

Journey to Togetherness

2018 Children's Platform

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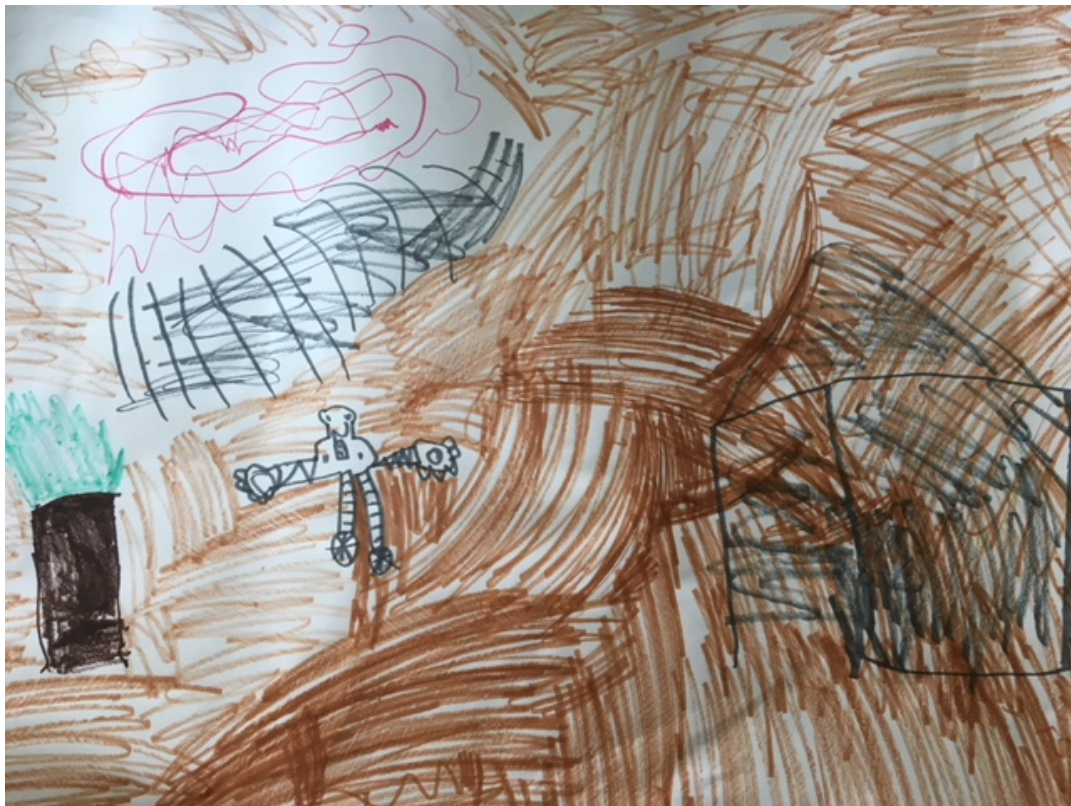


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Ethical Society of Northern Westchester
Children's Ethical Experience Lab

Prologue

Narrator: A very smart volcano scientist named G.F. Magma was monitoring the lava in the crater of an active volcano. Even though there was a big tree nearby and it had not erupted in many hundreds of years, G.F. had been reading high seismic activity. A big earthquake was sure to happen soon and with that, the lava might start to flow. G.F. suddenly felt the ground shift beneath his feet and ran to his helicopter hanger as fast as he could to get away from the massive destruction. The shock waves were felt all over the world and even disrupted the universe so much that time and space came apart.



Lina Seeks the Lymrill

Narrator: Not far from where G.F. was watching the erupting volcano, a young adventuress named Lina was thinking about her grandfather and his lost Lymrill. He had passed away a few years ago, leaving the magical creature for Lina to find, and she was determined to find it.



Lina: I must find Grandfather's Lymrill in the Black Forest. It's one of the only things that he has left before he died. I've got to find it!

Narrator: Lina was sure that the Black Forest was where she must go yet it seemed like several years away. But Lina was not one to give up easily.

Lina: This may be a long and rigorous journey, but I am determined to find Grandfather's Lymrill.

Narrator: Just as Lina was packing up getting ready to set out on her journey the earth quaked beneath her feet. Trees were swaying nearly bending their tops to the ground. She fell down on the grass and felt the air around her begin to swirl and drag her with its force. Looking up she saw a great vortex of light and space drawing her in like a vacuum.

Lina: Oh, goodness, what's happening? What's going on?



