

CHERRY BLOSSOM

By

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“It is promising when young writers put pen to paper and make great use of their talent.

This is a story set in a secondary school in Japan; a mysterious voice; a magical stone and a flashing light lead Kiko on a mysterious journey... ”

-Gihon Publishing

Remember and Forget

The tawny sunset covered the light night sky. Sighing, Kiko watched the sun, lowering over the swaying, calm waves of Japan. Kiko Swanasee loved watching the sun. She thought it was some kind of story, tracing her life every day. A fairytale.

“Bed time!” That was Sapphire Swanasee, Kiko’s mum. She and Kiko were alike in many ways. They both liked beaches, jewels and especially dressing up.

“Yes mum,” she answered wearily. Even though it was quite early, she was extremely tired and took ‘bed time’ as an excellent remark.



As she trotted up the purple-covered stairs, something popped, surprisingly into her brain. “Last day of school,” she thought, non-uniform day. She would choose what to wear tomorrow. Taking off her clothes weren’t a problem.

Unlike other girls, Kiko had smooth, silk chocolate brown hair. Her clear-blue eyes looked around the pink and white bedroom. The decorations were jewels and flowers all over her room, giving her the sense of adventure and everlasting love.

Her eyes loomed around, from bed to mirror to wardrobe. Then they stopped at the clear, transparent window. She gazed steadily at the sun. Going down, down, down and down.



Taking her eyes off the sun, she bounced on her bed in her flower patterned Pyjamas. She stopped jumping, looking satisfied. Snuggling in, she pulled up the covers. Knowing tomorrow was a new day.



It was sunrise, and Kiko yawned and let herself be toppled out of her bed. She slowly plodded down stairs to have breakfast; “Today is a surprise school dinner sweetie,” called Sapphire from the kitchen. “Don’t forget to dress up today!”

Kiko trotted back upstairs, how could she be so absurd. It was the last day before the summer holidays and she had completely forgotten about it. At the back of her bedroom was her jewel encrusted dress up box.

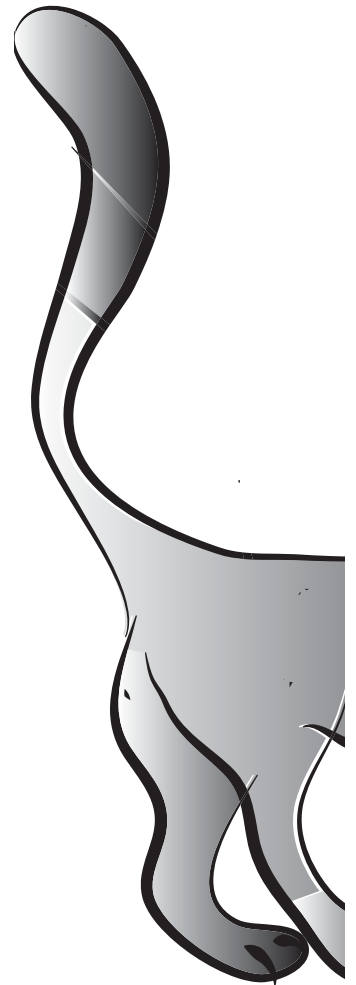


It was the only thing her dad had left her with until he disappeared that night without a trace. Gone. Gone. Forever. As she looked over the box she saw a glow in the picture of the castle, she saw a man wave to her and then he was gone! Kiko blinked her eyes half a dozen times.

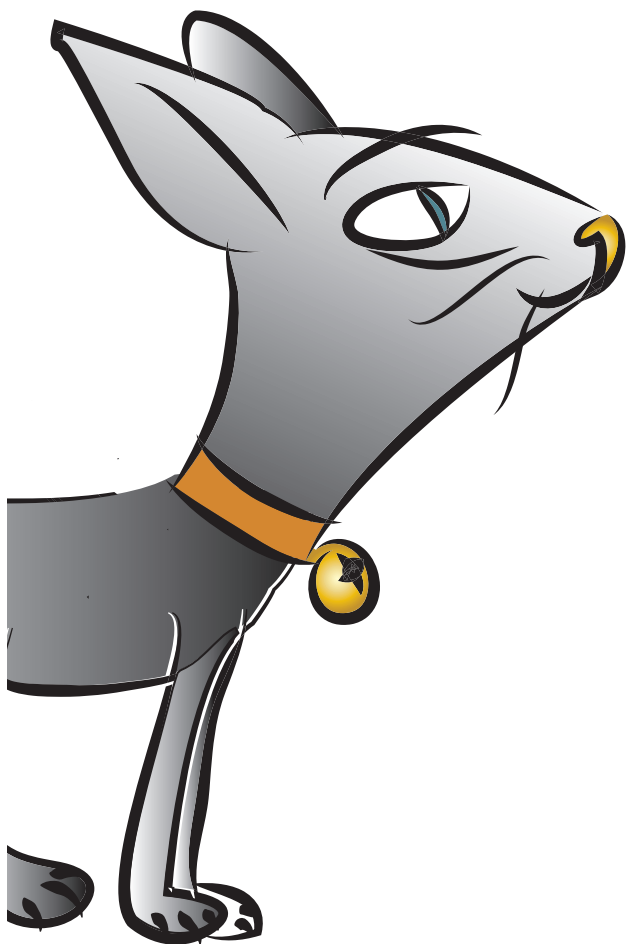
“Maybe my eyes are playing tricks on me,” she murmured as she opened the lid of the box slowly. There were clothes, not just ordinary clothes, but dresses and shining armours tucked up in this diamond encrusted box.

