

The Balloons

written by Sara Vane & Becky Wilson

It was Saturday morning. Today was the day! The girl was excited! The fun fair was coming to town.

That evening she pulled on her wellies, picked up her purse with money she had saved and Grandma held her hand as she skipped to the fair.

The fair was a magical place! The smell of candy floss and popcorn filled the air, beautiful lights were hung all around and the music from the carousel filled her tummy with bubbles of excitement.

Then she saw them. The most extraordinary, beautiful, coloured balloons. They were tied with sparkling curly rainbow striped ribbon. They were all shapes and sizes and more beautiful than anything she had ever seen before.

Holding the balloons was a fairy with a very kind face. She spoke to the girl and said 'I have been looking for someone kind like you to take these balloons and enjoy all of the magic they have to offer'

The girl took the balloons and promised that she would treasure them. She felt very special to have been given something so special. At home, the balloons filled the girl's bedroom with a magical glow and made her very happy.

On Sunday the girl decided to take one of the special balloons outside. Her friend loved the balloon! She asked if she could hold it by its rainbow coloured ribbon. The girl was kind so she wanted to share so she agreed. But her friend's hand slipped and she let go of the ribbon. The girl watched in horror as the balloon floated away into the distance and was lost for ever.

On Monday, the girl's brother got into her room and popped one of the balloons on purpose.

On Tuesday the girl came home from school to find one of the balloons shrivelled and dull on her bedroom floor.

On Wednesday the dog popped one of the balloons.

On Thursday, Mum washed one of the balloons and all of the colour came out of it. It looked grey and sad and not at all magical any more.

On Friday Dad borrowed a balloon but he didn't bring it back and said that he couldn't remember where he had left it. The girl felt sad that Dad didn't seem to understand how precious the balloon was!

By Saturday there was only one balloon left. The girl was so worried that something would happen to it that she decided that she would keep it with her all of the time. When she went to the park to play a bigger child from school came along, pushed her over and stole the balloon.

The girl went home and lay on her bed, she began to cry. All of the balloons were gone!

Just then, the fairy appeared! She was holding the balloon that had blown away. The girl told the fairy that she was sorry that she had lost the balloons and how terrible she felt. She told her about the dog and the bigger child that had stolen the last balloon and all about what had happened to all of the balloons.

The fairy looked puzzled. She told the girl that none of it was her fault and that she should not feel bad about it. She said that sometimes we lose balloons, sometimes they fade or the air goes out of them, sometimes people take them from us or damage them on purpose and sometimes people lose them or burst them by accident. She reminded the girl of the happiness that the balloons had given her and the lovely memories that she had of them. She told the girl that there would be new balloons that were just as magical and even though they would not always stay or keep their colour, they too would bring her happiness and lovely memories. She said that there may be times that were without balloons but that there would also be times that were filled with balloons and that as long as she kept the really special balloons in her heart, they would always be with her.