The Quest of the Painting
By Desiree, Chicago

It was Wednesday, June 24, choice day, at the Gary Comer Youth Center. All of the 5th and 6th graders were gathered in the art room. But for some reason the entire room was covered in paintings.

“Okay everybody, I have a job for you,” the art teacher, Ms. Devin, told everybody.

“What is it? Search the room for trash?” Jayden asked sarcastically.

“Stop being mean, Jayden!” Kaliyma said.

“Thank you, Kaliyma. And no, we are not searching the room for trash. You need to find three items: a key, a locket, and an ancient map,” Ms. Devin explained.

“And where exactly would we find those?” Jayden asked.

“Yeah, where?” everybody asked.

“In here,” Ms. Devin said. Then she held up a painting of a jungle.

“In a painting? Seriously?” Desiree said as she rolled her eyes.

“You have to jump in the painting.” Ms. Devin explained. After that, she jumped into the painting.

“MS.DEVIN!!!!!” everybody shouted in disbelief.

“Well, it’s not like I got anything to do today,” Jayden said. Then, he jumped into the painting.

“NO, JAYDEN!!” Makari shouted as she fell into the painting.

“Well, go on Desiree!” Kaliyma said as she pushed Desiree into the painting.

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH HH HH HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Thump!

Do you know what that was? That was Desiree falling into the painting. Now, she’s in the painting.

“Where am I?” she asked.

“Isn’t it obvious? In the painting. Duh,” Jayden said. Soon, everybody was falling into the painting.
“Okay, is everybody here?”
“Yes!”
“Okay everybody split into groups of three.”

“Okay everybody start looking. Whoever finds the three objects first, gets a special treat. GO!!!”
Soon, everybody started looking, especially Desiree, Kaliyma, and Jayla.
“Okay, if we’re going to find these things, we need to work together.” Desiree told her team.
“Right. We need to check everything,” Jayla said.
“Let’s start by checking the ground and trees,” Kaliyma said.
When they said they were going to check everything, THEY MEANT IT!!! They checked the trees, the ground, and even swam in the water to find it!!! But, they did not find it.
“UGH!!! We’ve been searching for an hour and we still haven’t found it!” Desiree shouted madly.
“If we’re going to find these things, we’ve got to...AAAAHHH!!!!!!”
“JAYLA!! AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHEEEEE!!”
Do you know what that was? The three girls just fell into a hole. A very deep hole too.

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHH HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH HHHHHHHHHHHHHH !!!!!!”
Thump!
“Where are we?” Jayla asked.
“Some kind of place where forgotten treasures are dumped,” Kaliyma said.
“Well, we should probably start digging to see if the stuff is here,” Desiree said. After that, they started to dig. And dig. And dig. And dig.
“I found the locket!” Desiree shouted.
“I found the key!” Kaliyma shouted.
“I found the map!” Jayla shouted.
“Let’s get out of here and find tell Ms. D,” Desiree said.

1 and a half hour later

“MS.D!! MS.D!!WE FOUND IT!!” Jayla, Kaliyma, and Desiree shouted.
“YOU DID?!” Ms. Devin shouted.
“YES!”
“OMG!! YOU THREE GET THE SPECIAL PRIZE!!!!!!!”
After that, everybody came back with sour faces.

30 minutes later

“Well, that was a great campfire. A great way to end the day,” Jayden said.
“Well, let’s go to sleep,” Ms. Devin said.

The next day, in the art room.

“Okay, since Desiree, Kaliyma, and Jayla found the three items, they get the special prize.” Ms Devein held up three art kits.
“OMG!!!!!!!” the three girls squealed.
“Now, all of you get a sketchbook for participating,” Ms. Devin said, as she was passing them out.
“Thank you Ms. D. Can we go now?” Jayden asked.
“Yes.” Then everyone left the room.