

The Wishing Tree

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Deep in the woods is a secret tree. Only one boy knows about it. It's a wishing tree.

One day, the boy followed his dog into the woods. They stopped at the tree.

"I wish I could climb this tree!" the boy said.

POOF! His wish was granted. He was in the tree!

The leaves began to giggle.

"Hello!" they said. "Pleased to meet you!"

"My name is Noah," the boy said. "What's yours?"

All the leaves started to talk at once.

"We are the Wishing Tree," the leaves said. "We see good children and give them gifts."

"I wish I had one million dollars!" said Noah. But nothing happened.

"I *said* I wish I had a million dollars!" Noah said, louder.

"We heard you the first time," said the leaves.

"What good are you, anyway?"

"Very good," said the leaves. "This is a very good tree."

"Then give me money!" Noah demanded.

"We can only give you good things. Things that will make you a better person."

Well, that didn't sound like much fun. He thought of a new wish.

"I wish I could fight a dragon!" he said.

"Do you honestly think we would conjure a dragon?" asked the leaves.

"I guess not," said Noah. "Well, then, I wish I were brave enough to fight a dragon!"

Suddenly, Noah was standing at the bottom of the tree.

"Wish granted!" said the leaves.

"Arooo!" said Peanuts the dog.

Let's go!" said Noah. He and Peanuts ran out of the woods. But Noah didn't feel very brave.

Some wishing tree that was! No money! No dragons! What a waste!"

Crack! Suddenly, something hit him in the back of his head.

"Hey, No-Brains!" someone was shouting.

"Oh no!" Noah said to Peanuts. "It's Mitch the bully!"

Mitch was throwing peanuts at Noah.

"Here are some peanuts for your dumb dog!" Mitch said.

That was the last straw! Noah couldn't take it any more.

"Go away, bully!" he yelled. "You never hurt dogs!"

"Aroo!" howled Peanuts the dog.

"Whatever!" said Mitch. "You're not worth my time."

Mitch left.

"Yay! He left!" Noah said. "Thank you, wishing tree!"

Noah had never told Mitch to go away before. But on that day, he was very brave. Being brave was just like fighting a dragon. Being brave was better than having a million dollars.

You see, Noah thought his bravery came from the wishing tree. But the truth is, the tree didn't grant any wishes. Noah did it all himself. Being brave came from inside.

If you could make a wish like Noah, what would you wish for?