

Coventry Building Society's Young Writer of the Year competition 2025

I came home from school and there was a mystery box at the end of my bed.
I couldn't believe what was inside...

With another gruelling day concluded, I dragged myself up stairs ready to collapse into my cosy bed. Struggling to open my door, I noticed something wasn't feeling right... there was a... box blocking the way! How did it get into my room? Behind my door? What could be inside? Pushing my door harder to open it, I saw that there was a petite, mahogany box with intricate carvings. All of a sudden, a thick layer of grey fog started spilling from the cracks that covered this mysterious box, as I held it. I couldn't believe it! I had never imagined that I would ever find something magical on my bed, but still I only had one question in my head: What could be inside?

With calm and steady hands, I wandered towards the box with questions filling my mind. But as I got closer and closer, the sides of the box suddenly fell apart and the lid flew open! Confused, I peeked inside the box, I saw a discoloured piece of chalk, an ancient



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crumbling scroll with something that looked like a magical portal drawn on a wall and a fragmented scroll with three words 'PopTar, Otkpblt, cerYac'. Sitting under all these unfamiliar items, something caught my eye it was a piece of paper with something that looked like instructions, how to draw a portal! My mind started blowing with confusion and excitement. But the real question was clear did I dare to follow the instructions?

Hands trembling in awe and wonder, I decided the instructions to start my adventure! Curious as a cat, I began to gather all items that begged me to pick them up. Nervously, I started to draw the portal on the wall following the instructions graciously. As I accomplished the last step, I hollered my three magic words 'PopTar, Otkpblt, cerYac'. All of a sudden, the light started flickering as if by magic but by now nothing could stop me. Since I was too determined keep on going feeling alarmed, I took some steps away from the wall. Within seconds I saw a swirling dark opening, something which looked like a portal activating. My jaw dropped and as I stepped a few steps to step inside to peek inside but I suddenly tripped over my foot and went blasting into the portal...

