Coventry Building Society's Young Writer of the Year competition 2023

The girl on the swing

I looked out of the window and I could not believe my eyes. My favourite place in the whole world. The place for me when the world no longer made sense. Suddenly, the girl stopped swinging and looked up directly at me. I quickly moved away from the window. After a few seconds, I crept back up again and saw the girl was no longer there, but the swing was still swiftly moving.

I ran downstairs aiming for the garden door, but stopped when I saw that she was eating at the table. She was not alone. For some reason, my mum was there and some other man. The man no one who I knew, but why did he look so familiar? 'Mia, don't forget to eat your vegetables', said mum. 'OK, I will', said the girl. I asked 'who is this girl and is her name Mia?' but no one replied. Instead, they carried on with their dinner and talked amongst themselves. I started screaming at the top of my lungs: 'hello over here, why is no one answering me?!'

Suddenly, I was back in my bed and I realised it was all a dream. Phew! I peeked out of my window. Nope. No strange girl in my garden! I sped downstairs and saw my mum washing the dishes. 'What's the matter, Mia? I heard you scream!' I told my mum all about my dream. Partly, I was confused and wanted answers. This helped me to bring up the dreaded question: 'Mum', I asked anxiously, 'what happened to my dad?' What happened next was as though I had broken my mum's best china. Why was it so hard to answer this question? Why should I feel like I've done something wrong? I realised that it was not my mum's fault. Why did he leave me? Did he not love me? I ran to my favourite spot. I felt a tear running down my cheek. My mum gave me a diary which belonged to my father. 'I hope, when you finish reading this diary, all your questions will be answered.' He was actually a secret agent. 'I have left a gift for you in the attic.' The gift was his phone number and a pile of our memories together. From that day on, I got in contact with him every day.

Humairah
Year Group 4 winner 2023
St Laurence's