

Estel and the magical garden

One spring morning, eight-year-old Estel woke with a strange feeling. She sensed that the day would be special, although she did not know why. After breakfast, she went into the garden behind her house. It was large, full of flowers and shrubs, but there was one corner she had never explored, where tall grass seemed to hide everything from the world.

“Estel, don’t go too far!” her mother called from the window. But curiosity got the better of her. Estel walked through the tall grass until she discovered a little wooden door in the garden wall.

“What’s this?” she wondered. She had never seen it before.

With a little effort, she opened the door and found a completely different garden. The flowers were enormous, in brilliant colours she had never seen. Tall trees had branches that seemed to dance in the breeze, and a fountain in the centre shone as though it were magical.

Just then, a soft voice spoke behind her:

“Welcome to the magical garden, Estel.”

She turned and saw a woman in green clothes who seemed to be part of the garden itself. Her eyes shone like leaves in the sunshine.

“Who are you?” Estel asked, surprised but unafraid.

“I am the garden’s guardian. This special place is hidden from the world, and only children with brave hearts can find it. Now that you’re here, there is a mystery for you to solve.”

Estel was excited.

“A mystery? What do I have to do?”

The guardian smiled and handed her a small golden key.

“There are three hidden doors in the garden. Each one holds a challenge. When you have completed all three, you will discover the garden’s treasure.”

Determined, Estel began her adventure. She found the first door behind a large blue flower. Opening it, she saw a path full of stones arranged as a puzzle. She had to think carefully to put them in the right places and move forward. With patience, she succeeded.

The second door was hidden beneath a tree glowing with golden lights. Behind it was a room full of books.

“This is a test of knowledge,” she thought. She searched for the right book to solve the riddle written on the wall. Thanks to her love of reading, she soon found the answer.

The third door was the hardest to find. It was at the bottom of a clear pond. Estel gathered her courage, stepped into the water and retrieved the key from below. When she opened the door, she

entered a room filled with light. In its centre stood an old wooden box.

Excitedly, she opened it and found a little mirror. As she looked into it, for a moment she saw her reflection as well as her adventures, everything she had learned and the people she loved. She understood that the treasure was what she carried inside: her brave heart and her ability to overcome challenges.

As she left, the guardian said goodbye with a smile.

“Remember, Estel: your inner strength is the greatest treasure you can have. You will always carry it with you.”

And so Estel returned home, knowing that whatever challenges the future held, she could count on her courage and intelligence.