Dragon Land of Flying Cats

Narrator: When Lina was dragged through the portal, she found herself in a completely different world. Here there were tall black towers with flashing retractors of red and yellow. Up in the sky, she could see hundreds of flying cats. They were soaring like birds and as they tossed and turned she could see they were playing like kittens.



Lina: Wow, are those flying cats?

Narrator: Then a great shadow fell over the ground as a huge dragon flew overhead. The dragon was trying to herd the cats away from the towers as it seemed they might crash into them as they were playing happily.

Lina: Wow, a dragon? I must be dreaming. What happened to me?

Lina and the Dragon

Sapphire: Hello there and who are you?

Narrator: Lina nearly fell over not expecting that the dragon would actually speak to her. This glistening blue creature with eyes as red as



rubies and breath like sulfur was so close she could reach out and feel its scales.

Lina: I, I, I am Lina and I am trying to get to the Black Forest. Where am I?

Sapphire: This is the Dragon Land of Flying Cats, it seems you have stumbled through the portal that leads into our world. I can't take you back but I can take you to Vlad the pilot who might be able to get you there.

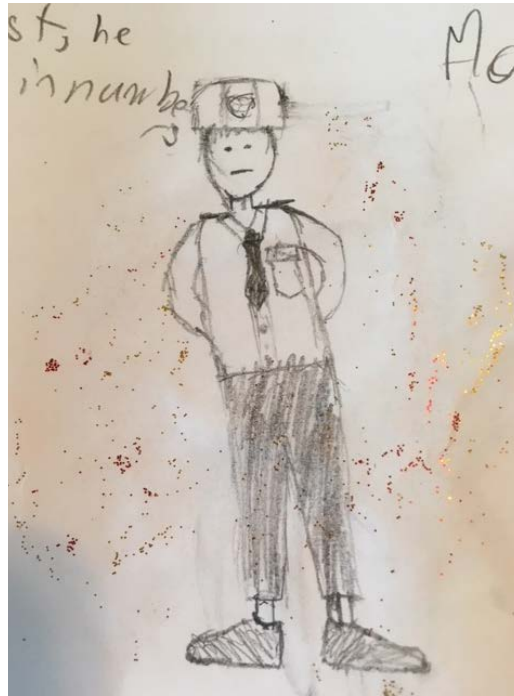
Lina: Thank you, how will we get to him though?

Sapphire: Climb up on my back and I shall take you to Vlad. By the way, you can call me Sapphire.

Narrator: Lina decided to trust Sapphire and got on board.



Vlad the Pilot



Narrator: Vlad lived in Russia, a distant borderland to the Dragon Land. His country was also filled with towers called high rise apartments. Vlad had one and didn't like living in it, so he spent most of his time flying an airplane for Aeroflot. He dreamt of a day when he would have his own plane but he needed to find Yuka, a magical metal in order to build it.

Vlad: I need to find Yuka or else I will never be able to build my own airplane. I've heard that Yuka was found in the Black Forest but how do

I get there?



Narrator: As Vlad was gazing up into the sky he saw a flying object he recognized.

Vlad: Oh, is that Sapphire? And who is she carrying on her back? Have they come to help me find Yuka?

Narrator: When Vlad saw Sapphire and Lina land on the runway, he knew this was the beginning of a great adventure.

Vlad: Hey, Sapphire! I haven't seen you for a while, how has it been in the Dragon Land?

Sapphire: I'm fine, thanks.

Vlad: (to Lina) Hello. Who are you?

Lina: Um, I'm-

Vlad: Where have you come from?

Lina: I-

Vlad: Where are you going and how do you know Sapphire?

Narrator: Sapphire quickly flew off so not to be spotted by the
authorities.

Sapphire: Bye!

Lina and Vlad Make a Plan and Take a Plane

Lina: So, what were the questions again? Can you repeat them?

Vlad: Who are you? Where have you come from? Where are you going
and how do you know Sapphire?

Lina: To answer the first question, I am Lina. I have passed through a
portal that led to the Dragon Land as I was setting off in search of my
grandfather's Lymrill in the Black Forest. I don't know Sapphire, I just
met her in the Dragon Land and she had offered to help me by taking
me to you.

