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Grade: 7
North Branch Original Fiction

Title: The Silver Lake

You know how some towns are just plain boring? Well Summitville is one of those places. All the adults joked that nothing ever happened there but to kids that was the reality. Until one day Hadley Smith heard singing in the woods...

After summoning up all her courage, Hadley walked into the woods, entranced by the beautiful song. Her parents always warned her not to leave the yard but she just had to find that singing. "It will be okay," she thought. "I will only be gone for a little while. They won't even notice I'm

gone"
But suddenly the wind started pulling her, pushing her, and dragging her

into the woods. Hadley tried to fight back but it was too strong! Finally it stopped in front of a lovely lake with beautiful crystal clear water, smooth as glass with silver and purple blossoms growing all around it. Entranced, Hadley ran to the edge and smelled the blossoms.

Then she felt the water, it was warm and smelled like sugar, but it wasn't even water at all. With a sudden surge of joy Hadley jumped in but when she came up, she was somewhere else entirely. Terrified, she scrambled out of the water but stopped. There in her path was a UNICORN! But what shocked her the most was when the beautiful beast opened its mouth and spoke to her in perfect english.

"Hello Princess" it said. Hadley, terrified and amazed, didn't respond, so it kept going. "My name is Calypso and I am here to take you to the palace."

Starstruck, Hadley stuttered "B-b-but I'm not a princess. I am just a girl."

Calypso shook his head "If this sounds rude my apologies but any so called "girl" who enters our kingdom is a princess." And with a flourish he waved his horn transforming her clothes into a magnificent pink dress made of tiny flowers. "Oh!" She cried. "This is

beautiful! Thank you so much!"

"We best be off" Calypso said and as soon as Hadley was safely settled on his back, he took off through the beautiful golden forest.

In almost no time at all they had arrived at a stunning emerald castle that sparkled in the sunlight. The gates opened and a trumpet sounded, greeting them in a royal fashion. Then a beautiful rainbow light appeared on the ground in front of them and there stood a beautiful fairy. In a surprisingly loud voice she announced "Hadley, I hereby crown you Princess of Sireenea, protector of magic, and keeper of the silver lake." Then she summoned a magical glowing orb and handed it to her. The magic swirled around Hadley until it disappeared.

Suddenly a clock chimed, reminding everyone it was 8 o' clock. Hadley panicked, she had been gone for 4 hours!

"Calypso!" she cried "I need to get home!" So the pair raced out of the palace and into the forest. Finally they skidded to a halt near the silver lake. "This was wonderful" she said to Calypso "I wish it didn't have to end." Suddenly magic started swirling from his horn. "What's happening?" Hadley yelled.

Calypso smiled sadly "I am a wish unicorn," he said "we can grant one wish in our lifetime and I am granting yours. This necklace will allow you to find the silver lake again and again." Then he disappeared. With a pang of sadness Hadley jumped into the lake, sobbing all the while and walked home her only comfort knowing she could return.

Though the lake would always make her sad, it was proof that maybe Summitville wasn't boring after all.