

Painting



Longford

Lili had lived in Longford for three years now but she could still remember leaving Warsaw when she was nine. She liked living in Longford, but sometimes she felt it was a bit grey.

It wasn't that she was unhappy in Longford. That wasn't true; not at all. She liked Longford. She liked all the shops, the mall, the cinema, and the theatre. There were loads of things to do. She liked her school and her class and couldn't imagine being without her best friend Paige. No, it wasn't that.

It was just that there wasn't enough colour. In her memory the sun was always brighter in Poland and the snow in winter was whiter. Here in Longford it was, so often, just grey.

Lili liked bright colours. Her favourites were pink and purple but she liked luminous yellow and blue almost as much. Lili felt that colour was important. After all, she was going to be an artist when she grew up. No, that wasn't right. She was an artist already.

Lili loved to paint. She had folders of paintings in her bedroom and art was her best subject at school. It did depend, however, what she was asked to paint. If you wanted fairies, or trolls or unicorns then Lili was the artist for you. She much preferred to paint fantasy scenes taken from her imagination. That way, the colours could be as vivid as she liked. Lili didn't believe in grey.

She could draw as well. Lili sketched fantastic creatures all the time. Sometimes it got her into trouble like when she drew fairies in her maths copy.

"What is that?" asked her teacher pointing to the little winged creatures dancing on all the zeros.

"Just maths."

"Looks like fairies to me."

"They're numbers."

"Oh Lili. We will be having art this afternoon."

But the real trouble started when mam wanted to redecorate her room.

“Would you like to choose the colours?” asked her mother. Lili knew what to answer.

“Pink, ...and purple, of course.

Her mother looked around at the room with its neat cream walls and nodded. Yes, the room could do with freshening up and a few touches of colour might help.

“Good idea,” she replied. “We could get a new pink bed-set and a matching lampshade. A purple rug would set off the cream walls. Lili wasn’t listening. She was imagining her stunning purple room and its bright pink ceiling.

A week later, nothing had happened and Lili was getting impatient. On Saturday Paige came over. The two girls were busy drawing and Lili’s mother thought they would be fine while she popped to the shops.

“Haven’t you got your room re-decorated yet?” asked Paige curiously.

“No,” answered Lili. She had been boasting about her new room to Paige and felt cross that nothing had been started.

“I expect your mam is just too busy,” comforted Paige. “She has a lot to do.”

Lili had a great idea. “We don’t need Mam,” she said excitedly. “I’m an artist. I can do it myself and you can help me.”

“Is there any paint?” asked Paige. She was a bit worried about Lili’s idea but it sounded fun.

“There is a load of tins in the garage. Dad’s storing it for my uncle. He won’t mind if we use some of it.”

And there were a lot of big paint tins at the back of the garage. Most of them were full of cream paint. Lili ignored those. Finally, she selected a large tin of deep purple paint and another of a hot pink. Hunting for brushes was more of a problem, but they did find

some paint rollers and paint trays. One of the rollers even had a special long extending handle.

“We can paint the ceiling with that,” said Lili enthusiastically.

“Have you painted a ceiling before?”

“No”, replied Lili. “It can’t that difficult.”

It was much harder than they thought it would be. Paige put purple paint into the paint trays while Lili tackled the ceiling. The biggest problem was that the paint didn’t want to stay where they put it. The rollers dripped paint onto the carpet and, however hard Lili tried, she couldn’t get a straight line where the ceiling met the wall. The pink and purple paints kept blending together. in little fan-shaped river patterns of purple on pink or pink on purple. Lili quite liked these shapes and started to experiment by making more herself.

When the walls and ceiling were mostly covered the girls stepped back to admire their efforts. It wasn’t quite what they had expected. The room was *very* purple and *very* pink but there were runs, splatters and splodges of pink paint all down the purple walls and drips and dabs of both colours on the carpet.

Paige stared in a sort of fascinated horror. “It’s not *too* bad, I suppose, “she managed at last.

“No.” replied Lili slowly. “It still needs some finishing touches.”

She went to a drawer and got out some of her own paint brushes and her special acrylic paints. Then she stared critically at a long streak of pink paint that looked a bit like a snake, She gave the long



wiggly paint run a bright yellow eye and a forked tongue.

