Once Upon a Book

by Grace Lin & Kate Messner OUTSIDE A HOUSE

A young girl, Alice, stares out a window on a rainy day. A snowman is melting.

INSIDE A HOUSE

Alice's mom works on her computer. Alice is tired of heavy sweaters and thick socks and staying inside with nothing to do.

ALICE

I wish I were someplace that wasn't so frozen and gray!

Alice begins to stomp away as something flaps nearby. It was the pages of a book. Curious, Alice began to read.

OUTSIDE THE BOOK

ALICE

"Once upon a time, there was a girl. She went to a place alive with colors, where even the morning dew was worm.

A flock of birds begin to breach the page Alice is reading.

THE BIRDS

That sounds like our home. Turn the page and come in...

Alice climbs into the pages of jungle to accept their invitation.

IN THE JUNGLE

THE BOOK

The air felt as if it came from an oven.

Alice sits in a tree continuing to read as the birds listen intently.

THE BOOK

The girl and the birds played among the flowers.

Alice covers her head with the book.

THE BOOK

But then the rains came down.

ALICE

I wish I were someplace that wasn't so steamy and drippy.

With the book over her head, Alice looked up to continue reading.

THE BOOK

So the girl went to a place of sparkling sands, where the sun would dry her.

A pair of Camels poke stretch their necks outside the pages.

THE CAMELS

The sounds like our home. Turn the page and come in...

Alice climbs into the pages of the desert to accept their invitation.

IN THE DESERT

THE BOOK

The sun blazed down and dried her hair as she rode on a camel through the desert.

Alice covers her faces with the book.

THE BOOK

But then a sandstorm blew in and stung the girl's face.

ALICE

I wish I were someplace that wasn't so dusty and dry.

THE BOOK

So the girl went to a place of clear waters, where the sea would refresh her.

A school of fish splash water from the pages.

THE FISH

That sounds like our home. Turn the page and come in...

Alice swims into the pages to accept their invitation.

IN THE OCEAN

THE BOOK

The gentle water soothed her as she swam with the fish through the coral reefs.

Alice begins to slow down as the fish swim to help.

THE BOOK

But the girl got tangled in seaweed. She was caught and confused.

ALICE

I wish I were someplace that wasn't so cramped and crowded.

THE BOOK

So the girl went to a place of wide-open blue, where she would be boundless and free.

Clouds wisp from the pages around Alice.

THE CLOUDS

That sounds like our home. Turn the page and come in...

Alice flys into the pages to accept their invitation.

IN THE SKY

THE BOOK

The clouds billowed like the sails of a ship. The girl rode the wind through the sky.

Alice covers her ears.

THE BOOK

But the clouds darkened and the thunder roared.

ALICE

I wish I were someplace that weren't so booming and loud!

THE BOOK

So the girl went to a place with no sounds at all, where she could be quiet and calm.

The moon beams and whispers from the pages to Alice.

THE MOON

That sounds like my home. Turn the page and come in...

Alice floats into space to join the moon.

OUTER SPACE

THE BOOK

The soundless stars twinkled and winked as she floated in the moon's glowing light.

Alice drifted away from the moon.

THE BOOK

But the emptiness made the girl feel alone.

ALICE

I wish I were someplace that wasn't so lonely.

THE BOOK

So the girl went to a place of coziness and warmth, where the kitched smelled of dumplings and her family was waiting with dinner.

ALICE

That sounds like my home.

MOM

Turn the page and come in...

IN A HOUSE

Alice carries her book to the dining room to join her mom and dad for dinner.

OUTSIDE A HOUSE

Through the window, Alice and her family enjoy their evening together while she shares her adventures.