, Ethan asked Robin,

“Is one of the secrets courage?”

“Yes,” said Robin. “You have found the second secret.”

“Ella!” shouted Ethan. “I found the second secret! It is courage! I can’t believe I found a secret!”

“Cool! Now we have two secrets! Loyalty and courage!”

“We can’t search anymore because it is getting dark outside and we need some sleep.” They found a spot and fell asleep. Again, they woke up in late morning but this time dark storm clouds blocked out the sun.

“Ethan! We need to find shelter!” shouted Robin and Ella over the howling wind. They walked to the closest place they could find. They knocked on the door and Bear answered.

“Come on in!” he said knowingly. It was warm and cozy in Bear’s cave. They sat around a fire and chatted. Bear told them about his other adventures with Mole. They all told stories until the storm ended. When they all got outside, the sun was shining and everything was green and beautiful. Ella, Ethan, and Robin said goodbye to Bear and went on a walk. Soon, they came to a meadow that was surrounded by some trees. Since it was very hot, they walked on the edge of the trees. After a while, they came across field mice playing among some rocks. One had the string of a kite in her hand and was sitting glumly on a rock.

“Hi, can I help you?” Ella asked.

“My kite is stuck in that bush.” The little field mouse pointed to a nearby bush. “I’m too small to get it. Could you?”

“Yes, I can get that for you,” said Ella. She walked over to the bush and picked up the tiny kite.

“Here you go,” she said, handing the kite back to the tiny field mouse.

“Thank you so much!” squealed the tiny field mouse.

“You’re welcome.” said Ella. “I’m so glad she is happy,” thought Ella. “It feels nice to be nice. I was just kind to myself.” Later, she, Ethan, and Robin went to Deer’s watering hole. There, they drank their fill of water, and ate their lunch.

While they were eating, Robin pulled Ella aside. “Did you find a secret”?

“I think so.” said Ella.

“Well what do think it is”?

“I think it is... well....kindness”.

“Well, what do you know? You’re correct. You have found the third and final secret.”

“Should we tell Ethan?”

“Yes. You two will leave tonight.” Ella ran to Ethan.

“Ethan! Ethan! We’ll finally go home! I found the third secret! This one is kindness,” she said.

“Are you ready?” asked Robin.

“Yes!” cried Ella and Ethan excitedly. “We’ll miss you a lot,” said Ella, giving her a hug.

“Me, too.” Said Ethan, doing the same.

“Well, here is what you must do. Hold hands, close your eyes and repeat the secrets in the order you found them in three times.”

“And that’s it?” asked Ethan

“Yes, that’s it,” said Robin.

“Well, bye then.” said Ella. Then she and Ethan held hands, closed their eyes and said,

“Loyalty, Courage, and Kindness. Loyalty, Courage, and Kindness. Loyalty, Courage, and Kindness”.

Then they felt the wind pick up and swirl around them and pick them up. They felt themselves rising and rising. Suddenly, they were on the floor in their room.

“Was that real?” asked Ethan

“Yes. I have proof. 1. The book.” She pulled it out from under Ethan. “It’s called the Enchanted Forest.

2. Explain this,” she held out a robin feather from her pocket.

“Robin’s feather! Let’s go to dinner.” Then they walked to join their family at the dinner table.