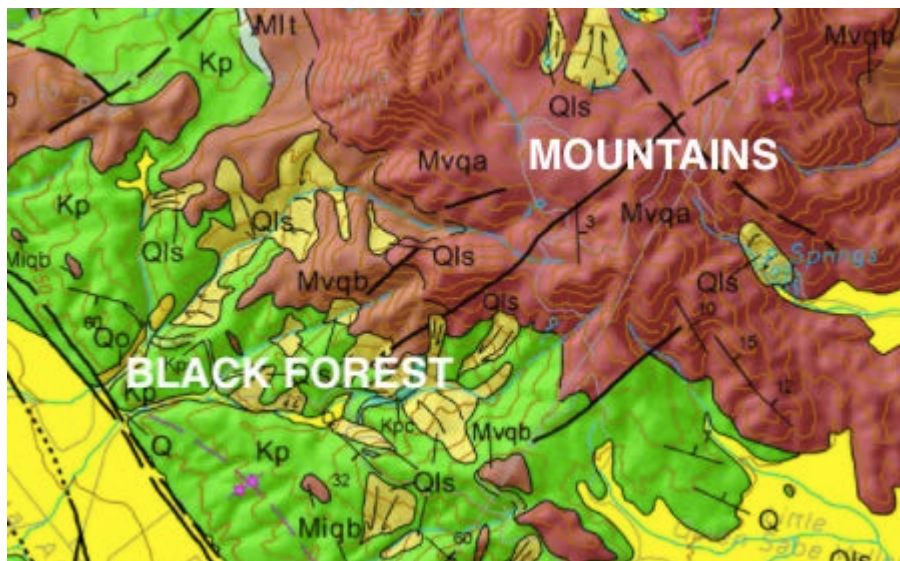
Narrator: When Vlad heard Lina was headed to the Black Forest, he knew this was his opportunity to find the Yuka he needed.

Vlad: You're going to the Black Forest too? So am I, except that I am searching for a magical metal called the Yuka. Do you know about it?

Lina: Um, no.

Vlad: Then I'll explain to you later. Follow me.

Narrator: Vlad was on call to make an Aeroflot cargo flight so he took Lina with him. They plotted a course that took them further into the area that the map indicated had big sprawling forests. However, to get there they would have to fly through mountains shrouded in clouds and capped with heaps of snow. They also knew that once they ran out of gas they would have to land and walk the rest of the way.



Lina: Wow, we have to get through all of that in order to get into the Black Forest. This journey seems harder than I thought.

Vlad: Yes, there may be some risks but there is a tiny chance that we may make it to the edge of the Black Forest. I think that we can do it!

Narrator: Despite the risks they quickly took off.



Lina and Vlad in the Plane

Narrator: The plane flew smoothly for the first hour and everything seemed fine. But as they began to ascend higher into the mountains the wind began to rock the plane. Sudden drops due to wind shear made the plane bounce along until they reached the top of the peaks where they ran into a storm cloud.



Lina: Oh no! Is there some way we can get the plane out of this mess?

Vlad: I will try, but it may be very hard.

Narrator: High winds, clouds and fog, beating rain and lightning tossed the plane around like a toy. Vlad desperately tried to keep the plane up but though he should have been able to weather this storm there was something else... something unusual.

Lina: Cats?

Vlad: Flying cats? They didn't say anything about flying cats on the flight path.



Narrator: It looked like there were hundreds of flying cats beating their wings along with the wind. Finally there was nothing Vlad could do. The cats, who looked at the plane with curiosity, took off the vertical stabilizer and carried that off with themselves.

Vlad: Um, the cats took off the vertical stabilizer. What do I do?

Narrator: Suddenly the plane was plunging down towards the ground like an Olympic diver. In an instant the plane crashed into a boggy swamp, which luckily cushioned the impact, but still knocked Vlad and Lina unconscious. Everything went black around them.

Kate and the Flying Cats



Narrator: Kate was having a walk in her garden when a flock of flying cats appeared in the sky. There were so many of them that they looked like a giant storm cloud. But she quickly realized they were just migrating and soon they landed and began chatting with her.

Kate: (to the cats) It's so nice to see all of you again! How are you?

Anything new happening in the Dragon Land?



Narrator: They were telling her all about the recent events in Dragon Land when the plane came crashing into the field just in front of her cottage.



Kate: Oh dear!

Narrator: The mountains had looked stormy and dark all day but down here in Kate's little valley the sun was shining like gold and all was peaceful until this enormous metal flying machine blew up with a huge BOOM and caught on fire.

Kate: Oh no, what if there are people in that plane? I must help them!

Narrator: Kate went running out to see if she could help any survivors.

