

# The Book of the Future

Hazel was deep into her book. This book that Hazel was reading makes you feel like you're going into another universe. When she glanced at the clock and realized the time, it was 12:25 am and she had to go to sleep.

She shrieked in horror! She slammed her book shut and quickly turned off her lights. She was about to go to sleep but that's when she realized the book that she was reading was glowing. Hazel's eyes widened and she rubbed her eyes. The book was still glowing. She picked up the book. It was glowing in her hands. Her eyes opened up wide as she gasped!

Hazel bravely opened the book and closed it several times. Open, close, open, close. It stopped glowing. She let out a sigh. Hazel could not have any distractions today. She had the biggest debate of her life tomorrow in school. The majority of her grade in history class depended on this important debate, and she had to get a good night's rest. She double checked her alarm clock, it was set for 5 o'clock.

"I'll deal with you tomorrow," Hazel said to the book.

She woke up the next morning and was running 30 minutes late. She checked her alarm and sighed. The alarm she had set the night before had not gone off because she set it for 5 PM instead of 5 AM. She slapped herself and scrambled out of bed. Hazel hurriedly went to her bathroom and got quickly dressed.

"HAZEL! YOU ARE LATE!" hollered her older sister who she despised from downstairs.

Hazel rolled her eyes and got her backpack. She looked around her room really quickly and rushed downstairs.

"Hazel, why are you so late? I thought you had a debate tod-"

"Yes I know! Bye!" She grabbed a banana from the fruit bowl for breakfast and rushed out of her house and ran to school. She had the debate first period, and she was late! She rushed into class, barely making it unnoticed

and started to prepare her for debate. " Good morning lawyers! First up Maria against Laura! Good luck! " said her teacher.

Name after name, Hazel didn't get called on to debate the rest of the class. She checked her watch. Two minutes until class was over! Hazel's name wasn't even called on to debate! Oh how happy she was, she could practice her debate for another day. " Okay, not much time left but Hazel, you're up next," She stopped and stared at her teacher, Ms. Martin. She got up and started debating against her opponent. She could feel the eyes of her classmates watching her, but all she could think about was the book glowing. She finished her debate and got ready to leave for the next class. She was not feeling like she would win and get a good grade.

The rest of the day was a total snooze-fest. Being in eighth grade wasn't so entertaining. In fact, being in school was the most boring part of the day.

When the day was over, Hazel was the first person to run out of class. She didn't stop running until she got home. She just wanted to grab her book and get lost in the thoughts; that is exactly what she did. She grabbed the glowing book and leaped on to her bed. Except that it wasn't glowing anymore. That was weird. She was about to open it when her mom called her for dinner. She sighed and got up to go to dinner.

All Hazel thought about during dinner was reading her book and trying to figure out what causes it to glow. She ate as fast as she could and she rushed to her room.

Finally, she opened the book and started reading. She flipped to the first page, it said " It was a dark and stormy night and the wind was howling in the trees." Hazel read. As she continued reading, she realized that suddenly, the day turned dark and the wind was howling. You could even hear the trees rustling in the wind. Then it turned sunny again. "What? That was weird," Hazel thought to herself. She opened the book again, started reading again. Suddenly, she felt a cool breeze. A breeze coming from the book. She felt a pull, a sort of an attraction, tugging her into the book. "AHHH!!" she screamed! Then suddenly she was floating. She screamed, but what she didn't know was that no one could hear her.

Hazel was terrified. She finally stopped floating and was dropped on her bed by the air. She closed her eyes, pinched herself and pretended this was all a dream. However, she knew what she was feeling was indeed very real!

As if on cue, a portal grew out of the book. It was whisking with magical waves in blue and purple. Sort of like a galaxy in deep dark outreaches of space that she had to step in.

The curiosity was killing her. She needed to figure out what was all this that was happening to her. Simultaneously, she was also scared. What if she could never get out of this portal? What if she never saw her sister and parents again? But, she knew she had to step into this mysterious dimension.

So, gathering up all of her courage, she stepped into the whirling wall of magic. All those years, she thought magic was not real. Maybe if she had opened this book, she would have known. As soon as she stepped in, she closed her eyes. Instantaneously, she opened her eyes and saw that she was falling from the sky. She closed her eyes so that she wouldn't be able to see herself crashing into the ground. She hit the ground or so she thought, but it didn't hurt. Hazel opened her eyes and she realized she was hovering an inch away from the ground. "How? How is this happening?" she screamed at the top of her lungs. She was sitting crisscrossed with the book in her lap. She opened the book and started reading. "There will be an old man that will show you the way to your destiny." she read aloud. As she was reading, she became aware of a chuckle behind her. She tried to turn around from her awkward position. It was kind of hard because she was still floating in the air. Yet, she managed to do it as fast as she could.

There was a strange man standing behind her. She stared at him and he laughed again. "You my dear, are the chosen one to uphold the force of the magic."

"What? Magic?" Hazel said in disbelief. This was exactly what she read in the book. She pinched herself, and no surprise, it was real.

