## Story Project 2017 "The silver flower"

Reth, the son of a peasant, was playing with his cardboard sword, regretting his poverty. He was hitting a tree when he saw a shiny light coming from the "Dark Forest". His mother had warned him never to enter there, but his curiosity was stronger than his obedience.

Reth followed the light through the woods until he found out he was lost. He was starting to get desperate when he focused on a rectangle-shaped silhouette. It was a door! The boy got closer, then hesitated, but opened it. He fell into the hole inside it, and quickly landed on a soft surface. Reth opened his eyes, and he saw nothing but a dirty tunnel.

- "Well hello, youth!" said a mysterious voice.
- "Who's there?" shouted Reth. "Where am I?"
- "You seem to be pretty lost, ain't you?" answered the voice.

An old man appeared before the boy's eyes.

- "Who are you?" inquired Reth.
- "A Wizard," replied the old man.
- "What..?" the kid doubted about the man's sanity.

The magician took a shiny sphere out of his oversized sleeve. It was a magic crystal ball. It irradiated a passionate, warm light.

- "Look here, Sir Reth," the kid wondered how this old man knew his name, but didn't interrupt him." Our princess, Tamara, is very ill, and only you can save her."
- "Why me?" urged Reth.
- "Because," explained the wizard, "a wicked being has been killing all our knights and young men. We are all old and can barely move. This being has hidden the only cure for the princess." The man rubbed the ball, that was now showing the image of a silver flower, the cure. "Please help us."
- "I will," replied Reth, "if you help me go back home".
- "Splendid," said the magician. "Now, you will need some protection from the monsters."
- "Mons...?" He hadn't finished speaking when the wizard tapped his head and a heavy sword appeared.
- "Well, good luck." He started vanishing.
- "Wait!" cried Reth. But it was too late, he was all alone, with the huge sword. The young boy started walking, still not knowing where to.

After a while, he noticed the soil was getting stickier and he started sinking, it was quicksand. When the sand was reaching his chest, Reth thought it was the end, when the huge sword turned into a hook, and the boy got out just in time.

Then, he had to face a mob of cockroaches, but they didn't attack him, they seemed to be escaping from something...

Finally, he entered a large cave. At the bottom he saw a crystal dome, with a silver tulip in it. Reth rushed to grab it, for he was sure it was the cure. He was about to take the lid up, when the whole place started to tremble, and a large creature appeared from the ground. It was covered in a black hood. It straightened up what seemed to be an extremely long arm, and started shaking it.

Suddenly, Reth fell to the ground and felt as if a giant fist was beating him up. He couldn't move, he only felt pain. Now it really was the end. The creature approached to him. It took its hood off, revealing a giant snake. It was about to eat Reth, who was laying unable to move. Suddenly, almost magically, his left arm recovered its strength and could grab the sword and

chop the snake's head off. He then managed to drag on to the place where the flower stood gracefully. Once he had touched the silver flower, he felt new.

The boy ran to the exit of the cave with the flower in his hands. He ran as fast as he could until he got to the place where he had appeared first. There was the magician, beside a bed. On the bed a young girl was laying, she was the most gorgeous girl Reth had ever seen in his life. But she was sick, really sick. The boy gave the flower to the wizard, who helped the princess to swallow it. She recovered immediately, and she was even more beautiful than before.



- "Thank you," said Tamara with a sweet tone.
- "No problem, your Majesty," answered Reth blushing.
- "Now, as I promised, let's get you home," interrupted the magician.

And in a blink he was back in his garden, but everything had changed. His simple cottage was now a mansion, a gift from the princess. The boy couldn't believe his eyes. He got so passionate about fighting, that he decided to train to be a knight. He became famous and wealthy, but never forgot about that strange world he had visited ages ago.

The end