Kate: (to the flying cats) Can you help me with pulling away some of this debris? There might be some people under this wreckage.

Narrator: Just as she came upon Vlad and Lina they both opened their eyes and saw this lovely angel who had come to save them.

Lina: Where am I?

Vlad: Last thing I remember was flying a plane. Then everything went dark and the next second I am here. Where have we landed?

Kate Helps Lina and Vlad

Narrator: As Kate and the flying cats carried Lina and Vlad safely to the cottage, the warmth of the sun and the gentle breeze began to revive these adventurers.



Kate: Would you like some chamomile tea?

Vlad: Yes, please. Thanks.

Lina: Same here. Thank you.

Kate: So what brings you here and how did your plane crash?

Lina: As we were flying in the plane, there was a wind shear, some rain, a lot of wind, lightning, and, of course, the flock of flying cats.

Vlad: Lina and I were planning to go to the Black Forest to find her
Lymrill and the Yuka.

Narrator: Kate was hesitant at first to tell them what she knew. She wondered if they understood the magical powers of the Lymrill and the
Yuka.

Kate: Um, why do you want to find the Lymrill and the Yuka?

Lina: The Lymrill was left for me by my grandfather, a great humanitarian known for helping many poor and sick people. Do you
know him?

Kate: Who?... oh, I remember him! He was a great man and helped so many of us greatly, yet asked for very little or none in return. And Vlad,
why do you want to find the Yuka?

Lina: Vlad, what is the Yuka? You didn't tell me yet.

Vlad: The Yuka is the essence of one's desire and if it is used for the good of others it will generate into the object you desire and allow you to accomplish your goal. I want to use the Yuka to build my own plane.

Kate: And how will that benefit others?

Vlad: The plane will help people to visit one another, which will unify others and create friendship, global sharing, and promote cultural diversity.

Narrator: After listening to the two adventurers, Kate decided to trust them with the Lymrill and Yuka and even had special guide cats lead them through the forest to their goal.



The Forest Lymrill Guards the Yuka

Narrator: Lina and Vlad followed the flying guide cats as they sprang and sailed through the air between one huge tree and another so skillfully.

Vlad: Wow, these cats can fly better than me flying a plane!

Narrator: The forest seemed so old that the branches started way up high so that the flying cats could incorporate somersaults as they dodged between one another, clearly having fun. Even though the forest was dark, the openness above their heads gave Lina and Vlad a sense of light and they were filled with hopeful happiness.

Lina: I think we're almost there!

Narrator: Then they saw a sign.

Vlad: (reading the sign) Do not eat magical quails: deadly consequences.

Lina: Quails? What? I don't see any quails.

Vlad: Wait, look over there!

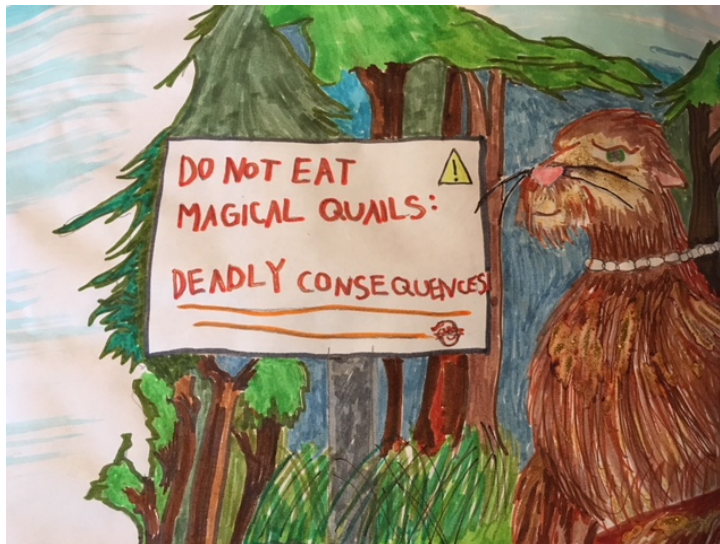
Narrator: Lina and Vlad approached several hundreds of quails of different shapes and sizes scampering around the Black Forest, pecking at the ground for seeds and bugs.



Lina: Wow!

Vlad: So many quails!

Narrator: Then the Flying Cats began to land on the ground sitting quietly in a row. Their wings were folded and they looked obedient but content.



Then the head of the Lymrill appeared

Lina: Oh look, it's Grandfather's Lymrill!

Vlad: Where?

Lina: See, over there, he seems to be chained to a tree!

