Leah and her friends were having a teddy bears’ picnic to celebrate her birthday. They all loved Leah’s garden because it had so many interesting places to explore.

Leah’s mummy appeared with a very big parcel that had arrived from Uncle Bob. Leah tore off the birthday paper to find a long cardboard tube full of colourful flags.

‘Wow, what are they?’ Leah asked.

“They’re flags from around the world. You have a French flag, some African flags and the flags of China and India,’ Mum answered.

‘Those flags are fantastic!’ said Alice.

Let’s pretend that the garden is the whole wide world and we can put a flag in every country!’ said Gus.

‘Round and round the garden like a teddy bear,’ sang Leah’s friend, Adie.

‘Round and round the great big world like a teddy bear, one step, two steps, France is over there!’ Alice sang as she ran off towards the giant bushes.

The children wandered carefully through the dark, tangled, prickly bushes.

‘This doesn’t look like France to me,’ Leah called to her friends.

‘I went to France on holiday and we climbed up the Eiffel Tower. It was very high, it made my legs ache,’ said Gus.

‘Let’s pretend that the tree house is France. That’s very high, it makes my legs ache climbing to the top,’ said Leah.

So the children climbed to the very top of the tree house with the French flag. They dangled the red, white and blue stripy flag out of the tree-house window.

‘We are so high up now, I can even see the long garden wall,’ Alice called.

‘It looks just like the Great Wall of China from here. I saw the Great Wall of China on television in the Olympics cycle race,’ said Gus.

‘Let’s pretend the garden wall is China,’ said Alice.

They all marched off to China waving the big red flag with yellow stars flapping in the corner.

Alice pushed the flag of China into the long wall.

‘Let’s walk along the Great Wall of China,’ said Gus.

‘But where does the wall end?’ asked Adie, as he clung on tight to his teddy.

‘The wall ends in Africa, follow me,’ said Leah.

Everyone followed, until they came to an enormous sandpit.

‘I can see sand for miles and miles!’ said Gus.

‘All I can see are snakes and elephants!’ said Adie.

‘Don’t worry, they’re not real, they’re only old toys,’ said Leah.

‘Let’s pretend it’s an African desert. We can plant all these African flags in the sand,’ said Gus.

‘This desert is making me feel hungry and thirsty. How do we get back to your house Leah?’ Alice asked.

‘I’m not sure, this is where I got lost once before,’ Leah answered.

Adie began to cry.

‘Don’t cry Adie, we’ll find our way home. Let’s go back around the world to where we started,’ suggested Gus.

So Gus led his friends through the African desert, along the Great Wall of China and up the Eiffel Tower in France.

They looked out of the tree-house window where they had hung the French flag.

‘There’s Leah’s house. Let’s go!’ Alice shouted.

Leah dragged the last flag behind her.

Mum opened the door. ‘Dinner’s ready,’ she said.

‘We’ve been all around the world and we didn’t get to put the Indian flag anywhere,’ Leah sighed.

Leah propped the flag against the kitchen table.

‘Well, that Indian flag is perfect for in here,’ said Mum. ‘I’ve made Leah’s favourite meal for a birthday treat – a tasty Indian curry with naan bread for everyone to share!’

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