Paige got the idea and joined in. Soon both girls were busy turning the splodges and runs

into flowers or animals, dodos or fairies, following their imaginations wherever they wandered. Even the splatters on the carpet were painted into flower petals.

They didn't notice the door open and Lili's mother walking in but they heard the scream.

"What have you done to your room?"

"But I love it. Can't I keep it like this?"

"No way! It will all have to go back the way it was."

"But it's my room and you said we could paint it."

"Not like that. It's horrible."

It took a lot of painting to get the room back the way her mother wanted it and that included a new carpet. Mam let her choose a soft lilac colour that wasn't too bad. When it was finished, Lili quite liked her new room but she still thought that the cream walls were boring. They looked like sheets of paper waiting to be drawn on. This gave her an idea and she sat down at her table to paint.

"Mam", she asked, choosing her words carefully. "My new room looks lovely but do you think I could paint a picture on just one of the walls."

"After last time, I don't know," replied her mother cautiously.

Lili showed her the picture she had painted and explained how she could make it larger to fit the wall. She pointed out the green field and the great green tree with the fairies flying all around. Nearby, on a rocky area, a few dwarves with silver-bright picks, were digging for gold. Further back, on a sandy path, stood a slender unicorn, all gleaming white except for the black star on his forehead. Right in the background, at the end of the path, was a fairy castle. If you looked carefully, you could see it was being attacked by little green goblins with ugly faces and claw hands holding long spears.

Mam examined the picture. It was very good. In the end, she agreed to let Lili paint the picture covering one whole wall of her room. It took her a long time because she painted very carefully. When she finished she was very pleased with the result. So was her mother. Paige thought it looked fantastic and a lot better than that terrible purple and pink mess, although she didn't say this to Lili.

Now every night, before Lili went to sleep, she would let her imagination wander through the picture telling herself stories. She wished that Longford was more like her picture.

It was a few days later that Lili was passing the charity shop in the Tesco's car-park. There were always interesting things in that shop and they didn't cost too much. Lili was on the lookout for ornaments for her new room. Perhaps she might find a fairy figure or a little statue of a unicorn. She didn't discover anything like that, but there was a star shaped box. It was silver, old and scratched but with a shiny mirror lid. The box, inside, was lined with soft blue velvet. It was very pretty and would be perfect to hold her earrings. They were always getting lost. Best of all, it only cost one euro.

The lady at the cash desk took the box and put it in a bag. "An old lady brought this in with a few other things. She told us it was a wishing box but I am sure she was making it up," she told Lili.

"Wishing boxes only happen in stories," thought Lili sadly to herself but she didn't say anything.

Later when she was putting her earrings into the silver, star box she felt something hard hidden in the dark blue velvet. She pulled it out and found that she was holding a tiny paintbrush. It looked as if it had been made for a fairy. Lili sighed

"I wish my life were a fairy tale," she whispered quietly.

She put the tiny paintbrush away in a drawer and arranged the little box on the shelf.

Then Lili went to bed. Staring at her wall painting in the dim room, as usual, she fell asleep.

Every morning, when Lili woke up, the first thing she did was to look at her wall. Sometimes she imagined what the goblins were doing to the castle. Other days she wondered what gems the dwarves had dug up or she went to pet the unicorn. Today, she thought, she would visit the fairies. She had given them all names and they all had their own favourite colours. She had painted them changing the colours of some of the green leaves on the tree.

As she began to wake up a bit and focus her eyes on the tree she realised that something was very wrong. The tree was there, but the fairies were gone. There wasn't a sign of where they had been painted, not even a smear of rubbed out paint. They had just vanished. It didn't make sense.

