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The Discovery

DRIP DROP the sound of the rain made the library seem even more comforting to Catherine than usual. It was a gloomy Tuesday evening and she was here once again, wishing that she could have a life of her own. Catherine loved the library but her mother, the only librarian in the small town of Hayley, made her come after school everyday to help her clean, sort books, and read to children. Catherine was never good with children and didn't understand why her mother made her read to them every night. Whenever she expressed these thoughts to her mother, Catherine heard the same response every time, "Catherine," her mother would say in a nasally voice, "When you get older you will understand the importance as to why I make you read to them." Then her mother would look into Catherine's eyes with a piercing glaze and would smile.

Today was different though. Catherine was in a good mood, and for once wanted to see the small group of children walk through the huge wooden doorway with eager looks on their faces. Just as she imagined that sight, she heard the rumble of small feet scamper up the steps outside, and the squeals of happiness as they ran through the rain getting soaked. The dripping children flowed into the main room of the library.

"Hey guys! How are you? Ready to read, I hope!" said Catherine with a huge smile on her face. Most of the children just nodded as Catherine led them into the reading room filled with colorful posters. She took her usual seat up front and started reading tonight's book. It was about a girl living in colonial America trying to learn about freedom and government. Catherine read with as much enthusiasm as she could muster. Then outside a bolt of lightning came from the sky and hit the only library in town. Instead of burning to a crisp like expected, the library started to glow.

Inside the building the children stared at the walls as they seemed to come to life. The posters on the wall seemed to disappear and shapes of colonial America took their place. She laughed at some of the shocked faces of the children. Some of them marveled at the horses and the carriages they pulled. Others were terrified of this new and unfamiliar world. Catherine looked outside and noticed the way people were walking around the room; it was like they were in a glass bubble.

Then she realized “We have got to get home, but I don’t know how!” Instead of panicking, Catherine decided to stay calm and think of how they could’ve gotten here in the first place. “Okay my options are: 1. The book has magical powers, 2. The room has magical powers, Or 3. Lightening could’ve somehow transported us from 2008 to 1781.” Catherine was leaning towards the last option, even as illogical as it seemed. “So if I was reading a story about colonial America while the lightning struck, maybe if we read a story about modern times and lightning struck the room again, we might be able to get back home.” It seemed like a long shot, but it’s worth a try. Finally she found the book that would hopefully transport them back home. Catherine sat in the front and, after calming the now frantic children, began to read.

CRACK! Lightening struck the room and suddenly 1781 was replaced with by the familiar colored posters. Catherine stood up and walked to the door, she was followed by the children, when she turned the doorknob and swung the door open they saw the comforting library in front of them. All of the children’s parents were here waiting for their child to come out after Catherine was done reading and she dismissed them. All of them were acting like nothing had happened. “Maybe nothing happened, but I saw the looks on the children’s faces, they had to have seen what I saw.” Catherine thought. “Did we all have the same strange hallucination, or did the room have something waiting to be discovered? Or is this the thing mom was talking about?, “you’ll understand when you get older.” Catherine wondered about these things as she heard another bolt of lightning boom in the distance.