“Come on Twiler wake up,” Kiko called.
“Come on girl help me choose the costume I can wear!” Twiler was Kiko’s coral and pearl coloured cat. Kiko found her by a flower at twilight, that is why she was called Twiler.

The cat stretched in her cushioned basket and prowled to Kiko to receive her usual morning stroke from her owner. Twiler purred as she was being stroked.



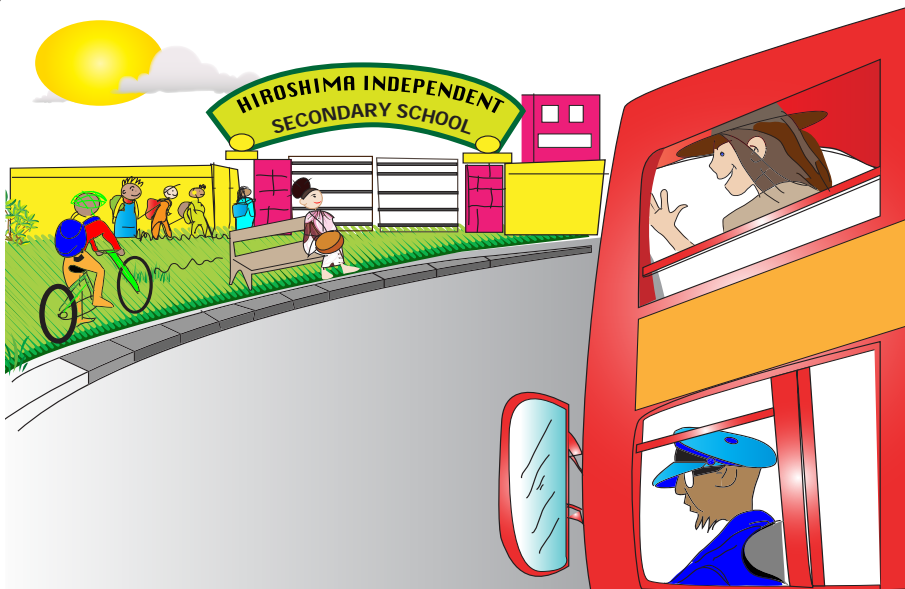
“What should I wear today?” As a response, the cat streamlined into the box and in seconds came out with an adventures kit. “Good choice Twiler, time to get dressing!”



Total Rush Hour

“Hiroshima Independent Secondary School, here I come!” Kiko was in the double decker bus for school and feeling the breeze is what she loved most.

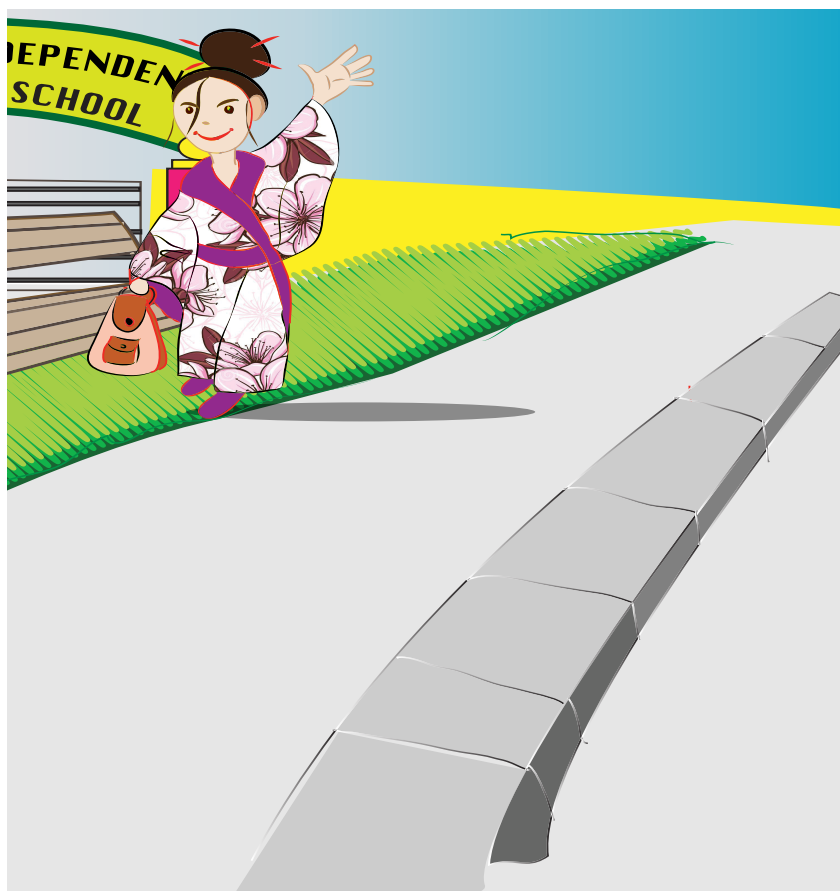
“Next stop, Hiroshima,” called the driver. As the bus skid to a halt, the doors creaked open. Kiko came running down the stairs, and once she reached the doors she spun around to face the driver smiling, “thank you!”



By the corner of the road, Kiko's friend, Akari, was waiting patiently on a bench. Waiting, waiting, waiting and waiting. "Akari!" called Kiko, "Akari, where are you?" "Coming," replied Akari.