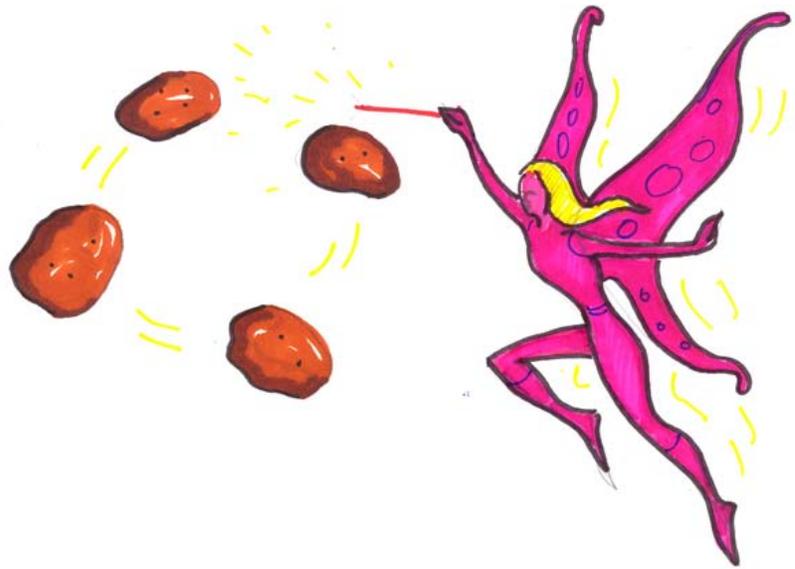
All the way to school, she worried about her fairies but there wasn't much she could do. Usually she walked to school. It wasn't far, but today she was late and mam was giving her a lift. The trouble was that the traffic in the main street was solid.

"I don't know what is going on," complained her mother and turned on Shannonside.

One news item shocked Lili. The presenter was interviewing Louise, a manager from the Longford Tesco who had the strangest story to tell. You could hear that the presenter thought she was talking rubbish.

"It's true," Louise was saying. There are fairies, real ones with wings, all over the shop. It's chaos!"

Just then they arrived at the school and Lili didn't find out any more. She said nothing all day, not even to Paige, but hurried to Tesco's straight after school. It was true. There were fairies, HER fairies in the shop. She recognised



them. One was changing the colours of all the eggs. A second one was making all the potatoes float in the air while a third turned the broccoli to chocolate. The shop was full of people waiting to see what was going to happen next but Lili didn't stay long. What would happen if the fairies recognised her? What might they do?

That night she tried to sleep without looking at her mural but she couldn't help taking a peep at it first thing in the morning. There were still no fairies but now the unicorn was also missing. Lili was very scared but she couldn't tell anyone. Who would believe her story anyway?

She found the unicorn later that morning. It was swimming day but when the class arrived at the Leisure Centre, they found that they couldn't get in. The staff, inside, couldn't get out. There was a huge gleaming white unicorn in the way, lowering his head and pawing the ground.

Lili thought she had painted a friendly unicorn. She had imagined herself petting it and feeding it juicy red apples. This was her unicorn. She could tell it by the black star on its nose but she did not want to get close to this beast. Its muscles rippled and the spiral horn was long and dangerously sharp. The class were taken straight back to school. The girls could talk of nothing else but Lili

did not join in. Paige gave Lili some odd looks but asked no questions.

The next morning, the dwarves had vanished as well. They had taken their picks and hammers with them. Lili did not find out what had happened to them until she returned home. She was surprised to find her dad already home. He was in a very bad mood and it was clear from her mother's face that he had been complaining all day.

"I don't know what this country is coming to," he grumbled, "when you can't even catch a train to Dublin. It's bad enough when the train breaks down or the wrong sort of weather stops the service. But dwarves digging up the tracks? That's very bad,"

"Dwarves?" asked Lili. She was beginning to worry.

"Yes," went on her dad. "There were two of them, dwarves with big ears and pointy red hats. They had picks and hammers. They



were digging up the tracks in the station. Not even the Gardai could

get near them. They just swung their picks at them. Those dwarves need locking up.

Lili's mam handed dad a beer.

"Dwarves is it now?" she said quietly. "I think you have been overworking."

Lilli said nothing. She went to get on with her homework in her room with its almost empty wall. She didn't know what else to do.

She was not surprised next morning when she opened her eyes to find that all the little green goblins had vanished as well. The fairy castle was still there but it was no longer under attack. Lili wondered where the goblins had gone. They would have to be somewhere in Longford. She wondered if they would be attacking the bank, or even the Garda station. It was scary.

She found the goblins as she was walking to school. There they were swarming all over the library. Some of them had climbed up the ivy and were jumping around on the roof. The library wasn't even open yet but some of the little green creatures had broken the windows with their sharp little spears. They were grabbing books and throwing them about.