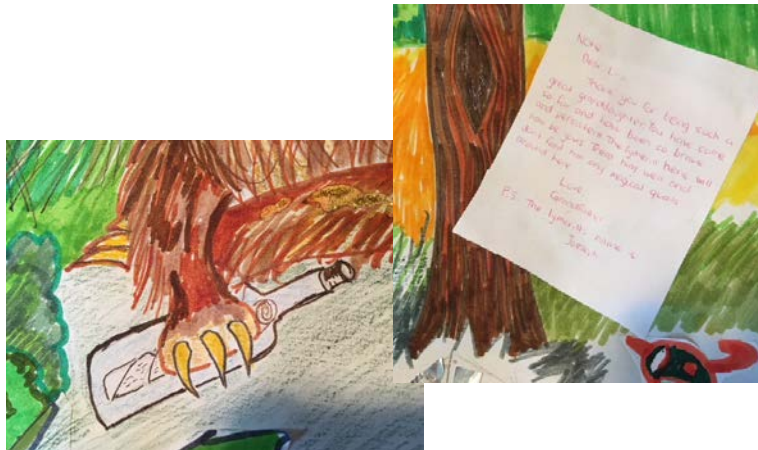
Vlad: Oh, yes, that's the Lymrill! And there's the Yuka right next to him!

Lina: The large chunk of shiny metal over there?

Vlad: Yes, that's it!

Narrator: The tired but excited adventurers waited to see what the Lymrill would do.

Joseph: Hello, Lina and Vlad. You have finally found me. You can call me Joseph, the name your grandfather gave me, Lina. I have been waiting for you to come and free me.



Here in this bottle is the note he wrote so many years ago saying that when you found me it would only be after you have struggled

courageously and endured a long journey. After you free me, we will unite to carry on your grandfather's great work.

Narrator: Lina was so happy that she ran to Joseph and hugged him, setting him free of the chain. Vlad looked anxiously at their reunion not knowing what to say. Lina noticed his discomfort.

Lina: Joseph, can you help my friend Vlad? He bravely flew me here to find you but he is also seeking something. He desires a plane of his own to connect people around the world with love and kindness but needs the Yuka to make this happen.



Joseph: Ahhh, yes, the magical quails told me about Vlad and his desire to fly his own plane. They have been waiting to give him the Yuka.

Vlad: (staring at the quails) How did they know that I was searching for
the Yuka?

Joseph: They have telepathic powers.

Narrator: Vlad walked slowly over to the Yuka and the quails nudged
and pecked at him as he came close. Finally, he would have his heart's
desire.

Epilogue

Narrator: After listening to Joseph, Lina understood that now she could
release him from guarding the Yuka because Vlad was going to use it to
bring joy to the world both here and there through the portals of space
and time. She brought Joseph back to Kate and they built a cottage and
so did Vlad. Soon, the flying cats migrated back to the Dragon Land
but it wasn't very long before they returned with Sapphire. A few of the
magical quails came to visit Vlad, Lina, and Kate, but they didn't stay
for long and usually headed back to the Black Forest within a day.

When it seemed that all had been reunited they heard a faint 'chop
chop chop' in the distance growing louder. Soon they saw up in the sky,

a helicopter piloted by G.F. Magma. When he landed he shared his own adventure story of coming through the portal and over the great mountains. He joined the happy community of friends and now they could all come and go - in Vlad's plane, in G.F.'s helicopter, or on the wings of Sapphire. Everyone was filled with friendship, freedom, and happiness.



Everyone: The end.

Acknowledgements

The children of the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester were inspired to create this story because two of their dear friends, Norah and Jackson, would be leaving soon on a new and exciting journey - moving from New York to Washington state.

The characters in the story were developed with descriptive drawings and actions by the individual who would play that role. These personal stories were then shaped into a contiguous adventure, which was captured on mural paper 4 feet by 10 feet in dimension. The dialogue was crafted from rehearsal improvisation of the initial story edit.

We had only one presentation during the Children's Festival but it is captured in video for posterity.

Creators and Cast

(in order of appearance)

Gavin Ferris	GF Magma
Norah Pierce	Lina
Jackson Pierce	Sapphire
Eric Song	Vlad the Pilot
Silke Bangsgaard	Kate
Ashley Song	Joseph the Lymrill
Anne Cunney, Ethical Education Director	Narrator/Story Editor

This book is dedicated to the Pierce Karp family with wishes for an
adventurous and successful journey