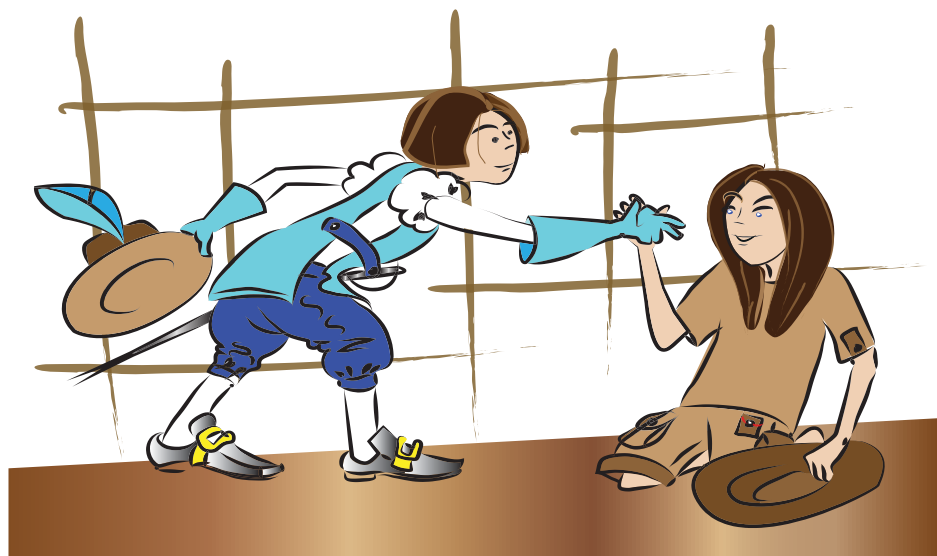


She was wearing a pink, silky, cherry-blossom kimono with her hair pulled into a high bun. Both of them walked in silence until they reached their school. Akari then broke the silence. “See you at maths then,” she murmured quietly, as they awkwardly parted in absolute silence.



Kiko? walked in the school corridor very carefully. She did not want to tread on the electronic candles set up on the side of each corridor in the school.

DRING!!! “Oh no!” Minutes later, Kiko found herself in the hall on the floor staring face to face with Yumma-Kun. “Are you all right Kiko” said Yuma-Kun holding out a hand. “I’m fine thank you. I like your musketeer outfit,” said Kiko kindly.



Yuma-Kun was wearing a perfectly made outfit made from pure silk. The glossies and wool were from Japan.

“Thanks,” smiled Yuma-Kun, slowly walking towards the door. “Next stop,” said Kiko to herself, “Mrs Blossom’s class room.”




The Big Bang

“Good morning class,” called Mrs Blossom enthusiastically.

“Good morning! Mrs Blossom,” the class called back eagerly with perfect harmony.

“Today we are going to do the things on this list:

An illustration of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a page. The hands are drawn in a simple, cartoonish style with orange-brown skin and black outlines. The fingers are curled around the edges of the page, which is framed by a black border.

9:00am-9:05am >

Talk about why we chose our costumes.

9.05am-9:30am>

Assembly about the importance of stories with break

9.30am-9.45am >

Storybook time

9.45am-10am >


Our favourite fairy tales

10.00am-11am >

Free time

11:00am-11:30am >

Food tasting



11:30-12:00 >

Tour around Sumo Beach

12:00-1:00 >

Lunch

13:00-13:10 >

Registration and points

13:10-14:00 >

Write your own story book

14:00-14:10 >

Laminate and edit story

14:10-15:00 >

Assembly presentation

15:00-15:15 >

Chocolate giving

Everybody gasped at the last and chattering started. The only people that weren't chattering were Mrs Blossom and Kiko.

Meanwhile, in Akari's class, Mr Rowland was strolling up and down his desk, repeatedly telling the class things they shouldn't do. "No jumping, or skipping and definitely, no stuffing," he said, in his old gruff voice and then there was a.....B A N G!! Item.

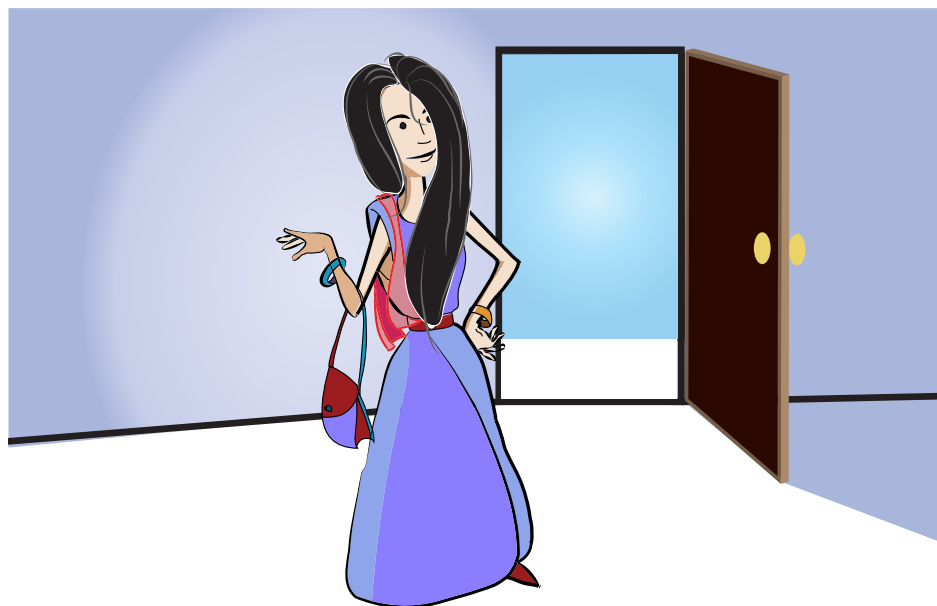
The Mysterious Visit

A black cat streamed in, stalking majestically it jumped to rest on the desk... Mr Rowland's hair looked like it was on fire, and his clothes shot to the left, electrified. Slowly, a round of applaud arose from the class, it grew louder and louder and louder. "STOP!" screamed Mr Rowland and abruptly, the clapping stopped, "class is dismissed, walk to the hall in silence." Quickly and quietly, the class got up from their seats and ran to the hall.