Lots of people had stopped to try and work out what was going on but no-one knew what to do. Lili stopped to watch as well. She was almost in tears. This was horrible. When she had painted the goblins it had seemed so exciting to have the creatures attacking a castle. Sometimes she made up stories about the valiant and noble goblins attacking the castle of an evil king or a bad wizard. Then she wanted the goblins to win and destroy the castle. But now, as she watched her goblins, the ones she had created, vandalising her library, it wasn't exciting. It was terrifying.

Lili couldn't concentrate at school that day. Even her teacher noticed and asked her what was wrong. She told her that she had a headache. She didn't know how to explain.

She was so upset, she had to talk to someone so she told Paige all about her problem at lunch break. Paige wasn't sure she believed Lili at first but she had seen the unicorn at the leisure centre.

"How do you know it was your unicorn?" she asked.

"Because it was gone from my wall picture," she told her friend.

"Anyway, it had the same black star on its forehead."

Paige still couldn't believe it.

"Pictures don't come to life," she scoffed.

"I know," replied Lili. "I'm not stupid but I made a stupid wish. I think that box I bought really was a wishing box. I wished that my life would be like a fairy tale. It wanted Longford to be more like a fairy tale. It's alright in stories but it doesn't work in real life.

"What are you going to do?" asked Paige

"I don't know, replied her friend. I painted the picture. It's all my fault.

It's a good story, isn't it. Now let's read lots of possible endings.

Annamarie

“I have to fix this mess by tracking down the old lady tell her what has happened “said Lilli determinedly.

Next she had to look for Mrs Flynn. “Where on earth should I begin?” She would go back to the charity shop and ask some questions.

When she arrived she quickly asked.”Where can you find Mrs Flynn? The lady answered “in Chestnut Drive, number 25. It’s one of the bungalow houses.”

Immediately she ran back home and asked her mother to bring her there. She said “yes of course I will, but...why?”

Lilli replied “no reason”.

Her mum brought her there. When she found Mrs Flynn’s house, Lili asked her “why did my painting of all the animals go when I suddenly opened the star box?”

She replied “if you open the box and take out the paint brush bad things will happen. Mrs Flynn added, “if you paint it again it will go back to normal again.

Lili raced home and painted it again. The old lady was right. And that’s how the problem was fixed. Lili was delighted and said to herself, “I am a great artist.”

About the author My name is Anne Marie. I am 10 years old. I am in 5th class. I am from Longford. I always enjoy going on holidays. I have 8 people in my family. My favourite book is The Story of Tracey Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson



Elizabeth

“I have to fix this mess,” said Lili while she was pouting.

Lili thought for a minute and shouted, “the woman, the old woman!”

Soon she was pushing everything out of her way to get to the shop where she had got the star shaped box. When Lili arrived at the Charity Shop she pushed the door open and asked “where does the old woman live?”

“What old woman?” answered the shopkeeper.

“The old woman that brought the old star box”,

“Oh Mrs Flynn; well I don’t know where she lives.”

“No oh no,” shouted Lili, while barging out the wooden door.

Lili wanted to go to the park and get some fresh air. She didn’t know where it was, so she asked an old woman for directions. Immediately the old woman saw that Lili was sad, and asked what was wrong. Lili explained everything. The old woman stopped Lili.

“You have the magic box?”

“Yes replied Lili, wait what do you mean ma.....?” and she quickly ran home.

When Lili arrived home she began looking for the star shaped box and the tiny paint brush. When Lili found them she went looking for the creatures she drew. Later on Lili found the goblins, still destroying the library, but Lili didn’t know what to do with the brush so she just touched them with the brush and they amazingly disappeared.

She did the same to the rest of the creatures and sure enough everything went back to normal.

“Maybe my life is a fairytale after all,” thought Lili.

About the author . My name is Elizabeth. I am 10 years old .I am from Nigeria. I enjoy singing gaelic and art. There are 3 people in my family, my mum my brother and me . My favourite book is Great Lies to tell Kids.



Jemma

“I have to fix this mess. I have to find the old lady,” said Lili. “Oh, there she is. Miss Flynn, please come here. I bought a magic box and now I believe you. Please let my life be normal again. Here have the box back.”

“No,” the lady replied. “I can’t do that. I am not allowed to take things back.”

“Please, yes, you can,” said Lili.

“Just get out of my shop.”

“I will not,” said Lili.

“Ok, I will take it back from you Lili.”

“Thank you Miss Flynn,” Lili said, gratefully.

