

## Writing competition

Book an adventure and whisk us away to new lands and unforgettable characters.

Write a short story about an amazing and unforgettable adventure.

In the comfortable and friendly town of Willowton, there was a large but peculiar garden. It had trees that whispered to you, vines that tangled and trapped you, and, according to legend, a cave full of treasure guarded by a humungous snake which was half cobra half mamba and said to be deadly. All of it belonged to the kind but mysterious Mrs Harold who said that anyone could go in at any time, but nobody had wanted to enter ever since the ex-king and his entire army went in looking for the gold but never came back out. But one day, two twelve year old boys (who were well aware that entire armies haven't survived the garden) thought it couldn't be that bad and decided to take a shot at the supposedly priceless treasure. Little did they know, they were about to embark on an adventure full of danger, riddles and scary monsters. The next day, Sam and Alex woke up early, ready to venture deep into the mysterious garden. They met at the old creaky gate and walked in. The moment they set foot in the soft green grass, the trees started whispering to them, keeping their attention away from the spikey thorn branches that were now slowly creeping up their legs, binding them to the now not-so-innocent grass. As soon as Sam and Alex realised this they batted at



deeper into the darker and creepier parts of the garden, thankfully the vines couldn't follow them, as they weren't long enough. They ran and ran until they reached a stream to a stream and paused to catch their breath. They thought that all the danger was over but they couldn't have been more wrong. Suddenly a tiger leaped out from behind the trees and startled them both. They jumped to their feet and backed off as the tiger slowly edged towards them. Luckily Alex suddenly pointed out that the tiger was about to fall into the stream but it simply jumped over it and spoke to them, it said "If you can answer this riddle, you may pass. If you answer wrongly or refuse to answer, I attack!" "Woah... A talking tiger!" Alex shouted "Cool!! I thought those were only in books and movies."

Sam added "So, he continued, 'Could we hear the riddle... please-?'" The tiger smiled "Yes," He said "I suppose you may. There is a two-storey house, you're standing on the first level and next to you are three light switches. One of them turns the light on, on the ~~first~~ second level, if you can only go upstairs once, how can you figure out which one it is?"

Sam and Alex thought for a moment until Sam finally broke the silence "That's impossible," he cried "No," it said the lion said "Many before you have solved it." Then Alex shouted excitedly, "I know!! I know!" Sam looked shocked but the tiger seemed impressed "Go on," the tiger urged him "You go to the shops," Alex said "and buy a security camera-" Sam interrupted him "Remember," he said warningly, "If you get this wrong, we're dead." Alex looked relieved "Oh, yeah, thanks mate, I forgot." The tiger sighed "I thought we were getting somewhere. Never mind. Take your time." Sam and Alex thought for a whole twenty minutes before Sam suddenly said "I think I've got it!!" The tiger looked unconvinced "Really?" He asked "Yep" said Sam triumphantly. "But turn on the first switch, wait



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five minutes, then turn it off and turn on the second switch, go up stairs, if the light bulb's on then it's the second switch, if it's off, touch the bulb. If it's cold, it's the third switch. If it's hot, it's the first!" Everyone was silent for a moment. Then Alex grinned "Splendid! I thought we were geniuses!" And for the first time since this amazing adventure started, Sam grinned back. "Same." He said. The tiger stepped aside, said "Good luck and vanished back into the trees. Sam and Alex kept walking until they saw the opening of a cave but as they were approaching it, a gigantic snake appeared out of nowhere and slithered towards them! Alex jumped back in fear but Sam simply said "Hi." The snake stared at him for a moment before saying "Salutations, My fine fellow!" Now it was Sam's turn to stare. "Wha-" was all he could say. "It means 'Hi'," the snake explained. Then referring to Alex, it said, "Hey you, Say anything," Alex couldn't believe his eyes, ears, or brain. Apparently, this snake had killed millions of people, and yet here they were, just having a friendly conversation with it. Alex hesitated "Anything?" he said finally. "Good job!" said the snake "You are very welcome to my treasure." And with that, Sam and Alex stepped in to the cave, where they found mountains of gold and priceless diamonds - and became rich!

The End