

Coventry Building Society's Young Writer of the Year competition 2026

People said the big tree was magical. And if you found a golden leaf under it, you could make a wish and it would come true...

Every Sunday, Jack walked past the strange, gargantuan tree on his way to the forest. Mysteriously, it stood at the entrance of the forest. It was a mystical, magical tree with ancient, gnarly roots shooting out of the soil and also with thick, twisted branches. He always looked under it to find the Golden leaf just in case, but he only found withering, crumbly leaves and that made him feel depressed because he really, really, really badly wanted to make a wish. One day, Jack walked past the tree again and stopped to zip his coat. Suddenly, a huge swirl of leaves swirled around him, but one looked different to all the others and that caught his eye. His heart was beating faster. His eye lit up. He was speechless. It was a Golden leaf! It was so shiny, it looked like the most precious diamond in the world. Gently, he picked it up, but his hands were shaking because of excited he was! Jack was astounded. He could make a wish! Fth. There were so many things he could wish for! Could he wish for a million pounds? Or maybe even a mansion? Then he remembered! His most important wish. He knew he was going to wish for humans to stop killing animals because he loved animals. Excitedly, he held the leaf and took a deep breath and then he wished quietly. Suddenly, the leaf quivered and sparkled and then vanished. Only a few



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All together, better

glimmering specks remained! The next Saturday Saturday, Jack's
parents told him that they could go to the zoo and when they
arrived there were loads and loads of animals! His wish had come
true! He was bursting with puppy happiness. That day when they
arrived home, Jack felt so lucky that he had found the Golden
leaf. The big tree was standing there, its branches swaying gently
in the breeze like it was saying hello. The next day, Jack looked
under the tall, elegant tree but never found one but then he remembered
that one wish was all that he needed.