On the other hand, Kiko's class was starting its first lesson. "Alex why did you choose a superhero costume," asked Mrs Blossom kindly.

"I chose my outfit because I love superheroes and they save the day, but now I'm too old for it. My mum bought me this instead," said Alex and then he tugged the hem of his outfit and it fell down to reveal a DJ rapping suit. "Cool, isn't it?"

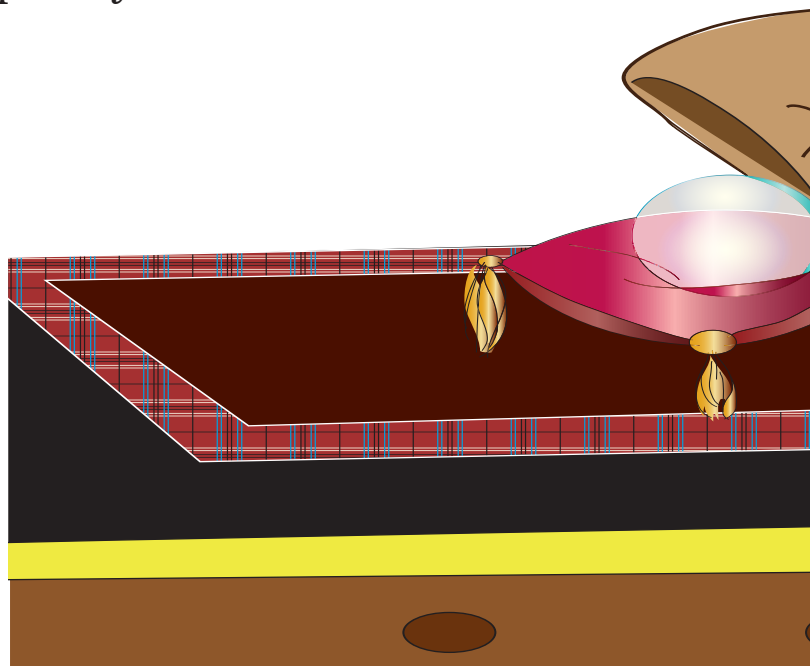
Everyone stared at awe and with admiration once Sara-Chan came flowing into the room. “Principal would like to see Kiko Swanasea please,” smiled Sara-Chan. Kiko had a bad feeling about this.



The Rare Diamond

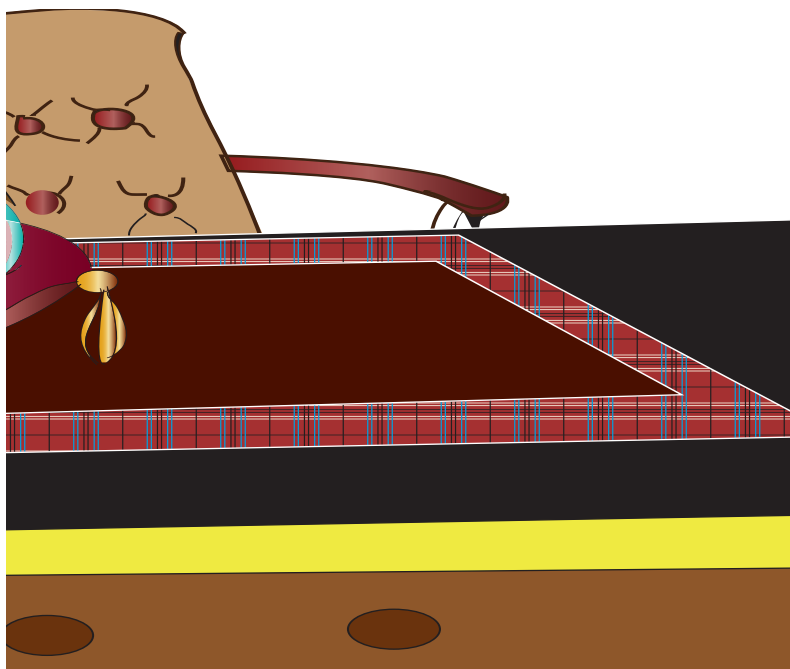
Kiko plodded slowly down the endless corridors, thinking and thinking and thinking, “Ok, I give up,” she mumbled to herself, “why do I need to see Principal Sanapi?” She sighed sadly as she approached the Principal’s door and reached her hand out to turn the rusty handle.

“Go outside and knock!” said a cold stern voice. Kiko stumbled backward and carefully closed the door behind her. She knocked quietly at the old oak door.



Kiko stepped into the dimly lit room and gasped. On the desk lay the most beautiful crystal the world had ever known.

“Catherine,” called the voice, “give the girl the crystallite.” Catherine was a maid with long fair hair; “Don’t let anyone see you have it,” she said as she put it in Kiko’s hand.



Seconds later, Kiko found herself outside her class door panting for breath and finding it hard to stand. "Help me please," she called. And all went black. "Kiko, Kiko, are you all right, please wake up." Akari shook Kiko until one eye opened. Kiko jumped in surprise, nearly falling off the bed. "Where are we," she asked. "We are in the hospital wing," Akari replied.

And then there was a flash, the same flash Kiko saw before it went black. What and where was it coming from?

Humiliating Moments

“What’s the matter Kiko?” Akari asked staring worriedly at her younger friend. “Nothing she said” as she saw the light dim. They walked to the playground talking about what happened in each of their classes. Once they reached the playground it was already playtime and they were suffocating under the heat.

“Help me please,” called Sara-Chan grinning evilly at Kiko and Akari. “Oh, sorry,” she said not really meaning it; I didn’t mean to make you faint.”

