

The Magic Necklace

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Josie was digging through her grandmother's things in the attic when she came across a necklace with a big purple stone in it. The stone shined with inner light and was hard to look away from. She sat down on the floor and became lost in the necklace, fixating on what seemed to be images trapped within.

Around her, she did not notice the world beginning to fade. Things grew hazy and indistinct. The lines between worlds began to blur, and when she finally shook her head and broke free of her trance, she found herself in another world. It was immediately evident, because things had become so alien.

The sky was an odd shade of violet, the grass was grayish blue, and the trees around her were like nothing she'd ever seen before. Bugs of the strangest hues and shapes flittered around her, and the light came from a pair of suns in the sky. Nearby, pinkish water lapped at a black sand beach.

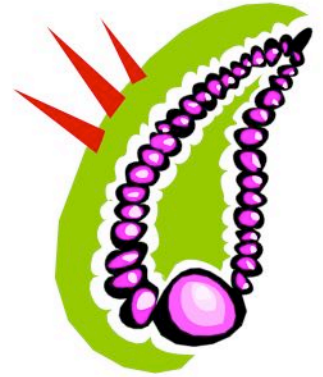
She walked around for a time, awed by what she saw. She strolled along the beach, marveling at the warm feel of the black sand between her toes. She tasted the water, which was sweet, like sugar water, and then she ran through the forest, where trees whispered at her as she passed. It was all so strange and beautiful.

After several hours, she began to feel hungry and tired. With alarm, she realized she had no idea how to get home. After thinking for a few moments, she realized that the necklace must be the key. She grabbed the necklace that still hung about her neck and looked into it. Inside it, she could see the image of her grandmother's attic, and in it, she saw herself sitting there, staring into the necklace.

How could that be? Was she really here at all? Was this all in her imagination? She stared harder, and the world began to blur once more. The details of the landscape in the corners of her eyesight faded, slowly becoming the attic once more. Then, she was back.

Josie took a deep breath and set the necklace aside, not daring to look at it any more. Curiously, as she stood, black sand fell from between her toes. Had she really gone after all? Filled with things to say, she rushed down to tell her grandmother what she'd seen, but grandma already seemed to know.

Had grandma gone to the other world as a little girl, too? She wouldn't say, but Josie suspected it. Best of all though, was that grandma let her keep the necklace. Someday, she might try to go back, but for right now, it was lunch time. All the mysterious things there would have to wait, because moving between worlds sure gave one an appetite!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Where is Josie when the story begins?
 - A. In grandma's basement
 - B. In grandpa's garage
 - C. At home
 - D. In grandma's attic

2. What does Josie find?
 - A. a necklace
 - B. a ring
 - C. a brooch
 - D. a pile of jewels

3. What does the necklace do to Josie when she stares at it?
 - A. It makes her sad.
 - B. It makes her dizzy.
 - C. It takes her to another world.
 - D. It makes her crazy.

4. What is the BEST hint that makes you think that maybe Josie really did go to another world?
 - A. She's tired and hungry.
 - B. She has black sand on her feet.
 - C. Grandma seems to know about it.
 - D. Josie is very honest.

5. TRUE OR FALSE: Based on the ending, it seems like Josie will go back to the other world.
 - A. True
 - B. False

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