

CERTIFIED
ABORIGINAL

JUST A STORY



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OK. I GOTTA GO,
ADAM. I'LL SEE
YOU LATER.



OH. OK, BYE.



SARAH, TIME TO
GO HOME NOW.

OK.







ALL RIGHT, ADAM.
IT'S GETTING
LATE. WE BETTER
GET HOME.



WHAT IF
THEY'RE
STILL
FIGHTING?



DON'T WORRY.
WE'LL JUST GO
STRAIGHT TO
OUR ROOMS.





IT'S OK,
NOW.



DON'T WORRY. IT'LL
BE OVER SOON.



DO YOU WANT ME
TO TELL YOU THE
BEDTIME STORY?



YEAH, OK.



OK. LONG AGO IN A KINGDOM
FAR, FAR AWAY THERE WAS A
PRINCE AND A PRINCESS. THEY
WERE TRAPPED IN A CASTLE BY AN
EVIL OGRE AND A WICKED WITCH.





OK, DOES ANYONE KNOW
THE ANSWER TO THIS ONE?
ANYBODY? ANYBODY?
WENDY, MAYBE? WENDY?



NO? ALL
RIGHT.







WELL, YOU'RE LAUGHING ABOUT IT NOW. SO IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD, HUH?

OH, MY GOSH! IT WAS SO HUMILIATING.

OH, I GUESS NOT.



AT LEAST I WASN'T PICKING MY NOSE OR ANYTHING.




I'M NOT KEEPING YOU FROM ANYTHING, AM I?



NO, NO. I'M JUST WAITING FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER TO FINISH SOCCER. BESIDES, I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH YOU.




AND I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH YOU, TOO. BUT I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JOIN SOME AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS. LIKE ADAM.



OH, I DON'T KNOW. UM, IT'S JUST... IT'S JUST... HARD.

I UNDERSTAND IT'S DIFFICULT. LIKE WHEN YOU KNOW AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BUT YOU'RE TOO NERVOUS TO ANSWER, RIGHT?



IT'S OK TO BE SHY. IT'S NORMAL FOR SOMEONE AT YOUR AGE. IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE SO SHY THAT YOU MISS OUT ON THE FUN STUFF.





OH, JEEZ.

SORRY, BUDDY.
I DIDN'T MEAN
TO TRIP YOU.















AW, ADAM. IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU CAN'T KEEP GETTING INTO FIGHTS. YOU'RE GONNA GET KICKED OFF THE SOCCER TEAM.



WELL...



OH, NO. YOU DIDN'T. YOU GOT KICKED? MOM AND DAD ARE GONNA BREAK OUT.



AH, SO WHAT! LIKE THEY EVEN CARE.

















OK, EVERYONE. WE HAVE A FUN ASSIGNMENT TODAY. IT'S CALLED CREATIVE WRITING. IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE - YOU WRITE SOMETHING FROM YOUR IMAGINATION.




IT COULD BE ANYTHING YOU WANT. IT COULD BE SOMETHING YOU DID OVER THE SUMMER.



IT COULD BE A STORY YOU'VE HEARD.



IT COULD BE A STORY YOU WANT TO TELL.



I JUST WANT YOU TO WRITE SOMETHING THAT IS INTERESTING.



LONG AGO, A PRINCE AND PRINCESS WERE TRAPPED
IN A DARK, EVIL CASTLE IN A FAR AWAY LAND.



LOCKED IN THE HIGHEST TOWER...



THEY WISHED THAT SOMEONE
WOULD RESCUE THEM...



FROM THEIR PRISON.



THEIR CAPTORS WERE AN EVIL
OGRE AND A WICKED WITCH.



THE OGRE AND THE WITCH
WERE CONSTANTLY FIGHTING...



MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS TO
THINK OR EVEN SLEEP.



WORST OF ALL, THE OGRE AND THE WITCH WOULD FORCE THE PRINCE AND THE PRINCESS TO EAT DINNER WITH THEM. THE WITCH WOULD TALK CONSTANTLY TO THE PRINCESS, COMPLAINING ABOUT ALL THE OTHER WITCHES.



THIS DIDN'T INTEREST THE PRINCESS.



THIS WOULD MAKE THE WITCH VERY ANGRY AND SHE WOULD SAY TERRIBLE THINGS TO THE PRINCESS.



THE OGRE WOULD GET ANGRY, BECAUSE NO ONE WAS EATING THE FOOD HE WORKED SO HARD TO HUNT FOR.