She sashed off and a group of girls followed her like a mother duck with ducklings. Kiko's fist clenched tightly and her eyes were red with fury, but seeing the anger in her face, Akari took her hand and led her to the bench furthest away from Sara and her gang.

"Don't take any notice," said Akari reassuringly "they are just trying to annoy you and get you angry." Even though Kiko knew she was right, she had an urge to get back on Sara some day. DRING!!! The continuation of lessons. They had to line up in order on the dotted yellow line.

Here is the order:

Max Adebayo

Felix Belay

Cara Calculadora

Mimi Densely

David Emanuel

Francis Florio



Margaret Gorsila

Leah Honda

Kacy Anoka

Iona Juba

Liam Kantian

Jacob Lawrence

Kiko Swanasea

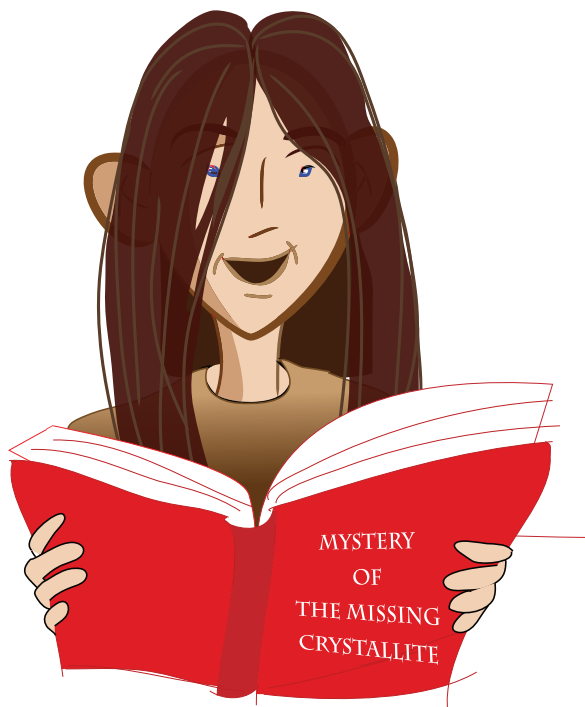


As Kiko joined the back of the line, laughter erupted out of the silence. Kiko sighed; she knew the rest of the day was going to be unbearable.

The Unknown Reason

“Next on the list isss...,” murmured Mrs Blossom impatient, “story time.” Kiko did a silent cheer and her teacher smiled kindly at her.

As a result, Kiko got to choose what book they were going to read. It was called “The Mystery of the Missing Crystallite,” and the word “Crystallite” sounded familiar. Kiko carefully reached into her pocket to find the crystal the principal had given her.



She remembered the words Catherine had said, “don’t let anyone see you have it.” Kiko pushed the thought of her crystal out of her mind and listened to the story.

It was about a girl called Sapphire who fell in love with a Prince called Luis, but he lived in another world. When they grew up, they grew up to have a girl called Kiko (meaning happiness and celebration).

One day Luis left Sapphire a crystallite and vanished that evening.

Kiko thought for a minute, “it sounded like her family, but where was the crystallite and who owned it?”

SNAP! Mrs Blossom snapped the book shut and called for silence. “I have had an urgent call from Mr Rowland,” she shouted worriedly, “we have to go to the Hall of Fame for recess.”

The class lined up and ran away to the hall. “HELP,” Kiko heard and she saw the light she had seen before. Once they had reached the hall all the school were there.

You shall all be sent home,” called Mr Rowland sternly. Kiko wondered, what was going on?

The Secret Hangout

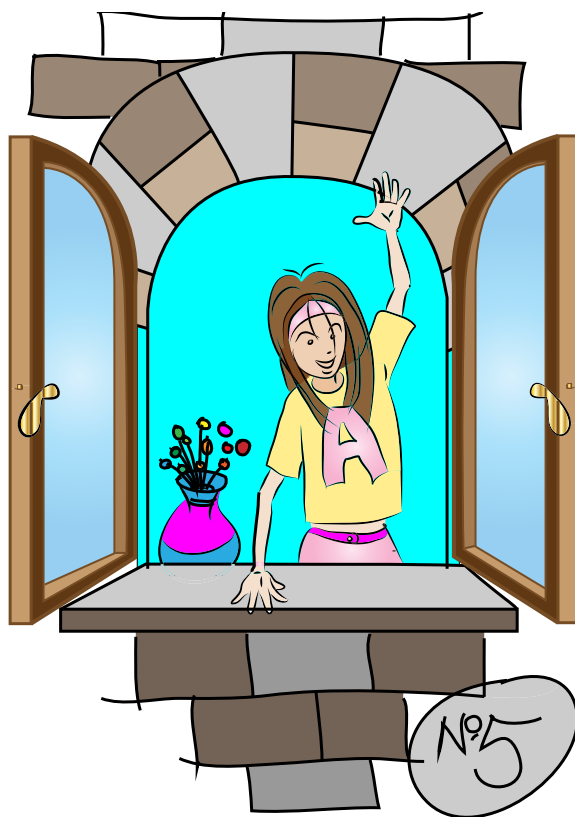
Once Kiko was at her house, she called Akari, on the telephone, “Do you know what happened at school today?”

Kiko asked while doing her homework. “Not really, but I got a text from Cara saying that the teachers were scared of something happening,” replied Akari combing her hair.

“Do you want to come over, my parents aren’t back from work yet and all the girls from your class are coming for a chat.” Kiko thought for a minute and answered with a “yes”.

