Thea

    The hidden door!

Once upon a time in the Deto Woods stood a door that nobody knew about. Nobody knew what lived behind the door. [I really like that you open with the mystery of the door!] ~~But~~, [I would avoid starting sentences with the word ‘but’. You can just start with ‘Hunters’] Hunters would go back home and tell their families tales of what lay in the woods. The word spread fast in the village. Before you knew it everyone in the town knew. But, one very curious boy named Edgar didn’t believe what the hunters said. Edgar lived in a small cottage with his mum and 3 sisters. They were rich and the children had to go to school every day[.] Edgar hated it there[:] [You can use a colon to mean ‘because’] he didn’t have any friends and the school teachers would always pick on him. When Edgar heard about the hidden door in the forest he instantly wanted to go and see where it was. He decided to go to the forest the next day. [I really like the narrative that you’re setting up here!] Edgar woke up early in the morning so he could have more time to explore. He silently crept through the house and opened the door. He made sure he left the front door ajar [nice vocab here] so his mum knew that he was out. Just when he was about to open the cottage gate his youngest sister appeared out of nowhere. “What do you think you are doing? It is six in the morning. You should be in bed! I am going to tell mum.” She said looking at Edgar[,] perplexed. [I really like this first obstacle here! It reminds me of the step-sisters in Cinderella]

“No don’t go and tell mum, Edith. She wouldn’t let me go to the Deto Woods!” Edgar knew that he had to persuade Edith not to tell mum.

“Did you just say you are going to Deto Woods! Well if you are, I'm coming with you!”

Edgar knew that it was going to be hard to change his sister’s mind.

“Fine, but you are not going to tell anybody and you will listen to what I say.”

Finally, they approached the woods.

“I don’t like this at all!” said Edith clutching on to Edgar’s arm.

“Well you did want to come and there’s no turning back now.”

Edith knew Edgar was right; she had ~~maken~~ [made] her decision and she there was no point in turning back now. The further they walked the eerier the woods became. [could you use some imagery to describe how eerie the woods are?]

“Look! Over there. Is that a door?” whispered Edith. Her hands shook. “That must be the door the hunters were talking about.”

Without thinking about what he was doing Edgar ran to the slightly ajar door [and] peeked inside. He gasped. Inside was a bar[,] not a normal bar but a bar that was full of ogres. [brilliant use of prompts! I’m glad that you used this idea and expanded on it :D] Just as he gasped an ogre spun around. The ogre murmured something and then before Edith knew it the ogre dragged him and his sister into the bar. Edith started screaming and kicking but it was no use[:] their grip was as hard as iron. [good simile!] That was when Edgar noticed how tall the ogres were.

“Look who we have here! Two filthy children!” said the tallest ogre.

“Ewwwwwwwww!” all of the others said. Ogres hate children. They think that they smell so bad and are always getting themselves in trouble. They placed the two on the table.

“What shall we do with these two?” asked the chief ogre.

“We’ll eat them alive!” one suggested smirking.

“Or play catch with them!” another suggested laughing. [This is so amusing, I really like this dialogue!]

That was when they saw their chance. Edgar and Edith bolted for the door. They didn’t stop or look back until they reached their cottage. Their mother whose eyes were red was waiting for them at the door.

“Where have you two been? Do you know how long we’ve been looking for you?!”

So Edgar told his mum the whole story and word spread around quickly. Now nobody dared to step a foot into Deto Woods!! [Good happy ending, and a cautionary tale!]

**What Went Well:**

-I love this take on the brief, Thea! Your storyline is very entertaining and imaginative, and you use a lot of fairy-tale conventions, such as creatures, family, adventure and mystery. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this!

-You use some imagery, such as the simile about the ogre’s grip. This is a really good sign of some great potential!

-You use some lovely vocabulary, such as ‘ajar’ instead of ‘open’, and ‘perplexed’ instead of ‘confused’. This is really advanced, well done!

**Even Better If…:**

-Some of your phrasing is a little stilted, with sentences that run on too long or missing pauses. To combat this, you can read your sentence aloud and, if you pause naturally in your speech, it’s probably a good idea to use some punctuation there!

-I would really like to see you pushing yourself more with imagery. Use some personification, or a metaphor where it feels appropriate. This, along with your high-level vocabulary, would make your writing sound very sophisticated.

-One thing I noticed multiple times is that you missed a few opportunities to use advanced punctuation, such as a colon or semi-colon. A colon can be used to mean ‘because’, or to start a list. A semi-colon can be used to mean ‘and’. These would both be great to use in your work!