

Sunlight Caverns by Sequoia Amerman

After lunch Rose heard her doorbell ring and ran to open it. As expected, it was her two friends Oliver and Zayden. “Hi” said Zayden smiling “Are you ready?”. The day before the they had been playing hide and seek in the woods when Rose found an unusually large trapdoor under a pile of leaves. Not that a trapdoor was normal, but they decided to open it the next day. “Yes!” Rose said excited to find out what was under the door. Quietly, they walked into the woods. When they found the door, they removed a pile of sticks which they had put there before because it was dark when they found it and they weren’t sure if they would be able to find it again. Slowly Rose creaked open the door.

“Wow.” Oliver said sarcastically “a hole”. “Maybe there’s something down there” Rose suggested looking down at the pitch-black hole. “I’ll go in first” Rose volunteered “Then follow me”. After finding a good position she climbed down. When Rose reached the bottom unharmed the others climbed down after her. “I can’t see a thing” Oliver complained. “Calm down big baby”. said Rose, clicking on the flashlight after all of them came down. “I am NOT a baby” Oliver mumbled.

“Let’s go this way” Zayden said pointing to the left. The room to the left was long and dark. “Maybe we mark the ground or something, so we don’t get trapped in here,” said Oliver. Quickly, Rose drew a circle in the dirt with her shoe. It was a Saturday afternoon, and she was not trying to get trapped in a dark tunnel. When they started walking their footsteps echoed and the light made long dark shadows that made it seem like

someone was following them. “Creepy” Zayden squeaked moving closer to Rose. Rose looked around hoping there wouldn’t be any big animals lurking around. In the corner of her eye, she saw a faint glow.

“Look over there!” Rose pointed at the light in the distance. At a quicker pace they rushed to the end of the tunnel. Any fear that she had was long gone and quickly replaced with curiosity and excitement, Zayden gasped. Beyond the tunnel was an enormous cave. Thick rays of sunlight bled through holes in the ceiling. Big blue and yellow birds glided through the rays of sunlight and landed inside large shelf like dents in the side of the wall. Backing up a little Rose saw that they made nests up there and that they had eggs. A few feet in front of them stood a tall tree with wide branches and purple leaves. Scattered around the tree were small pools of water. Rose saw little shiny fish swimming quietly around the water. The fish surprised her by jumping silently out of the water and making a small ding sound when they landed back in the water. The walls were draped with thick green vines with little white flowers. Long sharp pointy rocks hung from the ceiling. “I wish I could live in here,” said Zayden. “Yeah.” Rose sighed. “BOO!” screamed a voice behind them. Quickly, they spun around and screamed bloody murder at the hideous cave monster. “Relax” said Oliver laughing till his eyes brimmed with tears. “That’s very funny Oliver” Rose said rolling her eyes. “Whatever, we should probably leave soon any way” said Oliver trying to contain himself. “Yeah probably” said Rose looking everything over again. Flowers and mushrooms decorated the ground. Zayden giggled at the edge of the water trying to name each of the

little fish. "Come on Zayden it's time to leave," said Rose. Reluctantly, Zayden left and walked over to them.

"Can we come back here again?" asked Zayden hopefully.

"Sure" Rose agreed. They followed their footsteps back to the circle and climbed back up through the trapdoor with little

trouble. "What do you think would be a good name for the cave?" asked Zayden as Rose latched the door shut. "I don't

know" said Rose thinking about the rays of sunlight "How about Sunlight Caverns?" Zayden said as if she read Rose's mind.

"Sure" Rose and Oliver agreed. Rose walked back home, ate dinner and fell asleep thinking about the dark scary tunnel, the little hopping fish, the birds and the rays of sun in Sunlight Caverns.