Miss Flynn opened the box and got her wand. She looked inside the box and saw all of the creatures squashed into the box.

Lili said “thank you so much.”

“Lili, you are a good artist. Just be more careful next time.”

About the author My name is **Jemma**. I am 12 years old. I am from Longford. I enjoy minding children and swimming. I have 7 people in my family. My favourite book is Magic Fingers by Roald Dahl.



Karolina

“I have to fix this mess. Lilli decided” “I’ll try wish again from the wishing box and wish it would be all back again.”

It didn’t work. Lilli decided to track down the old lady who had the box and ask her what she could do to fix the mess. The old lady told her to go home and try to repaint the creatures. She said “to repaint it you will have to use the tiny paint brush that was in the box.”

Lilli got home and repainted the creatures as the old lady said. When she had done it she went to bed and the next morning she woke up and couldn’t believe her eyes, all the creatures were back on Lilli’s wall. It was all normal again.

“Thank goodness,” she thought to herself “No matter what happens, I will never draw any creatures on my wall again!”

Karolina my name is Karolina . I am 13. I come from Czech Republic but now live in Longford. I really enjoy swimming and Hip Hop. There are 4 people in my family. My favourite book is - The Crazy Cat.



Kayleigh

“I have to fix this mess,” said Lili.

Lili went home and started looking for the tiny brown brush.

“I found it” Lili said.

Lili went back to the charity shop and asked where the old lady lived.

“She lives in 7 Chapel Street,” said the lady.

Lili went around the corner and knocked hurriedly on the door.

“Hello,” said the old lady. “What can I do for you?”

“I’m looking for Mrs. Marion Flynn. What does this paint brush do?”

“It’s magical. Did the creatures come alive when you made a wish?”

Mrs. Marion Flynn asked quietly. “If you break the magical paint brush it will all go back to normal”.

Lili said “thank you” and off she ran.

She raced home and burst into her room holding the brush in her hand. She closed her eyes and broke it in half.

When she opened her eyes, she rushed to Tesco’s. The fairies were not there! She went to the train station. The dwarfs were not there either! She went to the mall. The unicorn was gone too. Finally she went to the library. There were no goblins.

She was so happy she went home smiling. When she got there she found the brush and threw it into the bin. Lili painted over the picture on her wall and she decided from now on to do art when it’s art time.

About the author

My name is Kayleigh. I am 12 years old. I am from Mullingar but I live in Longford. I enjoy swimming and art. There is 8 people in my family including me. My favourite book is called Tunnels of Blood.



Livia

“I have to fix this mess” said Lili.

Lili panicked and thought fast. She ran as fast as she could to her house with Paige running after her. Lili looked for the paintbrush and the box everywhere. Lili found the paintbrush and the box and sprinted down to the Charity Shop.

Paige stopped Lili and asked “What are we doing here?” Lili didn’t say a thing and walked into the Charity shop.

“Hello. The last time I was here, I bought the jewellery box and I need to find the old woman who owned it,” Lili explained.

The woman behind the desk replied “She just lives across the road.” Before the woman could finish talking, Lili zoomed out of the shop, ran across the road and knocked on the door. An old lady came out.

“May I help you?” she said.

Without breathing, Lili spoke “Your magic box has done something wrong.”

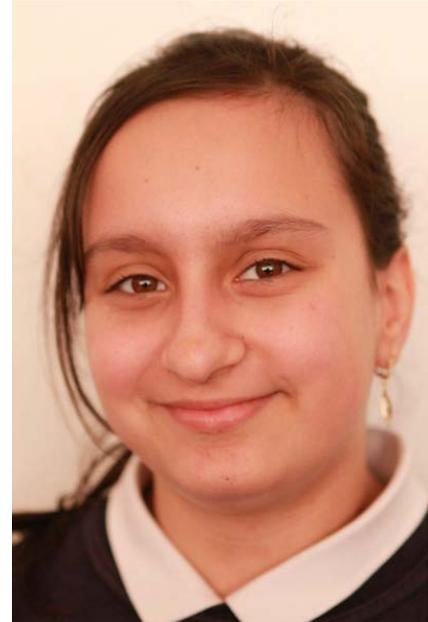
“No, it’s your fault, you made a wish and it has come true” said the lady.

“Please can you help me?” begged Lili.

