

# SARAH AND THE SECRET CASTLE – 1

Read the modern-day fairytale.

Once upon a time, there lived two girls who were in the same class at school. Sarah was quite clumsy but always telling jokes that made her classmates laugh. Josephine was quiet, well-mannered and elegant. Most lunchtimes, both girls could be found in the playground. Josephine would gracefully sit on the swings while Sarah would athletically hang from the monkey bars.

Looking from the outside, the two girls had very little in common. However, there was one thing that they did share—a secret wish to have a very best friend.

One afternoon, Sarah was walking home from her guitar lesson when she spotted the long, silver car Josephine disappeared into at the end of each school day. It was parked outside a block of grey, quite shabby flats. Sarah decided she would see if Josephine wanted to play with her. She tapped on the closest door which was quickly opened by a tall, distinguished looking man wearing a white shirt with a winged collar and tie, a black coat with tails and pinstriped trousers. The man instantly frowned.

‘Please go away!’ he snapped at Sarah. ‘Do not come here again.’

Sarah stared at what she guessed was Josephine’s butler. Being the rascal that she was, Sarah ducked down and scrambled into the house through the butler’s legs. She quickly stood up and was about to make a run for it to find Josephine but, instead, she froze on the spot! Before her was a magnificent grand ballroom—the size of her school hall! Sarah did a ‘double-take’, looking back at the front door and then again at the enormous room. It had many chandeliers hanging from its high ceiling, a pristine marble floor and amazing statues that servants were busily dusting and polishing.

Sarah spotted an elegant girl walking down a staircase, wearing a spectacular lavender ball gown. Her hair was piled on top of her head and featured a sparkling tiara.

‘You’re a princess!’ Sarah called out to Josephine, who spun around in her dainty white shoes. Josephine glided over to Sarah and gently pushed her through a marble archway into a room with a dining table the length of a swimming pool!

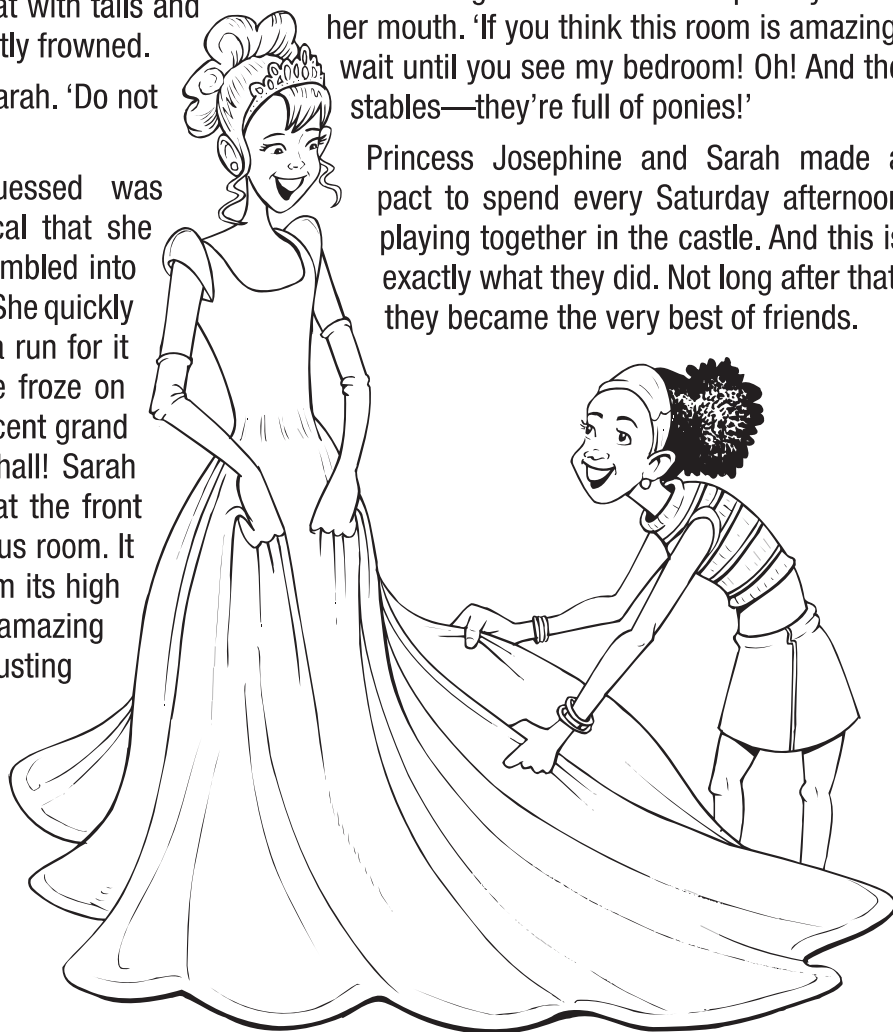
‘How did you ...’ Josephine began. But then she shook her head and started to whisper. ‘You are right. I am a princess. This is my family’s castle. You HAVE to promise not to tell. You MUST promise!’

