

## The Sky-blue Seed

As Yuji played with his model airplane, a fox came up to him. "That's a nice airplane!" the fox said. "Would you trade it for my treasure?" The fox pulled a sky-blue seed from his pocket. Yuji liked the seed, so he traded his airplane for it.

Yuji went home and planted the seed in his garden. After watering it, he wrote "The Sky-blue Seed" on a piece of paper and stood it up nearby. The next morning, a tiny, sky-blue house sprouted. It was only the size of a bean. "A house has bloomed!" Yuji cried. He watered the house and wished, "Keep growing, keep growing!" The house gradually grew bigger.

"Oh, how lovely! Can this be my home?" A chick, a cat, and a pig each came and went inside the house. Watered and bathed in sunlight, the house grew even bigger. Finally, the house became as large as a castle and Yuji went inside. Children from the town and animals from the forest arrived one after another to play.

The fox came back and said with wide eyes, "Wow, amazing! What a huge house has bloomed!" He was greedy and told Yuji, "I'll give the airplane back, but I am taking this house back too." He began shouting loudly, "Hey, this is my house! Everyone get out!"

One hundred children, animals, and birds all ran out. The fox entered proudly and locked the doors.

Suddenly, the house grew even larger. "Watch out! It's going to hit the sun!" Yuji shouted. The house shook and then, like flower petals blowing in the wind, the roof, walls, and windows began to break apart. Everyone covered their heads and fell on the ground.

When they looked up, only a piece of paper with "Sky-blue Seed" was on the ground.

Stretched out next to it was a very surprised, and very dizzy, fox.

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