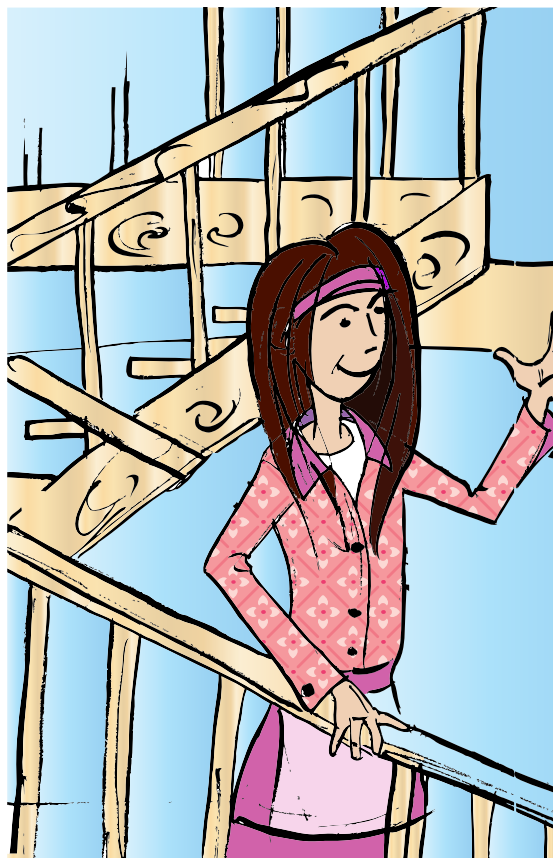
Akari lived at number 5 Seaside Street, SJE AID, and as for Kiko she lived on 100 Crystal Avenue, CJY RST.

Kiko was only 12, so she couldn't drive. She called a cab and it drove for about 10 minutes to find a house like mansion with a big window on the top with Akari waving. Kiko suddenly found herself inside the house with all the girls in- her class.



Akari came downstairs dressed in a shirt and shorts. “Make yourself feel at home,” Akari called.

“you may only stay downstairs, except Kiko.” The group of girls split up like peas, popping out of a pod. Akari beckoned Kiko upstairs to her room.



Do you have any storybooks or movies I could watch, asked Kiko looking around the room.

“Okay let’s watch Jewel Flash the movie,” said Akari turning off the light and slotting the movie into the Big-Screen. Akari and Kiko sat down and the movie began.



Once the movie was finished, the door bell rang. "Time to go home, see you later," said Akari as Kiko went down the stairs. Kiko saw her parents and smiled, they smiled back.



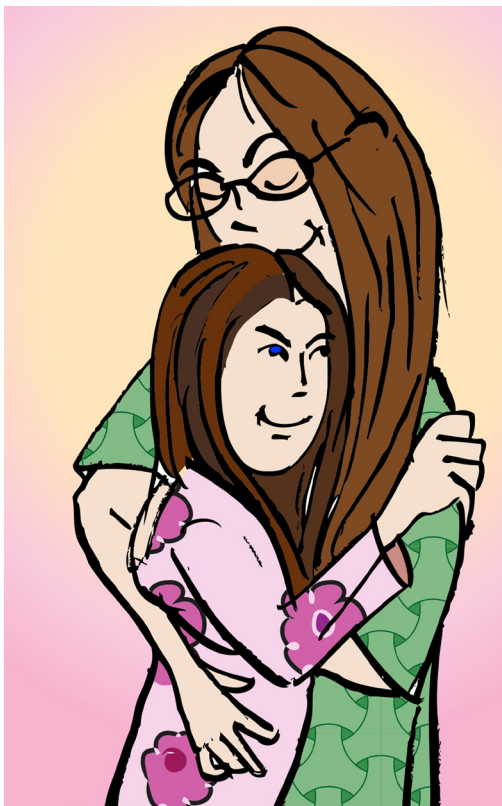
The Secret Secret

Kiko was awake. Wide awake. saying to day is a holiday. “Today is the first day of the holiday.” Kiko laughed as she did a dance and bed back flips.

Sapphire came into Kiko’s room; Kiko jumped to her and hugged her tightly.

“It’s going to be the best summer holi- day ever,” smiled Kiko’s Mum.

“I promise.” But neither of them knew it was going to be their last.



It was past ten when Kiko actually went down the stairs to the living room. “How long does it take to just get dressed,” asked Akari on the phone.

“I will be coming over for a sleepover because I am bored.”

In ten minutes Akari was outside the cottage, dressed in the best summer kimono she had. “Okay, will you girls be going outside or will you be staying inside?” Asked Sapphire, while making pancake breakfast with syrup.

“Inside,” called Kiko, we are doing something secretive. The chances of ever doing this thing were very short because of how much work they were going to do.

Sapphire giggled as they ran upstairs and remembered her time as a kid, giving her the feeling of childhood.

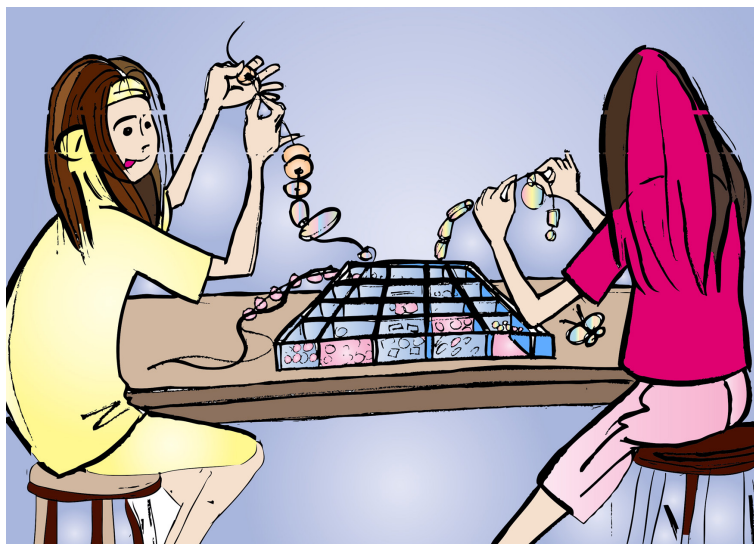
The Visit

Upstairs Kiko and Akari were making bracelets and necklaces from colourful beads and Jems.

