

It began when my best friend, Ava, and I discovered a strange map in my grandfather's attic. It was old, dusty, and had a big red X on it. "It's probably fake," I said. Ava grinned, "Only one way to find out!"

We packed snacks, flashlights, and water, then headed into the woods behind my house. The trees got taller and darker; it felt like the forest was watching us.

After about an hour, we reached a river. The map showed a bridge, but there was only a fallen log. Ava went first and almost fell in, but she made it. I crawled super slowly but made it too.

Then we saw glowing mushrooms lighting up a hidden path not on the map. Ava wanted to follow it. I was scared, but didn't want to chicken out.

The path led to a cave. Inside, we found an old chest covered in vines. My hands shook as I opened it. Inside was... a book. Just a book? Ava opened it, and the words glowed, lighting up our faces.

Suddenly, the cave shook. The book whispered,

"You are the chosen one, it's true,
The world now waits for what you do.
This path is strange, this quest is new—
Your big adventure starts with you!"

We grabbed the book and ran out, hearts pounding. At home, Grandpa's eyes locked on it. He stood and whispered, "You found it..."

"Found what?" I asked.

He breathed deeply. "It's a gateway."

"A gateway to what?" Ava asked.

Grandpa smiled, a proud, mysterious smile. "To adventures bigger than you can imagine."

That night, the book glowed on my desk. I looked at Ava. She looked at me. A map appeared on the first page with an even longer path.

Then we said in unison, "Let's go..."