



# Enchanted Forest

## Classroom Guide

*The forest has its own rules — and its own gifts for those who follow them*

**CASEL Competency:** Responsible Decision-Making

**Grade Level:** Pre-K–2

**Duration:** 40–50 minutes

**Category:** Adventure

## Learning Objectives

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- Learn that entering someone else's world means following their rules with respect
  - Discover that magical tasks test kindness and courage, not strength
  - Understand that gifts are earned by giving, not taking
  - Practice making ethical choices when faced with temptation
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## Overview & Preparation

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### Key Vocabulary

Enchanted • Forest • Threshold • Fairy • Task • Gift • Respect • Kindness • Magic • Courage

### Materials Needed

- The personalized story
- Green fabric/paper for forest setting
- Natural materials (leaves, sticks, stones)
- Paper and crayons
- Optional: small bells, sparkly fabric

## Before Reading

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### Connection Question

*If you stepped into a magical forest, what rules do you think it would have? What gift would you hope it would give you?*

### Background Building

An ordinary path ends at the edge of something extraordinary — an enchanted forest with its own rules. In this story, the hero crosses the threshold and meets talking creatures, discovers a fairy ring, and faces a magical task. But the task doesn't test strength or speed — it tests KINDNESS and COURAGE. And the gift the forest gives isn't gold or power. It's something the hero needed all along but didn't know.

## During Reading — Pause Points

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- **When the hero crosses the threshold into the forest** — The hero is entering someone else's world. What does it mean to enter a new place with respect?
- **When the magical task tests kindness instead of strength** — The task wasn't about being strong or fast — it was about being KIND. Why do you think kindness is the real test?
- **When the forest gives the hero an unexpected gift** — The gift wasn't what the hero expected! Sometimes we get what we NEED, not what we want. What's the difference?

## Discussion Questions

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1. The enchanted forest has its own rules. Why is it important to respect the rules of a place you're visiting?

↳ What rules does our classroom have? Why do they matter?

2. The task tested kindness, not strength. Why is kindness harder than being strong?

↳ When was being kind the hardest — and most important — thing you could do?

3. The forest gave a gift the hero didn't expect but really needed. What's something you needed that came as a surprise?

↳ Why does the universe sometimes give us what we need instead of what we want?

4. The hero returned home changed. How does visiting a "different world" (a new place, a new experience) change you?

↳ What's a place you visited that changed how you think?

## Facilitation Tips

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Create a "threshold" in the classroom — a decorated doorway that students step through before the reading. This physical transition mirrors the story and creates a magical atmosphere.

## Emotional Payoff

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*The forest doesn't reward cleverness or power — it rewards kindness and courage. The gift isn't gold; it's something the hero needed all along. The hero returns home changed, carrying the forest's lesson: the best things are earned by giving, not taking.*

## After Reading Activities

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### The Kindness Challenge

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Scenario cards, timer

Draw scenario cards: "A creature drops something." "A tree is sad." "Someone is lost." In each scenario, practice: what would the KINDEST response be? Time pressure adds urgency. The fastest answer isn't always the kindest. Discuss what makes kindness hard and important.

### Design a Forest Gift

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Natural materials, paper, glue

Using leaves, sticks, and stones, create a "forest gift" — something the forest would give a kind visitor. It must be something that HELPS someone, not something to keep. Share: "My forest gift is \_\_\_\_\_ and it helps \_\_\_\_\_."

### Threshold Ceremony

Duration: 10 min | Materials: Decorated archway or fabric drape

Create a classroom "threshold" with fabric and natural materials. Each child steps through and declares an intention: "I enter with kindness." "I enter with curiosity." This becomes a classroom ritual for transitioning into reading time or calm-down time.

## Writing Prompts

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- Draw the magical forest and the creatures who live there. What are its rules?
- If the forest could give you one gift you truly need (not want), what would it be?
- Write the rules of YOUR enchanted place. What must visitors do to earn a gift?

## Home Connection

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### Family Letter

Dear Families,

Today we read "Enchanted Forest," about a hero who enters a magical world and discovers that the forest's test is KINDNESS, not strength. The gift wasn't gold — it was something the hero truly needed. Your child practiced being kind under pressure and designed their own "forest gift" for someone else.

Here is how you can continue this learning at home:

- Create a "threshold" at home (a blanket fort entrance?) with a rule: say something kind before entering
- Talk about a time kindness surprised you or changed a situation
- Take a nature walk and imagine: if the forest could give you a gift, what would it be?

With warmth,

Your Child's Teacher

### Related Books

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- The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton
- Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett (simplified)
- Owl Moon by Jane Yolen