

“Hold on tight, Rachel,” Kirsty called to her best friend, Rachel Walker. “We’re almost there!”

“I’m right behind you, Kirsty!” Rachel called back.

The girls were walking carefully across the wobbly bridge that was strung between two trees in the Forest Fun adventure playground.



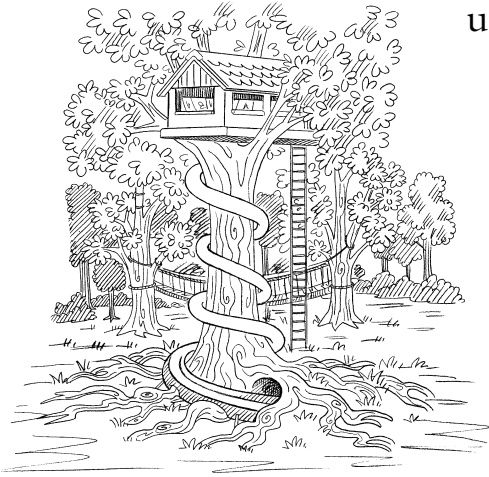
The bridge was made of wooden slats with sturdy rope handles. It swayed and wobbled gently from side to side and up and down as the girls moved across it, making them shriek with laughter.

“Oh, this is just the *best fun!*” Kirsty gasped. “I love Camp Stargaze, Rachel. There’s so much to do here.”

The girls and their parents were spending a week of the summer holidays at Camp Stargaze, and the Forest Fun playground was in a clearing in the woods just outside the camp. There was a treetop walk, several wildlife hides and two zip slides next to each other, as well as the wobbly bridge. The biggest tree in the clearing, the one the girls were heading to along the wobbly bridge, had a wooden treehouse in its branches.

There was also a twisty slide wrapped around the tree's trunk that led down into an underground house

under the roots of the tree. It was late afternoon, just after tea-time, and the girls were still enjoying the warmth of the summer sunshine.



“I know,” Rachel agreed. “Camp Stargaze is brilliant. And not only that, we’re in the middle of another exciting fairy adventure, too!”

When Rachel and Kirsty had arrived at the camp, their fairy friends had asked for their help once more.

The girls had met the Twilight Fairies who were responsible for making sure that the hours between dusk and dawn were peaceful and harmonious in the human as well as the fairy worlds, with the help of their special bags of magical fairy dust. But while the Twilight Fairies were at a party under the stars, Jack Frost and his goblins had stolen the magic bags from the fairies! Jack Frost was determined to cause night-time chaos and so, with his icy magic, he'd sent the goblins to hide the bags away in the human world. But Rachel, Kirsty and the Twilight Fairies had already found four of the seven bags, and they were hoping to find the others, too.

“Rachel, Kirsty!” a voice shouted.  
“We’re over here.”



The girls glanced up and saw their new friends, Matt and Lucas, hanging out of one of the treehouse windows. Rachel



and Kirsty wobbled their way to the end of the bridge and went to join them inside the treehouse.

“Have you been on the zip slides yet?”

Lucas asked with a grin.

Kirsty shook her head. “I think I need to recover from the wobbly bridge, first!” she replied.

Matt was still hanging out of the window. “Look, Lucas,” he said, pointing down at the ground below them. “There’s your mum and Lizzy.”

Lucas's mum and his little sister were wandering through the clearing. They waved up at the treehouse, and Lucas, Rachel, Kirsty and Matt waved back.

“Let's go down the twisty slide and say a proper hello!” Rachel suggested.

The top of the silver slide was just

outside the treehouse

door. Rachel climbed

onto it and then

immediately shot

downwards with a

shriek of surprise.

“It's really slippery!”

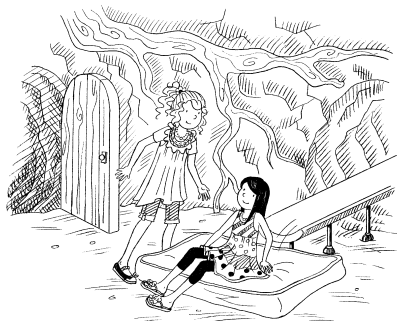
she cried as she

disappeared from view.

“Watch out, Rachel!” Kirsty yelled as she too jumped onto the slide. “Here I come!”



Laughing, Rachel whizzed around the trunk of the tree and then through the door of the underground house at the bottom of the tree. She tumbled off the end of the slide and onto a soft mat. Kirsty came flying into the underground house a few seconds later, and the two girls grinned at each other.



“Here come the boys!” Rachel remarked as they heard Matt and Lucas sliding towards them.

First Matt, and then Lucas, whizzed down into the underground house. Then all four of them climbed out and ran to join Lucas’s mum and Lizzy. They were staring very intently at a large, leafy bush.

“What are you looking at?” Lucas asked curiously.

