Dear Diary

You will never guess what has happened to me! I have been **plunged** into a **world** I never quite believed in and if I am completely honest, I never **saw** this coming. I feel very **overwhelmed**.

**As you know,** I have **moved** into a **huge, dusty, vintage** **house** as **filthy** as a **shack**. **In fact,** it is more like a dozen **shacks** that have been stacked on top of one another!

**Every now and then,** I had been **hearing** sounds in the **old** **walls** that sounded like scratches or **small** **footprints**. It made me feel **nervous** because I was unsure what it was and part of me just wished that it would go away.

**Yesterday,** **Mallory** picked up an **old broom** in the **kitchen** and held it like it was a **baseball bat.** She **quickly** **swung** the **bat** at the **pale, dull, worn** **wall** and **plaster** came **scattering** to the **floor** beneath our **feet** like **flour** and a **huge** **hole** appeared (I knew Mom would blame me for it– she always does!).

**Hesitantly**, I **stepped** towards the **ominous** **hole** and I **felt** the **hairs** on my **arms** stand up. **To my amazement,** inside were the most **bizarre** **objects**! A **doll’s head lolled** in one corner. **Dead cockroaches** were strung up like garlands. **Tiny soldiers** with **melted hands** and **feet** were scattered all over like **autumn leaves** resting on the **ground**.

**All of a sudden,** the **mysterious** **noise** came back again! I had to **quietly** **squeeze** myself into the **dumbwaiter** (that’s where all the objects came from in the wall by the way) and it was really **dirty** inside and it smelled like **old** **wood**.

**After a while,** I arrived in a **secretive** **room** that had a **low** **ceiling** and **crowded bookshelves** **surrounded** me. **Slowly**, I **looked** around the **room** and I realised there was no **door**! What a **strange place** it was!

**Bravely,** I began to **explore** the **creepy room**. I found an **array** of **objects** like **old** **books**, a pair of **round glasses**, a **large** watercolour **painting** of a l**ittle** **girl** and a **man pleasantly** **playing** on the **lawn** and a **note**. **Just as I was** **feeling** **confident,** the **peculiar** **noises** returned along with my **Mom**! So, I had to go back downstairs, I felt so **disappointed** because I really wanted to stay longer to **find** more clues.

**This morning,** the craziest thing happened! My **alarm clock** didn’t wake me up…**Mallory**’s **loud** **screaming** did! Something had **tied** her **long, silky, brown hair** to the **bed** and of course I got the blame! It wasn’t me and it **wasn’t** **Simon**. I felt very **confused**!

**Certainly curious,** I knew what I needed to do. I used the clues from the **strange** **note** I **found** yesterday and **bravely made** my way up to the **undisturbed attic**. **Eventually,** when I got there the **room** I **entered** was **bright** and **small** with **dusty** **windows** on all sides. There wasn’t much in the **room**, only an **old trunk**, a Victrola, a **small stool** and rolls of **faded** **fabric**.

**Nervously**, I **opened** the **large, dry, neglected** **trunk**. Nothing inside looked like it was a secret or something to be hidden, there was simply **moth-eaten** **clothes** inside. I felt **disappointed** because I was **eagerly** hoping to **find** something **fascinating**!

Using the clues in the **note** I **found**, I knew there was something in the **trunk** but it took me a while to work out where. **Eventually,** a **secret compartment** **popped** open! **Excited beyond reason,** I **quickly** **reached** inside and **found** an **old crumbling book** that smelt like **burnt paper**.