"Yes, now come along," he waved his hand and Hazel stopped floating.

"How did you do that? Where am I? Will I ever go home again? Why me out of a million people? CAN YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT I AM HERE FOR?" Hazel was tired and she needed some answers.

"One question at a time, but first, calm down, you are in the fifth dimension "

"What does that mean?"

"No questions, you will find out later."

Hazel followed the strange man into a majestic castle that was oddly familiar. There was a stage in the middle of the castle and a woman appeared out of thin air on the stage. She announced, " Welcome all chosen ones! Today is the day all new members will be able to learn why they are really here. May all new members come up to the stage."

The old man was nodding as he pushed Hazel to the front of the stage at Stamford High School.

" Come on, you are a new one"

"What does that even mean?"

"I said no questions."

Reluctantly, Hazel went on stage with many other people who seemed to be as perplexed as she was as a new member.

"To see if you are really the chosen ones, you must pass a test." said the woman, "but first of all you all must be wondering why you are here. This is the magical 5th Dimension of Connecticut. There is a magical side and a normal side for humans. The magic side is for you."

Hazel was puzzled, What? A magic side?

"Follow me to the House of Wonder, where you will seek your challenge." All the new members followed the woman so Hazel did too.

Just then, the book that Hazel was holding disappeared into thin air.

What..? Hazel thought.

They entered a mysterious looking house and stepped inside. Hazel hated haunted houses, but this was leaning more to the mysterious side.

"You will have to work together to solve a puzzle to get you out of here. Good luck."

What was the puzzle? No explanation. She shut the door and left. They were all scared of the unknown, Hazel could see the fear in all their faces. Everyone was scrambling to find a clue. Hazel was scanning the room when she saw a really strange bookshelf, with books that she thought were familiar. She

came closer to see and pulled out a book. It was just like the one that she had that had glowed. Hazel had decorated hers with gold gems and had engraved her initials into the leather cover so she could tell hers apart. It was the same one!

She opened the book and read "Together you must begin by cleaning off all this brick dust. There was a brick next to the bookshelf. That will hold the key to let you escape." "Okay everyone, this is the clue. Find something to help break the dust off." she said. Everyone immediately started looking around and Hazel did too. Someone found a piece of cloth and someone found another brick.

"Lets smash this brick on top of the other while everyone else keeps looking." Hazel said, taking the lead. A boy and a girl came to help her. "Hey, I'm Mark and this is my twin sister Julia." "I'm Hazel, thanks for helping." she smiled.

Suddenly, someone walked right into a skeleton and fell down crying. They fell right into a metal rod that was connecting the skeleton bones. Someone took care of the person that just fell while everyone else started to help Hazel with smashing the brick with the rod. They opened the brick and found the key, covered in dust. The boy who found the piece of cloth started to clean it off. He quickly met Hazel's eyes and threw the key to her. Hazel caught and they all rushed to the door to watch her unlock it. She opened the door. Everyone cheered and congratulated each other.

"That was really easy!" A girl said to Hazel. It was the same girl who had helped the guy who had fallen into the skeleton. "Hey Hazel, I'm Maria, we're in the same history class in school!"

"Oh yeah! How cool is this Maria!?" Hazel said, glad to see someone she knew.

The woman appeared "Well done everyone! You are the chosen ones. Remember, this challenge was about teamwork, not about how fast you can solve puzzles. We will inform you if we need you all for more teamwork in the future. For now, we will return you all to your homes now. But remember, never forget this day."

The strange man that she had first seen when she was floating had appeared to her. "Ready to go home?" he said and Hazel nodded. The man gave her the glowing book. Hazel's jaw dropped. "How do you have this? This is my exact copy. I carved my initials on the leather cover and decorated it with gold gems." She said. The old man gave her a sly smile. "It's a secret," He said, handing Hazel the book. "Now, read the ...1225th page." Hazel gave him a puzzled look but reluctantly flipped to the page. "It's the exact time that you found out the book was glowing,"

Hazel gave him a look, "Not even surprised that you know that." He laughed, "Read the page and you will go home."

Hazel read aloud "After you solved the clue and headed to the old man that you first saw, your grandfather, he will give you the book and you will read it. As you read this page, the old man will teleport you to your home. You will have a million questions at the end, but no one to answer them." Hazel was perplexed. "What do you mean by "Grandfather"? My grandfather was gone a long time-" Hazel turned around and didn't see the old man. "Where did you go?" She looked around and he was nowhere to be seen.

She glanced back at the book and looked around again. Is this what the book meant? She will have a million questions and no answers. But then she realized, she was at home in her room floating, on top of her bed. This was again, exactly the same as what the book had said.

Hazel quickly realized that the book was not just an ordinary book, it was a book that could predict the future. Except, what was the part of her grandfather giving her the book? She needed answers.

She opened the book, flipping page after page. The words had just...disappeared. Hazel kept flipping until she reached the last page. It had faded, pale words. It read: I am proud of you Hazel for finding the book of magic. Visit us again. - Grandfather (The old man).