The old lady closed Lili’s eyes and told her to wish for help. Lili did as she was told and then she opened the box and inside was a crystal. The woman told her to wish what she wanted to wish for and with a poof, Pixie dust was falling down on top of them. Lili rushed out the door and looked around the town.

No sign of creatures were to be found. Lili ran back to the woman, gave her the crystal and said “Thank you”. Then the woman smiled and Lili was happy again. But most of all she learned a lesson, not to make silly wishes.

Livia My name is Livia Curejova. I am 11 years old. I am in fifth class. I am from Slovakia. I enjoy singing. There are four people in my family. My favourite book is 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.



Marta

“I have to fix this mess. “I will try to go to track down the old lady who had the box and tell her everything that has happened. I will tell her all about the picture that I painted on the wall in my own boring bedroom.”

Lili was very happy that the fairies, house and the dwarves got out from the picture that she drew on her wall. The lady told her what to do and everything would work out.

The people and the animals came back to the picture. In the end Lili was happy that everything was alright and she knew that she was an EXTRA special artist!

Marta

My name is Marta . I am 13 years old . I am from Poland. I am in 6th class. I enjoy drawing and sleeping. There are 5 people in my family. My favourite book is Harry Potter and the chamber of secrets.



Mary Anne

“I have to fix this mess” said Lili, “if I use the wishing box again it might work. I might be able to wish all the creatures back on to my wall”.

She went home and wished. She took out a piece of paper and whispered “I wish my fairytale life was back on my wall”.

Suddenly the goblins were back attacking the castle, the fairies were back flying around the tree and the unicorn was back on the path. The dwarves were back digging in the rocks but something was still very strange. All the figures were moving in the picture and she could go in and talk to them all.

Maybe it wasn't such a disaster after all. Lili had, had a brilliant adventure and she still did art but she kept it on paper.

Maryanne.

My name is Maryanne Joyce. I am 12 years old . I am from Ireland. I am in school and I am in 6th class. I enjoy doing art. There are 8 people in my family. I enjoy reading



Natlia

“I have to fix this mess” said Lili.

Lili decided to go to the old lady who had the box. Lili told her that all the creatures came alive from the wish that she made from the wishing box. She asked the lady for some advice.

The lady told her that it might help if she repainted all the creatures on her wall with the tiny paint brush that she found in the wishing box.

When Lili took the advice and got home and repainted her bedroom she found that it destroyed all the creatures roaming around Longford. She was happy that she fixed problem and she had a nice new painted room.

Natalia

My name is Natalia and I am 12 years old. I am in sixth class. I was born in Poland. I enjoy dancing, singing and drawing. There are four people in my family. My favourite book is ‘Cinderella’.



Renata

“I painted the picture it’s all my fault, I have to fix that mess!”

Lili rushed into her bedroom and took the wishing box; she opened it quickly and whispered inside it “Please, please! I want all the creatures that escaped from my picture to come back.”

After a few seconds Lili looked at her painting on the wall “Yes!!! They are back! The ... The fairies and goblins and dwarfs, they’re back!”

Lili ran into the garage and took the purple paint and repainted the wall just in plain purple. She did not draw any pictures on the wall this time. Lili lay on her bed and said to herself: “That was a bad idea to draw the pictures on the wall; I really should have listened to my mum!”

Renata My name is Renata. I am 12 years old. I am from Latvia but I now live in Longford. I enjoy dancing, sleeping, drawing and watching T.V. There are three people in my family – my sister, my mother and I. My favourite book is ‘The Real Rebecca’.



Sara

“I have to fix this” said Lili.

Paige said, “stop lying. It couldn’t be from your painting, and if it was from your painting, it should have a star on its head.”

“Oh yeah! Then what’s that on its head?” said Lili

“Oh my goodness, you’re right. It’s from your painting,” said Paige.

“Come on I know what to do because I think that the box is really a wishing box. It must be a wishing box because I wished that my life would be a fairytale and it happened,” said Lili.

“Let’s get the box and wish again” said Lili.

Finally they found the box and wished but it wouldn’t work. Lili knew another way to bring things back. She decided to repaint the wall

so that all of the creatures would go back into the picture. It worked because the unicorn, dwarfs, goblins and the fairies disappeared and went back in their picture. Lili thought that she should not draw imaginative creatures anymore but clothes, shoes and accessories like necklaces and bracelets instead. She also had a big fantastic adventure. I hope that she will be a lot more careful with making wishes in future.