“I’m making an extravaganza of a bracelet,” called Akari proudly. “My mum will be impressed!”

Meanwhile, Kiko was trying to make a necklace out of the crystallite. After some struggles she finally got it done.

The butterfly and charms tingled as the crystallite lit up.

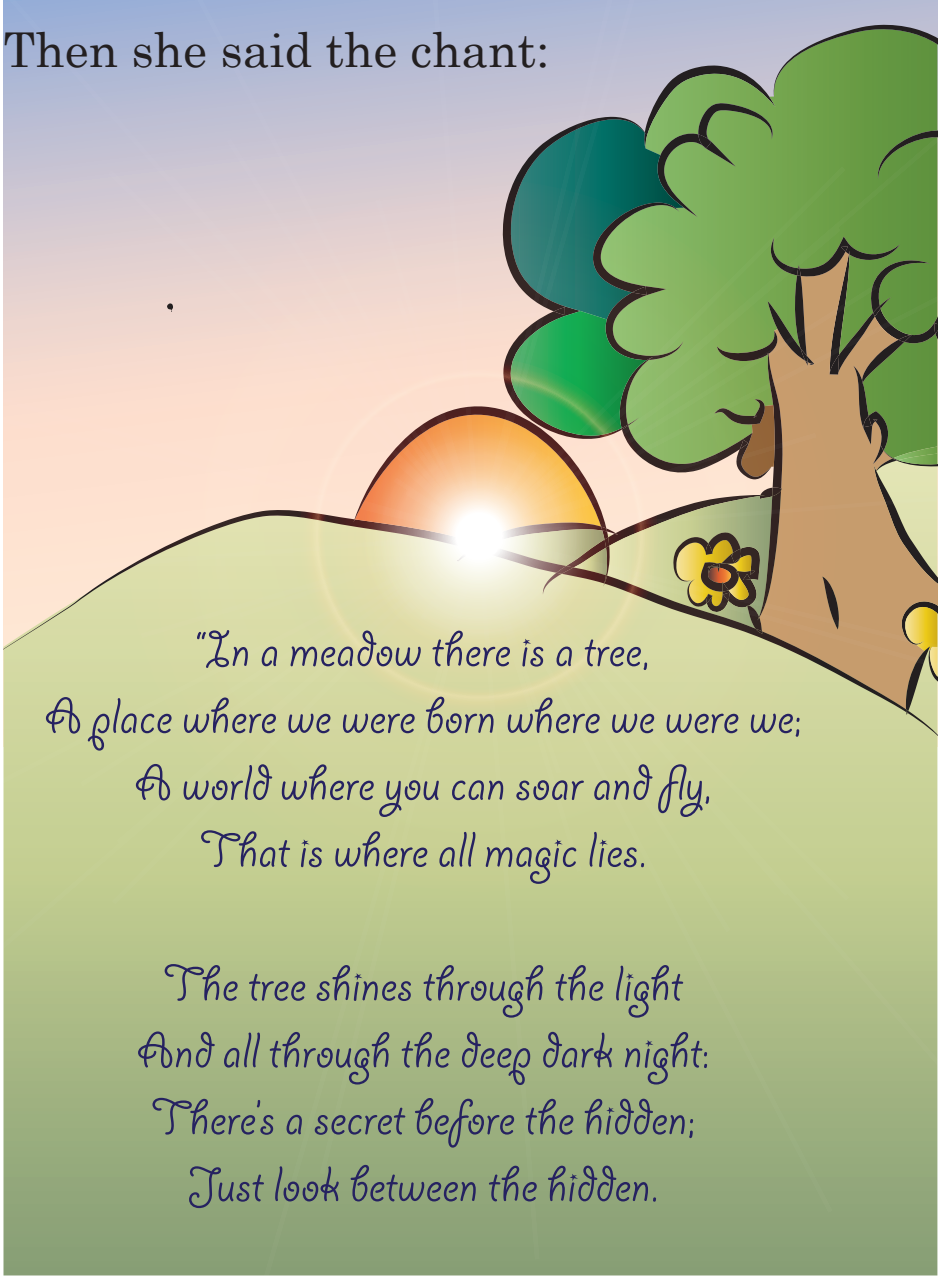


“Excuse me for a minute,” she locked the door and the necklace rose out of her hands and carefully slid onto Kiko’s neck. Suddenly the crystallite turned into a pendant with a heart shaped jewel in the middle.

“Wow,” she said then something clicked in her mind.

“Akari,” called Kiko, “I’m downstairs,” Akari answered. Kiko walked to her dress up box, she held the pendant also.

Then she said the chant:



*"In a meadow there is a tree,
A place where we were born where we were we;
A world where you can soar and fly,
That is where all magic lies.*

*The tree shines through the light
And all through the deep dark night:
There's a secret before the hidden;
Just look between the hidden.*

Once she finished, a small glow emerged from the box. A small pixie appeared from the glow, its wings transparent and a light pink colour. Her hair was dark in an untidy bun, as her top and skirt matched her red shoes.

“Hi I’m Trixie,” said the pixie smiling. “I’m a royal pixie in Shimmer City, ruled by King Luis!”



