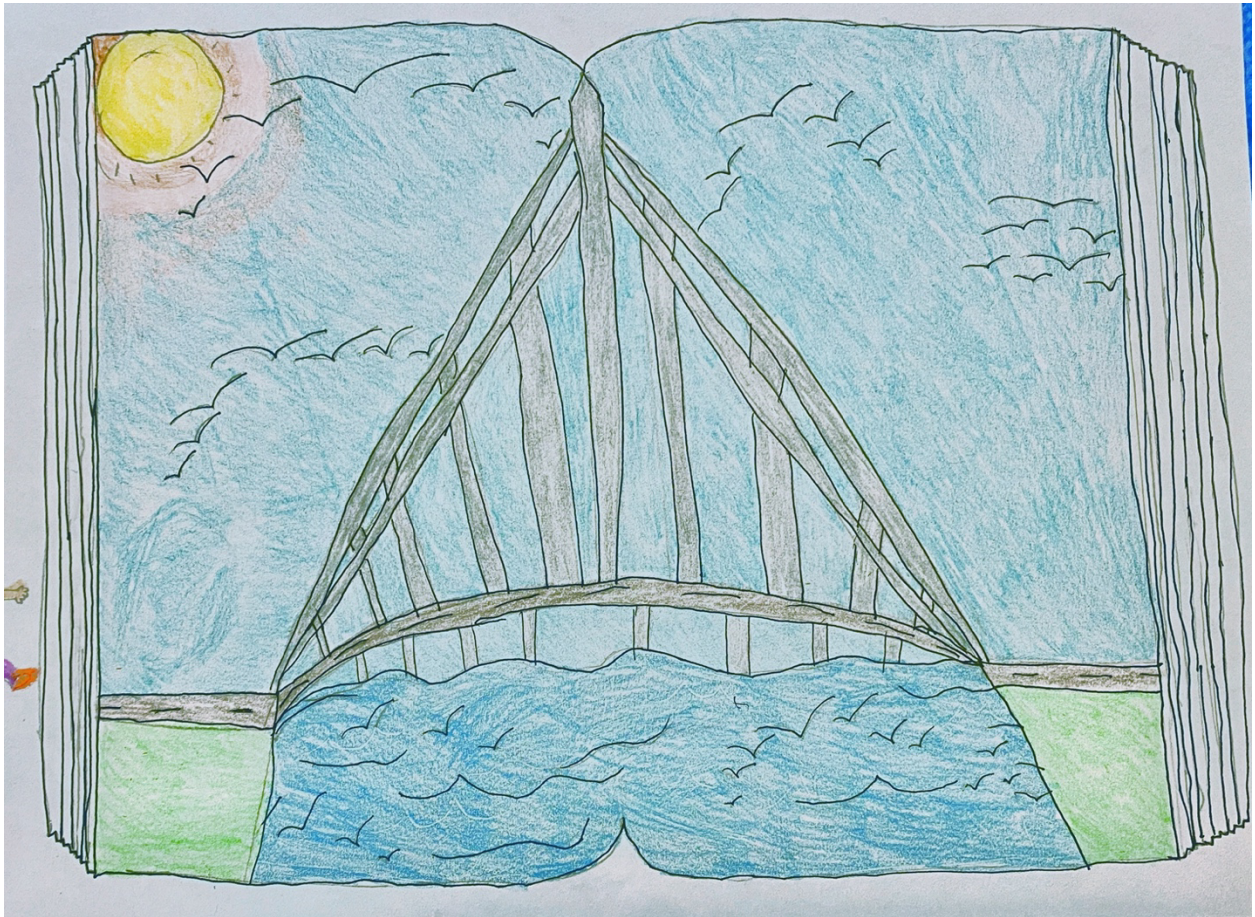


Lana Zuo



The Wonders  
of Reading

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTO THE BOOK

Alena Smith opened her bedroom window, and a gust of crisp clean air blew into her room. The air smelled like fresh-cut grass mixed with newly laundry sheets. She wrapped herself in her favorite fleece blanket and continued to read the book *A Wrinkle in Time*. "Oh, how I wish I could meet Meg, Calvin, Mrs. Whatsit and all the other characters in the book. I would give anything to see them in real life." Alena thought out loud. After around an hour of reading Alena's eyelids felt really heavy so she slowly closed her eyes and fell asleep. The next morning Alena got dressed and walked downstairs for breakfast. When Alena got downstairs, she ate her breakfast as fast she could, almost choking herself with each bite. "Woah, slow down Alena", Alena's dad said, "What's the rush?" Slowing down Alena replied. "I was reading a really interesting book and I want to get right back to it." So, after Alena finished her breakfast, she scurried up the stairs into her bedroom and found *A Wrinkle in Time* glowing on her bed. She carefully

There was a flash that was so bright it lit up the whole sky, soon followed a loud rumble. It was a late dark night, there was a terrible storm, lightning was flashing everywhere. Alena Smith was curled up in a ball,

hiding under her blanket with a flashlight in one hand, reading a book. She knew she shouldn't stay up this late, but as soon as she started the book, she just wouldn't put it down. When Alena woke up in the morning, with her flashlight still on, the last thing that she remembered was that she was reading page by page until her eyelids felt really heavy. "Not again, I must have fallen asleep," she thought.