Sara

My name is Sara. I am 10 years old. I have 8 people in my family. I enjoy playing basketball and swimming. My favourite book is called "Run for Cover " by Tom McCaughren



Shakki

"I have to fix this mess" explained Lili. She thought and thought. She had nothing, so she walked home. She told her mum, but her mum didn't believe a word of it. Lili ran up the stairs to her room and looked at the picture. She rolled on her bed and she thought and thought once more.

Suddenly she had an idea.

“Why don’t I go back to the shop, I got the box in?” said Lili, excitedly.

She went to the shop and the shopkeeper gave her a crystal. She explained it was from the old lady. She went and found the goblins amazingly they were sucked in, then the fairies were sucked in and even the unicorns and the dwarfs were sucked in.

She went home and she wished the fairytale was back on the wall where it belongs. Lili decided that next time if she wanted to wish for something it would not be about fairytales.

Years later, while painting, she was reminded of that day. It made her paint the same picture from the wall, again. She let everyone see it in an art display. She felt very happy. “What fun I had all those years ago” said Lili, merrily.

Shakki My name is Shakki. I am 10 years old. I’m in 5th class. I am from Ireland but my parents are from Nigeria. I enjoy singing dancing and sports . I have 8 people in my family. My favourite book is Scarlett



Sintja

“I have to fix this mess, I’m going to run to the old lady and ask what happened with the box because I don’t know how my fairies are gone from my wall.”

Lilli found Mrs Flynn and asked her about fixing the mess.

Lilli asked “are you a magic woman?”

Mrs Flynn said “Yes, I am but don’t tell anyone.”

Then Mrs. Flynn said “okay. I’m going to stop all the creatures causing trouble.”

She went over to Lili’s house and she said some funny words. She sent the creatures back to the picture.

“Phew!” said Lilli. “I’m so glad that this is over.”

Sintja My name is Sentja. I am in 6th class. I am 12 years old. I come from Latvia but I live in Longford. There are 6 people in my family. My favourite book is James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl.



Tia

“I know,” said Paige. “We can find the old woman and ask her to take back the wish.”

“That’s a great idea,” answered Lili. “Let’s go.”

The two girls went back to Tesco, and there was an old woman talking with the shopkeeper who sold them the magic box.

“Are you the old woman who sold the magic box to Tesco?” asked Paige?

“I am” answered the old woman.

“Can we speak to you for a minute asked Lili?

“Yes” said the old woman

“I bought the magic box” said Lili “and I caused all this mess by making a wish on it”.

"Oh dear," sighed the old woman. "and why did you wish to make a mess?"

"I didn't," said Lili "I just wanted to make Longford like a fairy tale."

"A fairy tale?" laughed the old woman.

"Yes," said Lili "and how are we going to fix it?"

"You must get the box to the fairy tale animals and un-wish the wish" said the old woman.

"Thanks so much," said Lili. "Come on Paige.

The two girls raced back to Lili's house to get the magic box. They found all the fairy tale animals and unwished the wish. Finally everything returned back to normal.

"I'm glad that's over" said Paige.

"Me too." said Lili.

That night Lili went to her room and they were back on the wall as if they had never moved.

Tia

Tolu

"I have to fix this mess" said Lili.

She thought and thought, and then she got an idea. She went to Mrs Flynn's shop. When Lili got there, she asked Mrs Flynn how to stop the creatures from coming out. Mrs Flynn gave Lili a silver crystal so she could stop these crazy events from happening. Lili wasn't sure about it all.

When Lili got home, she put the crystal in the star case. After a while she opened it and it was glowing. Lili picked it up and rubbed it, she also made a wish that everything would return to normal. When she turned around the creatures were back on the wall. She even went outside to check everything was back where it began.

Lili said “Maybe, I might be a good artist, but hopefully not at making it come to life.”

Tolu. I am 10 years old. I am in 5th class. I am from Ireland but my parents are from Nigeria. I enjoy playing tennis and dancing. There are 4 people in my family. My favourite book is The Twits by Roald Dahl.



Wendy

“I have to fix this mess” Lili said quietly to herself running home. She had to track down the old woman.

Lili went back to the charity shop.