All this time Kiko was staring stupidly at the pixie amazed, then she finally spoke, “I’m Kiko Swanasea, daughter of Sapphire Swanasea,” she murmured, staring at the floor sheepishly.

“Well then,” Trixie said, in her glittery voice, don’t tell anyone about this, your necklace is magic, so wherever you need me slot it in the box and say:

“Crystal Hart, Crystal Hart, I summon you with all my heart.”

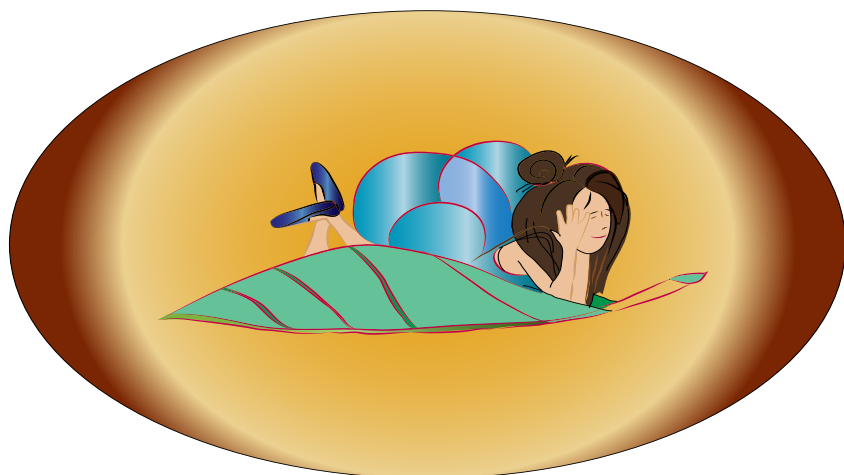
And with that, she disappeared. “Time for bed both of you,” called Sapphire. If you want anything, I have made cupcakes down stairs.

Before you know it Akari and Kiko were stuffing their mouths in icing and sugar. In 10 seconds 3/4 of the cakes were gone, but before any more could be demolished, Kiko and Akari found themselves in their bedroom.

The Unexpected Journey

In her bed, Kiko was intrigued by the magic her necklace held. It could summon things from another realm and she felt like she needed to go on an adventure. She got out of bed and scrambled to the box, luckily Akari was sleeping in a different room.

“Crystal Hart, Crystal Hart, I summon you with all my heart,” and a glow started to emerge and there in front of Kiko was a sleepy pixie floating on her leaf.



Hi Trixie,” smiled Kiko as her pixie friend shook out of her sleeping gown and straightened up a little to see her tired face in the mirror, “Sorry I woke you, but kind of felt my necklace, tingling for an adventure, and I feel very excited and I really want to see your home and so can you take me to Shimmer City... please,” hurried Kiko without a pause.

“Okay, but we have to make a replica of you sleeping in your bed, so stand still,” murmured Trixie drowsily as Kiko stood absolutely still with her eyes shut.

Sparks evolved from Kiko giving her a replica, but sleeping in bed. “Jump!” screamed Trixie as she pushed Kiko inside the box, Kiko closed her eyes waiting for the bump, but it never came.

She opened her eyes to find herself inside a multicoloured tube with her pixie friend on her shoulder.

“We are in a transport tube and it will take us to Shimmer City,” whispered Trixie as they entered a crystal tube which led to Shimmer City.



Suddenly Kiko felt land and the ground, she opened her eyes, it took her breath away, it was home.

It was an amazing sight, Kiko gasped, enthralled. She saw the bejewelled castle in the midst of her, she just sat there with her mouth hanging open.

“Maybe we could visit the king and somehow have a tour of the castle,” whispered Trixie laughing with her silvery voice as Kiko pulled up her mouth embarrassed by her appealing behaviour.

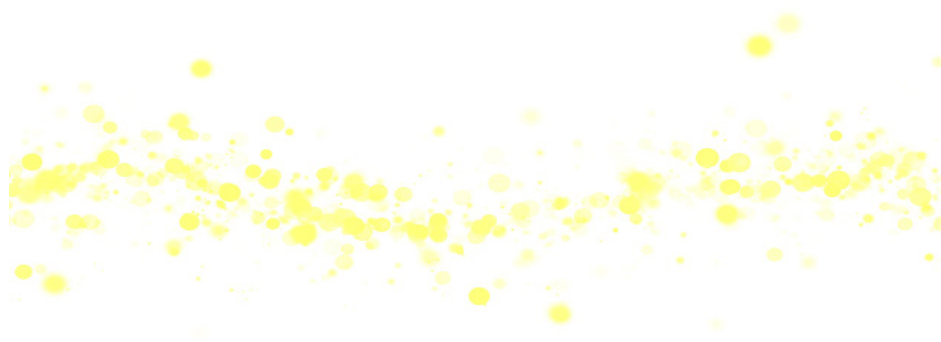
Both of them set off to the castle, It was a tiring distance away, but relief spread through Kiko as Trixie showed her a short cut to the castle that took them 5 minutes.

Because Trixie was a royal pixie, the nymph guards let them in and one of them escorted them to the door of the throne room.



Nerves squirmed inside of Kiko as Trixie used her magic to open the door, and the first person she saw was ... her mum!

“Kiko you finally came,” she exclaimed, as she rushed towards her daughter. But behind her, she saw a man who had the same eyes as her with his traditional chocolate brown hair.



“Father,” Kiko whispered taking a step forward. “Kiko is that you,” he said taking a step forward. His majestic clothes were floating as he ran and his crown was knocked aside as he hugged his daughter.

Sapphire joined the hug and Kiko knew she was really home.

