

Story starter

Amy loved this place. It's where she came when she wanted to dream.

Sitting in the comforting tangle of roots beneath the silver tree, Amy let her thoughts drift. It was so peaceful here: the dell was bathed in a milky light that leaked through the canopy above. The only sound that could be heard was the relaxing trickle of the stream that waltzed its way through this labyrinth of serenity.

A barn owl, perched on a nearby, ivy-covered tree, ruffled it's hazelnut brown feathers, gazed at Amy with its wide, round eyes.

Butterflies danced gracefully through the hazy air, enjoying the dell as much as Amy did, if not more.

Seconds turned into minutes, minutes into hours. It felt as if she was caught in a dream - a blissfully happy dream.

Then, to the little girl in the dell's surprise, the owl spoke...

Continue the story.



Question time

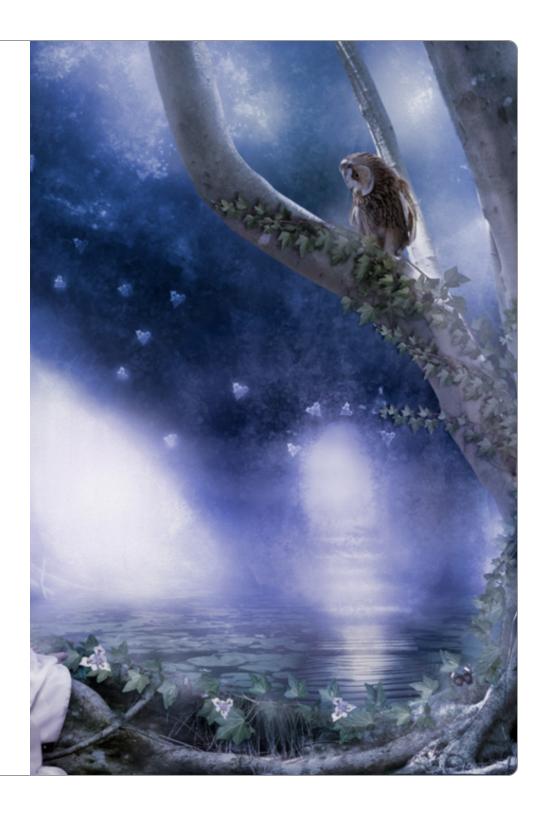
- Where is this place and why does Amy come here?
- Does anyone know Amy visits this place?
- Is it real, or is it all a dream?
- Explain what a dell is.
- Are there any other creatures that live in the dell?
- What will the owl say to Amy?
- What will she say back?
- How would you feel if an animal spoke to you?
- Why do you think owls are often referred to as wise?
- If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?



Sentence challenge

These sentences are 'sick' and need help to get better. Please help.

The girl sat on the ground. She was being watched by an owl. It was a nice place. It was peaceful.

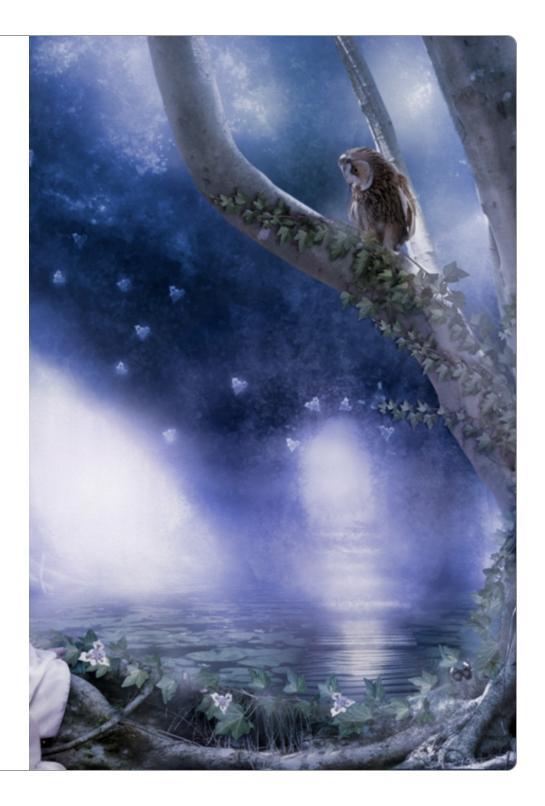


Grammar/punctuation challenge

Speech rules:

- begin speech with a capital letter
- punctuate the spoken words with inverted commas
- begin a new line whenever a new person speaks

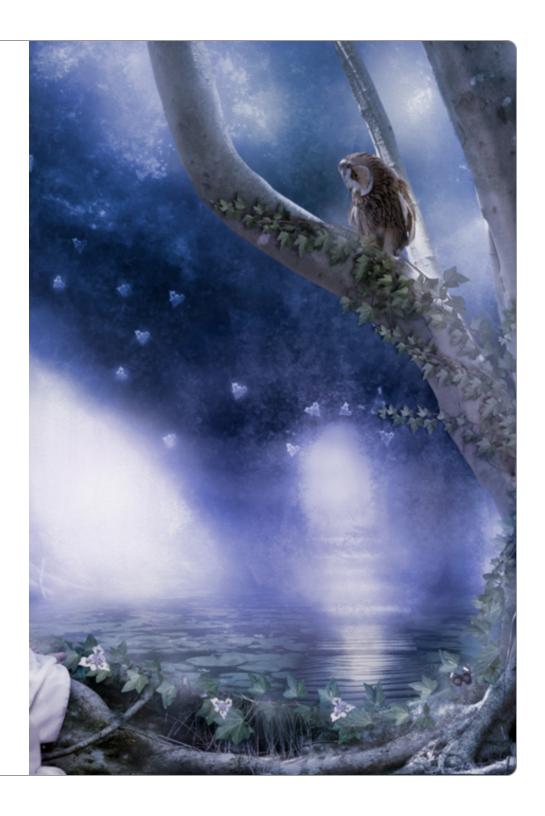
Write a conversation between Amy and the owl.



Picture it

Draw Amy and the owl speaking to each other, using speech bubbles.

Draw what might happen after Amy has had a conversation with the owl.



Thank you

Photo courtesy of Karen Alsop.

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