“Hi my name is Lili. The last time I came here I bought a box. I mean a magic box and I want to know where the old woman lives please” said Lili.

“Sorry I don’t know where she lives” said the man who worked in the charity shop.

Suddenly Lili saw a crystal that looked like a rocket with a string inside.

“Who brought that in?” she asked.

“Oh do you mean the crystal?”

“Yes,” said Lili.

“The old woman brought it in. She said it had something to do with the box you bought,” said the man kindly.

Right there, Lili knew that the crystal might be what she needed to get her fairy-tale creatures back to her picture. Lili bought the

rocket crystal and ran back home. When she got home, she went straight to her room and wished that every creature would go back to her picture. Lili was so surprised when she woke up and saw that all the creatures were back in her wall. She was so happy that everything was back to normal.

When Lili grew up she became a famous painter and a writer too. Lili never forgot the day she bought the magic box that brought her painting to life.

Wendy My name is Wendy Ekueanye. I am 11 years old. I am from Nigeria but I live in Longford now. I enjoy dancing, tennis, basketball, swimming and art. There are six people in my family. My favourite books are all written by Roald Dahl.



Wing May

“I have to fix this mess” said Lilli. “I have to go home and wish everything back to normal.”

After she had made that wish everything was back on her wall where they belonged. She was glad everything was back to normal. Until she realised everything, except for the goblin’s who were still at the library. When Lilli heard that the goblins were still library she was terrified. “How could they still be there?” wondered Lilli.

So she went to the library and wished all over again. Thankfully all the goblins were gone. She went home just to double check. And there they were on her wall.

After she was sure she continued painting but she promised not to paint on any walls again. She decided to paint on paper only!

Wing May My name is Wing May. I am 11 years old. I am from Longford. I enjoy karate and all sports. My favourite book is ‘Crazy Star’. There are three people in my family



Zara

She said “I have to fix this mess.”

Lilli went to her house and got her wishing box. She whispered to herself “I wish everything will be back to normal.” Sadly it did not work.

Lilli decided to track down the old lady. The old lady told her that she could not make a second wish. Lilli thought “that’s why it did not work.” The Old lady did not know what to do.

Lili thought she had to sort out the creatures herself. She took the magic paintbrush and tapped it on the creatures head. They disappeared back to the bedroom wall. Lili thought her painting was beautiful on the inside – not on the outside!!

Zara My name is Zara . I am in 6th class. There are 5 people in my family. I like watching TV and spending time with my family. I love music. My favourite book is I am David.



Luzanna

“I have to fix this mess said Lili. I have to go to track down the old lady who used to own the box”.

Lili went back to the charity shop.

“Do you remember the star box you sold to me?” she asked. “Can you tell me where the lady lives or what her name is if you know it.”?

The lady in the charity shop told her the address so off Lili went to the old lady’s house.

Lili talked to with her about the magic box. The lady didn’t understand Lili but Lili told the old lady what happened. Slowly the old lady said “You can fix it just one way. You can wish just one more thing – just wish that you don’t want a fairy-tale life anymore.”

Lili raced home and wished exactly that. Suddenly everything disappeared. Lili was so happy and she thanked the old lady.

Luzanna- My name is Luzana . I am 12 years old. I enjoy doing Maths and Irish. I also like to play with my friends. There are 5 people in my family. My favourite book is Roald Dahl’s James and the Giant Peach.

My name is Livia Curejova. I am 11 years old. I am in fifth class. I am from Slovakia. I enjoy singing. There are four people in my family. My favourite book is 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

My name is Renata. I am 12 years old. I am from Latvia but I now live in Longford. I enjoy dancing, sleeing, drawing and watching T.V. There are three people in my family – my sister, my mother and I. My favourite book is 'The Real Rebecca'.

My name is Wendy Ekueanye. I am 11 years old. I am from Nigeria but I live in Longford now. I enjoy dancing, tennis, basketball, swimming and art. There are six people in my family. My favourite books are all written by Roald Dahl.

My name is Natalia and I am 12 years old. I am in sixth class. I was born in Poland. I enjoy dancing, singing and drawing. There are four people in my family. My favourite book is 'Cinderella'.

My name is Amber. I am 12 years old. I am from Longford. I enjoy singing. I have two brothers and four sisters. My favourite book by Roald Dahl's book Matilda. My favourite hobby is Bowling