“Hedgehogs,” Lucas’s mum replied, her and Lizzy’s eyes wide with delight. “Look!”

Rachel and Kirsty peered into the bottom of the bush, and saw two small hedgehogs scampering around among the leaves.



“Aren’t they cute?” said Rachel as the hedgehogs scurried busily to and fro. Just then Kirsty

heard a rustling noise in the undergrowth behind them. She spun round and caught a glimpse of grey fur and a black and white striped head. Quickly she nudged Rachel.

“There’s a badger over there!” Kirsty whispered.

Rachel, Lucas and the others watched in amazement as the badger came into view. He was snuffling through the leaves in search of something to eat.



“This is great!” Matt said, looking very excited as the badger hurried past, taking no notice of them. “I’ve never seen a badger or a hedgehog in daylight before.”

Kirsty frowned. “Matt’s right,” she said to Rachel. “Don’t hedgehogs and badgers usually come out at night?”

“Let’s go up to the wildlife hide in the treetops and look for more animals,” Rachel suggested.

“We’re going back to the camp to play football,” Lucas told the girls. “See you later.”

The wildlife hide was concealed behind

a canopy of leaves in the branches of one of the trees. Kirsty and Rachel climbed the ladder and then hurried along one of the wooden walkways



that connected the treetop trail. When they arrived, the hide was empty. There were wildlife posters on the walls and two pairs of binoculars lay on the seat in front of the viewing window.



“Look, Rachel, we can see right across the camp,” Kirsty pointed out, picking up a pair of the binoculars.

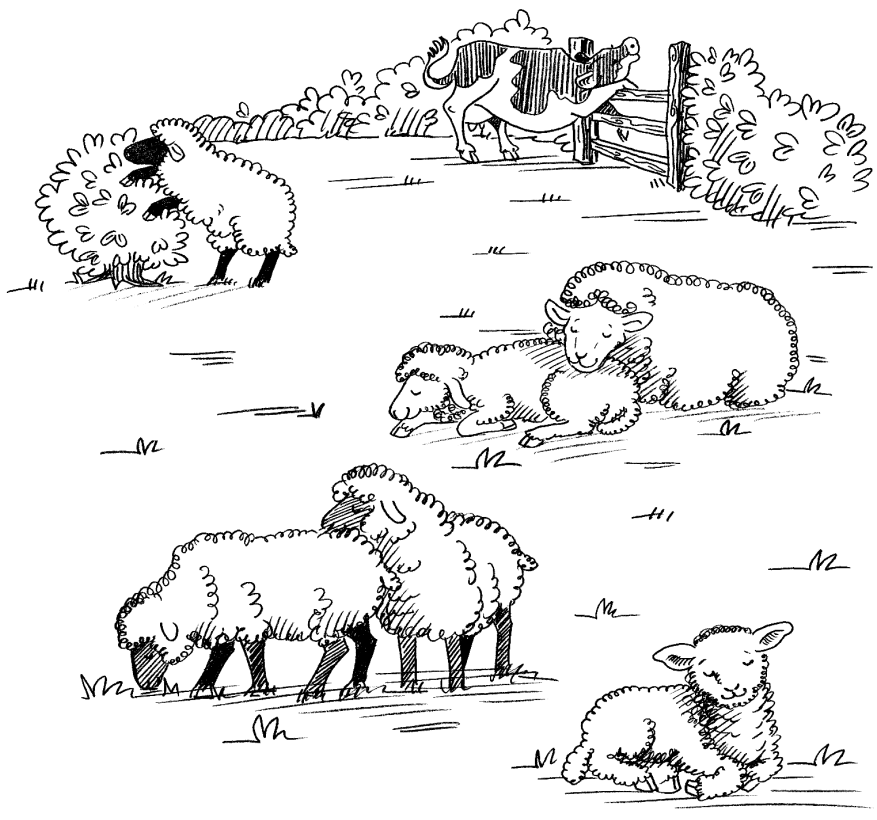
“And beyond the camp, too,” Rachel added. She took the other binoculars and peered through them. “We can see the river we sailed up to get to the camp on the day we arrived. And I can see cows and sheep in the field across the river - OH!”

Kirsty looked startled.

“What is it?” she asked.

“The farm animals are all fast asleep!”  
Rachel told her. “Isn’t that strange?”

Kirsty trained her binoculars on the  
field across the river. Now she too could  
see that the cows and sheep were all  
sleeping contentedly!



“But it’s still day-time!” Kirsty pointed out, puzzled. “Why are the night-time creatures like the badger and hedgehogs awake during the day, and why are the animals like the cows and sheep, who *should* be awake, asleep?”





“Do you think this could be something to do with Jack Frost stealing the Twilight Fairies’ magic dust?” Rachel suggested, looking worried.

“It *must* be!” Kirsty went on with a frown. “After all, everything’s been going wrong at night-time since Jack Frost and his goblins stole the magical bags.”