Behind the door

No one has come out of the little town of Gulliveg for centuries. (A chilling start!) The usually thick cloud of mist still hung there like a warm winter coat on the ridge of a chair. (a gorgeous simile here) A deadly woodland mostly surrounded them, covering all evidence of the existing ~~word~~ (world) that lay beyond them ; no one wanted to venture out. (great use of some interesting punctuation here) Except for Elenor. Elenor was much different from the other inhabitants in Gulliveg, others were either beautiful or handsome, like the princes and princesses in fairy tales. (I love that you mention fairy-tales, almost a fourth wall broken moment!)

Every single house in the town ~~were~~ (was) beautiful and grand cottages or simple needle-tipped houses. This was because the town council decided that everything should look neat and tidy(,) so no trace of the long-lost fairy tale remained. CRASH\* (lovely onomatopoeia) Down the road, a noise ~~that was~~ (of) tumbling rocks erupted, Elenor’s house to be exact. An ambling arched figure thumped onto the ~~wooden~~ (‘mahogany’ already means wooden so this is redundant) mahogany floorboards of the ancient attic who averted their eyes to the circular window. (gorgeous descriptions!)

“ What’s that? A door? But how?”(great use of questions) mumbled Elenor.

It was almost the witching hour at that time(;) no-one was outside. A little trip to the dark woods won’t hurt. Right? Well, that’s what she thought. (wonderful foreshadowing!)

Sneaking up into the night, the energetic girl creeped up to the white-tinted door. It was unlike any door that she ~~has~~ (had) (remember to keep tense consistent!) ever seen ; a soft radiant glow swam out of it (amazing personification!)….more comforting than anything the curious girl ~~has~~ (had) ever seen. But why was it dangling a carrot in front of her? It’s just a simple door. As she approached the golden doorknob, she remembered that if she ventured in, she might not come back. No, she thought and quickly erased that idea from her head and stepped in.

“ Who are you?” a voice chirruped.

As Elenor slowly opened her eyes, she had a small glimpse of a girl in a splendid golden silk dress. (gorgeous descriptors) Strangely, the intelligent-looking girl was a princess that had a combination of both amber eyes and curly blonde hair ; could a door lead to such a place? (I love how many rhetorical questions you use, to emphasise the outlandish nature of it all) What surprised the girl most was that the princess seemed like a reflection of herself. A prettier version perhaps. Elenor touched the figure, hoping that she would become the perfection before her eyes. But the princess frowned and mumbled only said one thing : ‘You don’t need to be rich to be pretty, that’s the moral of the story’. (a gorgeous moral, if a little obviously stated)

After the figure finished, a blast of light scrambled before her eyes and as she opened them, she was back in the humble town of Gulliveg. – Sisley

**What Went Well:**

-You use some of the really key elements of fantasy and fairy-tale in here, Sisley, and I love how you combine it with horror or suspense. You’ve included royalty, magic and even a moral! You use lots of great techniques to back up this mystery genre, such as rhetorical questions and even some foreshadowing.

-You use some very advanced punctuation, using semi-colons very successfully. I would love to see more exploration of this, perhaps using a colon to mean ‘because’ or some dashes. The punctuation you have used is very sophisticated, and heightens the standard of the entire piece. Very good!

-Your descriptions are outstanding, and I love how vividly you create an image in your reader’s mind. You use gorgeous adjectives such as, ‘splendid golden silk dress’, and even an amazing simile, ‘hung there like a warm winter coat’. Not only is that a simile, but it also includes alliteration. So impressive! Keep this up!

**Even Better If…:**

-I would love to see you incorporating a moral into the story more subtly, as you state it very explicitly at the end, with no real mention of money and its place in society before this. Morals are very important in most stories, so you would benefit greatly from planning out your writing to include it throughout. Perhaps Elenor is either very poor or very rich, and you could explore this idea more in the way people treat her, making the moral more relevant. I do like that you mentioned it though, showing that you took it on board!

-Make super sure that you keep the tense consistent. In this story, you’ve chosen the past tense to write a story that feels like it’s set many years prior. Take the line, ‘it was unlike any door that she has ever seen’. This ‘has’ is in the present tense, making the sentence jar with the rest of the story. Just make sure that you phrase it, ‘unlike any door that she **had** ever seen.’ You can proof-read your work to make sure that this is avoided!

-I’m being picky here, as overall your story is incredible, but you can sometimes overuse adjectives in your sentences. For example, when you say ‘wooden mahogany’, I’ve pointed out above that these words are interchangeable, and therefore one of them is redundant, so you can get rid of it. Adjectives are amazing to use, but just make sure they always add something exciting to your story, and aren’t being used for the sake of it.

Overall, outstanding work! :D