Unit 6: Variables

It’s dark. The swamp is a wide, open plane of blubbering mud. A few tall grasses and stunted trees have managed to survive here, but it is not a living place. “Ah isn’t it great to be back! Luna!” Cat gestures around them “this is the Dartmoor. Dartmoor this is Luna” “It does smell.” “Yes, that would be the rot. Now let’s find the dog and get out of here are quickly as possible.” “Here’s the tracking spell.” “It draws a line (a spooky glowing line) to the closest point to you were the dog has stopped (a stop is a glowing circle). We follow the lines until we reach the dog.”

To write code that increases the number of stops you have found every time you reach one of noodles stops you have to create a variable. Variables are used to store information. Example code.

First stop. (marked by a glowing circle)

“That’s noodle’s collar!” Luna holds it to her chest like it’s her dog. She’s trying not to cry. Cat is uncomfortable. “There, there.” “A collar won’t do him much good out here. It probably fell off because he lost weight.”

They leave the stop (glowing circle) and follow the glowing line deeper into the swamp. The line is lined by huge paw prints with long claws. Cat sees them, hopes that Luna will not see them and while they are trying to hide the prints by walking over them Luna sees the prints. “They’re werewolf prints, aren’t they?” Cat nods slowly. “If they hurt Noodles, Ill end them.” Cat looks stunned. “I believe it.” Anger has given Luna new energy. As they walk through the dark swamp, we see a cluster of glowing red eyes watching them. Cat and Luna do not notice.

Second stop. (marked by a glowing circle)

There are scraps of meat lying around a fire place. One has fur on it. “Noodles!” Luna falls to her knees by the fire. “No Luna, calm down that’s not him.” Luna looks up, her expression desperate. “How do you know?” “Look” Cat points ahead of them. “The line continues. He went on from here.” Luna jumps up. “Luna its late. We should sleep. Let’s stop here and continue in the morning.” But Luna is already walking away vanishing into the darkness ahead. “This child!” cat mutters as they follow her, their sillouette also disappearing in the surrounding dark.

Third stop. (marked by glowing circle)

They reach a camp site consisting of animal hide tents set around a burned-out fireplace. There are bones strewn around the fire. Cat is shifty. “Luna we shouldn’t be here.” Luna is not listening she’s bending down looking at the floor for traces of her pet. “Luna” “Not now Cat.” “Luna!” “What?” She spins around and we see three werewolves, each the size of a small calf, growling at them from the far end of the campsite. One of them has scars of scratches across his snout. “Oh, this is bad.” says Cat. The werewolves come closer as Luna and Cat slowly back away towards the tents. Lunas back hits a tent and from inside the tent there comes a bark. Noodles jumps out celebrating at Lunas feet. She picks him up and holds him in her arms. She completely forgets where she is. “Noodles! Finally! I was so worried about you. But you’re ok! Thank goodness you’re ok!”

Cat coughs. “We still have a situation here." The werewolves have sat down and are now just watching them. “That’s strange. I don’t think they are going to attack.” Luna lets Noodles down and he runs towards the wolves “Noodles, No!” Noodles is still wagging his tail. They greet him like a member of their pack. One of the wolves is still looking at them and it’s this one that turns back into a man. He has three scratches across his nose. “I know you.” “Yes.” “We tried to eat you.” “Yes. It was very rude.” The man laughed. “I guess it was. Well. Let’s let bygones be bygones.” Cat did not look too sure about this but they didn’t argue. “And you must be Luna? Your friend has been telling us all about you.” He pats noodles affectionately. “He said you were coming to pick him up.” “Yes. I will bring him home.” “Alright.” The man bends down to pet Noodles. “We’ll miss you buddy.” And with that Luna and Cat are engulfed in a bright light. Then they are in her room, the book on Lunas lap.