

The Rhyming Spell

Once upon a time, in a land not unlike our own, there was a town sitting upon a hill called Hillsville. In this town there was a blue house, and in this house there lived a girl, a very disappointed girl named Stacey. She was disappointed, you see, because it was her birthday yesterday, and none of her friends or neighbors had remembered. The day after her birthday, Stacey was sulking in her room, when she heard the doorbell ring. She rushed to the door hoping it was one of her friends coming to say happy belated birthday. It wasn't. In fact, there was nobody at the door. She was about to close the door, when she spotted something. It was a package, a mystery package. Stacey picked up the package, and because it had her name on top, she brought it inside. Once in her room, Stacey opened the package excitedly hoping it was a present. But when she opened it, she was crushed. For inside there was no tag, no card, not even some confetti - just a pencil...a plain blue pencil. "Well I guess it's better than nothing," she thought, and started to draw. She had just finished drawing a puppy, when it popped out of the page, and recited this poem:

Roses are Red
Violets are blue
You drew me
And I thank you.

Apparently, without realizing it, Stacey had drawn a poem puppy. She was shocked, as you would be too if whatever you were drawing suddenly burst out of the page and recited a poem, but she soon recovered, and remembering her manners, thanked the puppy for its poem. For a couple of seconds there was an awkward silence, but it was soon interrupted by the poem puppy, who now realizing he was hungry, excitedly shouted:

My name is Bolt.
I like meat raw,
but I can't draw.
So would you please
draw me some meat
so I can eat?

Stacey obliged to draw some meat for him, and while he was eating, she started to ask him some questions, only to realize she had started rhyming too. "Uh, oh," she thought, "If I can't stop rhyming tomorrow when I go to school all the kids will think I'm weird. Plus if I can't think of a rhyme I won't be able to talk!" So she asked the puppy how she could reverse this rhyming spell. Her poem went like this:

Small Puppy Dear,
I have a fear
this rhyming spell
will make me swell
with shame and gloom

so in this room
I'm on my knee
oh please tell me
how to reverse
this mean old curse.

And the puppy in an honest way replied:

I am sorry Stacey
But I don't know
The Wizards do
to them you must go

And Stacey asked:

What Wizard shall I go to?
The north, south, east, or west
Which one is the best?
To cure this curse
For it's getting worse

Even Stacey's thoughts were starting to rhyme. The puppy answered:

First to the Wizard of the West
Be ready for he will test
Make sure that you are ready
He might try to make you unsteady

Next to the Wizard of the North
He will show you how to go forth
Or at the very least
He will show you how to go east

Then to the east you must hurry
For the wizard there is a little furry
You must be patient, good and kind
Be careful to leave no one behind

Last is the Wizard of the South
careful don't fall into the mouth
Of the volcano that he keeps
make sure you only make three leaps

If you do all this in the way that is right
Your curse will be gone. And now, goodnight.

With those words the puppy fell asleep. No matter what Stacey did he wouldn't wake up, so she decided to do what she thought best, and went to the Wizard.

The Wizard of the West luckily lived in Stacey's town, so by walking three blocks, she came to his old shack. She knocked at his door, and with a loud creak, it swung open. She timidly stepped inside, and to her surprise all of her friends were there. They all had received a mystery package and drawn a poem animal just like her. They all agreed to help each other. They searched the house and Stacey's friend Joe found a map. Following the map to the back of the house they found a wizard holding a rat. Some of Stacey's friends ran away, but most of them stayed. The wizard said that they had passed the test. So after a moment's rest, they followed the map to the house of the Wizard of the North.

As soon as they arrived, the map flew away. They tried to catch it but it went straight back to the west shack. They gave up and knocked on the North's door, and after waiting for a while, they heard footsteps and the doors were opened. Inside the Wizard told them that the map was needed no more, for it was useless for this next part of their journey. They just needed to solve this riddle:

Sea waves curl on golden sand.

These waves curl in my hand

After telling them that, he abruptly disappeared. Stacey and her friends stood in silence for almost half an hour trying to find the answer, when suddenly Stacey's friend Amanda realized what it was and shouted, "The answer's there—it's waves of Hair!" and it was, so they were magically teleported to the East Wizard's cave. When they got there, they screamed, for in front of them there was a bear- A ginormous brown bear! It said, "Please don't be afraid. I am the Wizard of the East. Didn't the animals warn you that I would be furry?" "Oh yes, I guess." they all said, remembering and forgetting their fear. "Good," said the bear, "Now we can begin. Do you remember the animals said to leave no one behind?" They nodded. "Ok good, this is why." He pointed at something in the distance. "Do you see that maze? You must pass through that maze, collectively choosing which way to turn and never ever going off on separate paths. If you do this you will have passed the third test."

They started to walk towards the maze, only to realize that none of them had ever been good at solving puzzles even on a piece of paper, much less in real life. They stopped in their tracks, sat down and each started to think. All of them came up with at least one idea, many with more. Some good, some bad, but everybody agreed that Stacey's idea of stopping at each turn and voting which way they should go, sounded best. Now that they had a strategy, they continued on. When they came to the first turn, they went right, then left, then straight, then right, left, left, right, straight, straight, and lastly right.

Coming out of the maze, they were surprised to find instead of a bear in front of them there was a giant. The maze had led them straight to the Wizard of the South. He said, "Hello, little people. To undo the enchantment bestowed unto you. You must go climb the volcano over there. When you get there you must all together take three leaps of faith over it. When you get to the other side I will cure you all. Reaching all the way to the top of the volcano was difficult for the rock was very smooth and it was hot

enough to make you faint but finally they reached the top. Stacey and her friends once they reached the top knew what they had to do, but they were so scared of falling that for a while they just stood, not uttering a word. They finally got up enough courage, and made three leaps, no less, no more, to the other side. When they got there, the wizard said, "From north to south, from east to west, you have passed the final test." And then he said, "Alakalook Alakasee, you've done what it took, now YOU ARE FREE!" The curse had finally been reversed. They all went back to their town and gathered their poem pets before having a lovely belated birthday party for Stacey, in which not a single one of them used a single rhyme (except the poem pets, of course):

Roses as Red

Violets are Blue

We don't have to rhyme anymore

Let's eat some cake

THE END

Thanks to my mom, my dad, and my brother Jon for helping me edit this story.