

Grapevine Story Competition

Two winners will be selected and their stories will be published in the Grapevine magazine to be issued on 1st December 2021 and two runners up will also be selected. Both winners and runners up will receive a book token.

Each story entered should be a maximum of approximately 450 words. Stories of a shorter length, particularly from younger children, are very welcome.

Two pictures are provided as the inspiration for a magical Christmas story and children may write about either picture.

The first picture, entitled "Magical Forest" is accompanied by an extract from a story. The characters and situation are suggested but they can be changed completely e.g. the child writing the story could become the girl in the story.

In the second picture of "The Cake man", a few verses are given from a poem. A child could write about the Cake Man as a non-rhyming story or even make up their own rhyming verses.

Picture 1: The Magical Forest

The leopard was hiding between the trees, in the forest. For a long time she had been sitting very still, watching the river drifting by, as the light slowly faded. The winter is coming, she thought sadly and I simply must get home in time for Christmas. The leopard's name was Anaisha, which means "Special" and she had been born in Africa.

Now she saw a long, narrow boat coming very slowly downstream. The boat edged in carefully to the bank beside the tow path.

Together Leila and Fred, stepped off the boat onto the grassy bank. The night air was very cold and a bright full moon shone down on the white frosty trees.

It's winter time and there are just a few days to go to Christmas.

The little girl in the picture is called Leila, but in your story she can be whoever you like. She might even be you. The narrow boat is a home for Leila and Fred, the dog, but remember it can sail anywhere. Anaisha, the jewelled African leopard, is hiding in the forest. She really wants to get home in time for Christmas. There are lighted windows and a door in the fir tree. Are Leila and Fred going to find some friends there? In the meantime the owl is looking down and seeing everything. Remember this is a Magical Forest and anything can happen. You are writing a Christmas Story. Use some or all of the characters to make your story and perhaps you might add some of your own. Even Father Christmas might have a part to play.

Extract from "The Cake man"

The Cake man bowed low to the King and Queen
On his back, a stack, of the most amazing cakes ever seen

And as the Cake man began to speak
The Queen saw that he wore ..
Red skates on his feet I

**Round and round the castle room Sped
the Cake man, on his skates.**

**And picking up speed
He began to sing a song about his cakes:**

**"Chocolate Castle Cake with a moat beneath
Green Crocodile Cake with big snappy teeth**

**Sailboat Cake on a sky blue sea
Sea-side Cake for a holiday tea**

**Birthday Cake with candles alight
Halloween Cake - a lantern bright**

**Bonfire Cake with real rockets to fire
Showers of pink higher and higher"**

"Quick Page," squeaked the Queen
"Fetch the ladder and a plate,

Take your sword and cut a slice"
I can hardly wait.

"My favourite is the Sea-side cake.
The water looks so blue
I can feel the sand between my toes!

can taste the ice-cream too."

"Just a bite of a slice will take you there,"
said the Cake man,
with a very long stare.

"But don't forget me,"
said the King with a smile,
"I like the Snappy Crocodile."

The page with a sword
Climbed up to the cake
"Stand very still Cake man
While a slice I take"

Slowly the Queen munched a very large bite
And then ...she disappeared completely,
Vanished out of sight
"Will she come back," said the King in a fright.

Entries will be collected from the school on Friday 5th November.