A mischievous smirk spread across Sarah’s face. Although her mind was spinning with questions about how a castle could exist behind the front door of a shabby grey flat, Sarah remembered her secret wish.

‘I promise I won’t tell ... but only if you let me play here in the castle with you.’

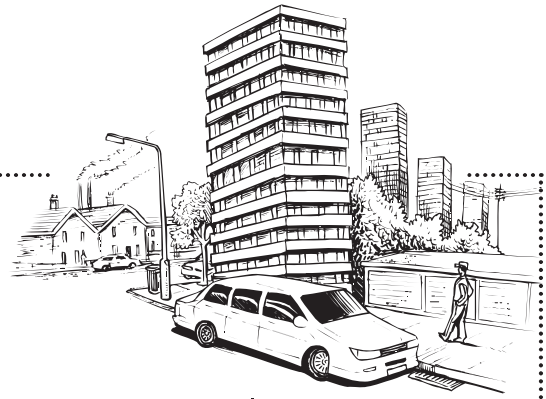
‘OK!’ Josephine giggled with excitement, remembering a little too late to politely cover her mouth. ‘If you think this room is amazing, wait until you see my bedroom! Oh! And the stables—they’re full of ponies!’

Princess Josephine and Sarah made a pact to spend every Saturday afternoon playing together in the castle. And this is exactly what they did. Not long after that, they became the very best of friends.



# SARAH AND THE SECRET CASTLE – 2

Use the text on page 15 to answer the questions.



## 1 Literal

(a) Complete these sentences.

(i) Both girls wished they had \_\_\_\_\_.

(ii) Sarah discovered where Josephine lived because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Sarah was confused about how a castle could \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) List three things that helped Sarah deduce that Josephine was a princess.

## 2 Deductive

(a) Write words and phrases to describe how you think Josephine may have felt having to pretend to her classmates that she was an ordinary girl.

(b) Why do you think Josephine made Sarah promise that she wouldn't tell her secret?

## 3 Evaluative

(a) Do you think Sarah kept her promise? Explain your answer.

(b) Which character from the story do you most resemble? Tick the traits you have

**Sarah:**    joker ☐    clumsy ☐  
              athletic ☐    mischievous ☐

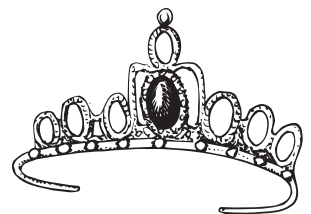
**Josephine:** graceful ☐    polite ☐  
                  quiet ☐    proud ☐

(c) On the back of this sheet, draw portraits of Sarah and Josephine. Compare your drawing with a friend's and discuss the similarities and differences.

# SARAH AND THE SECRET CASTLE – 3

Use the text on page 15 to help you complete this activity.

- 1 Sarah had so many questions to ask her new best friend. Write five questions you think she will ask Princess Josephine.



- 2 Circle one of the questions. Answer it as if you were Princess Josephine.

- 3 Sarah and Princess Josephine spent so many Saturday afternoons playing together that Sarah's mischievous personality began to 'rub off' on her new best friend.

Choose one of the characters and write a diary entry that describes a Saturday afternoon's adventure.

**Character:**     *Princess Josephine* ☐     *Sarah* ☐

Saturday \_\_\_\_\_