



Luka and the light of hope

In a little village surrounded by a magical forest lived Luka, a curious, adventurous six-year-old. Yet many things frightened him: darkness, loud noises and, above all, the mysterious Clearing of Secrets deep in the woods.

One day, while playing near the trees, he heard an unusual sound. He felt afraid, but curious too, and wanted to discover where it came from.

An enormous red dragon appeared between the trees. Luka almost ran away. Then he remembered his grandmother's words: "Sometimes the unknown feels less frightening when we get to know it calmly and with company."

The dragon smiled kindly. His name was Draco, and he was searching for a magical plant, the Light of Hope, which grew only in the Clearing of Secrets. "I need help finding it," he explained softly.

Luka swallowed. Although he still felt afraid, he offered to accompany him. Together they could move slowly and help each other.

As they walked, Luka talked about his worries, and Draco listened. At last they reached the clearing and saw the plant shining among the



flowers.

Just as they were about to pick it, they heard a whisper. Nutsy, a squirrel, had been watching from a tree. “How wonderful! Here in this magical forest, that plant could help my grandmother, who is ill,” she said.

Luka and Draco understood that they should share it. Carefully, they gathered a few petals and gave them to Nutsy to take to her grandmother.

Afterwards, Luka realised he felt calmer. He had faced something frightening and been able to help. He understood that courage did not mean never feeling afraid. It meant learning to act carefully despite the fear.

Draco thanked him and promised to accompany him on other visits to the forest. Luka did not need to stop feeling fear to enjoy new adventures. He could breathe, ask for company and go at his own pace.

From then on, he made new friends and explored with growing confidence, remembering Draco’s kindness and the little light they had shared in the clearing.