**The Faraway Tree**

Jo, Bongani and Nazreen move to live near a large forest, which the locals call "The Enchanted Wood". One day they go for a walk in the wood and discover it really is enchanted. They encounter a group of elves who have been robbed of important papers by a gnome. They chase the gnome and recover the papers, but the gnome himself escapes up a huge tree whose branches seem to reach into the clouds. It is called the Faraway Tree. The tree is so tall that its topmost branches reach into the clouds and it is wide enough to contain small houses carved into its trunk.

Against the elves' advice, the children climb the Faraway Tree.

As they are climbing the tree, Jo slips and gets some **bark** in his mouth. Ewww. That did not taste good.

A little higher, the tree is growing some fruit so the children take some to try – they look like plums but don’t taste like **plums**.

The tree is weird though, because it grows **leaves** that look like oak tree leaves but has different types of fruit along with acorns.

Soon the children come to a window which is closed. They try to peek in but a very angry person comes and shouts at them so they continue up the tree.

Watch out! they hear someone shout. They look up and see water coming towards them. They move out of the way but some gets in their mouths – **yukky soapy water**.

A head popped out of a window near the children. “Sorry – that is Dame Washalot – she washes a lot and throws the dirty water down the tree. You need to watch out or you could get soaked”. The man had a strange face, almost like a moon – very round. “I’m Moonface” he introduced himself. “Would you like to come in?”

The children were glad for a break from their climb and went into the strange, round house of Moonface. He offered them something to eat and drink. The strange **wedges** weren’t sweet at all. The biscuits had a sweet runny substance inside that Moonface said was **sap** from the tree. The **lemonade** was very bitter though and the children didn’t eat much of the strange feast.

After they were done, they said goodbye to Moonface and continued up the tree. Now the tree was growing **acorns and nuts** instead of fruit. Nazreen wanted to try some.

The children were growing tired when a beautiful girl appeared. “Hi, I’m Silky” she said. “Would you like a sweet”, she said. The children nodded eagerly and tried the **sweet** she gave them. She told them that they were almost at the top so the children decided to keep going a little further.

They were so high up now, there were **clouds** all around them.

They came to a large nest perched on the top of the tree. The children climbed inside and there were baby birds almost the same size as them. They were cheaping, obviously hungry. Just then, a big bird swooped down and started feeding worms to the baby birds. She must have thought the children were birds too because they each got a **worm** shoved in their mouths.

After that, the children decided they had had enough of an adventure for one day. Luckily, there was a slide that took them all the way down the tree called the slippery slip. The climb had taken forever but the slide down was very quick.

* Bark – bran flake
* Fruit – pineapple
* Leaves – lettuce
* Soapy water – water
* Wedges - cheese
* Sap – syrup
* Lemonade - lemon juice
* Nuts – peanuts
* Sweet – chocolate
* Clouds - candyfloss
* Worm – sour worm