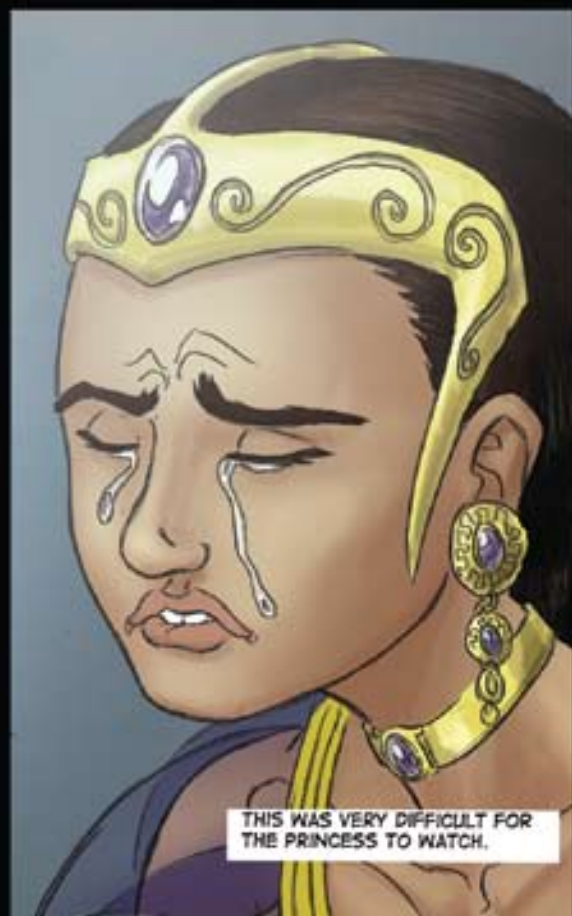
THE PRINCE WOULDN'T RESPOND TO HIM.



THIS WOULD MAKE THE OGRE EVEN ANGRIER. HE WOULD YELL, BANG THE TABLE AND BREAK THINGS.



BUT THE PRINCE WASN'T SCARED.



THIS WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE PRINCESS TO WATCH.

EVERYDAY, SHE WOULD GO UP TO THE TERRACE...



HOPING... PLEADING FOR SOMEONE
TO COME AND RESCUE HER.





THAT A KNIGHT...



IN SHINING ARMOR, WOULD RIDE UP
AND RESCUE HER FROM THIS PRISON.





WAS IT THAT BAD?

NO, NO. IT WAS GREAT. I FOUND IT VERY TOUCHING AND POWERFUL. BUT WHILE I WAS READING IT, I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF IT WAS MORE THAT JUST A STORY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



WELL, SOMETIMES WHEN PEOPLE CAN'T TALK ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE HURTING THEM, THEY FIND OTHER WAYS OF GETTING OUT - THROUGH DREAMS, MUSIC, ART AND SOMETIMES, THROUGH WRITING.



BUT IT WAS JUST A STORY!



THAT MAY BE SO. BUT I STILL NEED TO TALK TO YOUR PARENTS ABOUT IT.



ALSO, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR ANXIETY. I'M GOING TO ASK YOUR PARENTS IF YOU CAN START SEEING THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR.



OH, I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THIS.



WENDY, I KNOW THIS MUST BE HARD, BUT NOT ONLY AS YOUR TEACHER BUT BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT YOU, I HOPE YOU TRUST ME ENOUGH TO KNOW I WOULDN'T BE TALKING ABOUT THIS IF I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HELP. BELIEVE ME; I WAS JUST LIKE YOU WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.

REALLY?



YES. I COULDN'T TALK TO OTHERS. I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE FRIENDS. I EVEN CHEWED MY NAILS UNTIL THEY BLED. AND TALKING ABOUT IT HELPED.



IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE YOU GOING THROUGH THE EXACT SAME THING.



I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WISH THAT SOMEONE WOULD RESCUE US AND TAKE US AWAY FROM ALL OUR WORRY AND PAIN. BUT SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO DO IT. WE HAVE TO FIND THE COURAGE IN OURSELVES. AND IT BEGINS WITH TALKING.



DID IT GET BETTER FOR YOU?



YES. YES IT DID. BUT IT TOOK ME TIME. AND IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR YOU TOO. BUT IT GETS BETTER. I PROMISE.



OH, GOD! I'M SO TIRED. SO TIRED OF BEING QUIET.

AND SO WE BEGAN. I GUESS I HAD A LOT TO TALK ABOUT. BECAUSE I TALKED FOR TWO WHOLE HOURS THAT FIRST SESSION WITH LAURA, THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR.



I JUST SAT THERE AND TALKED AND TALKED AND TALKED. IT WAS LIKE A DAM BURST INSIDE OF ME.



**IF YOU LIKE THE STORY SO FAR AND
WANT TO SEE THE REST, PLEASE
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