



"Even small hands can make a big difference."

ECEY6005 – REGAINING PARADISE

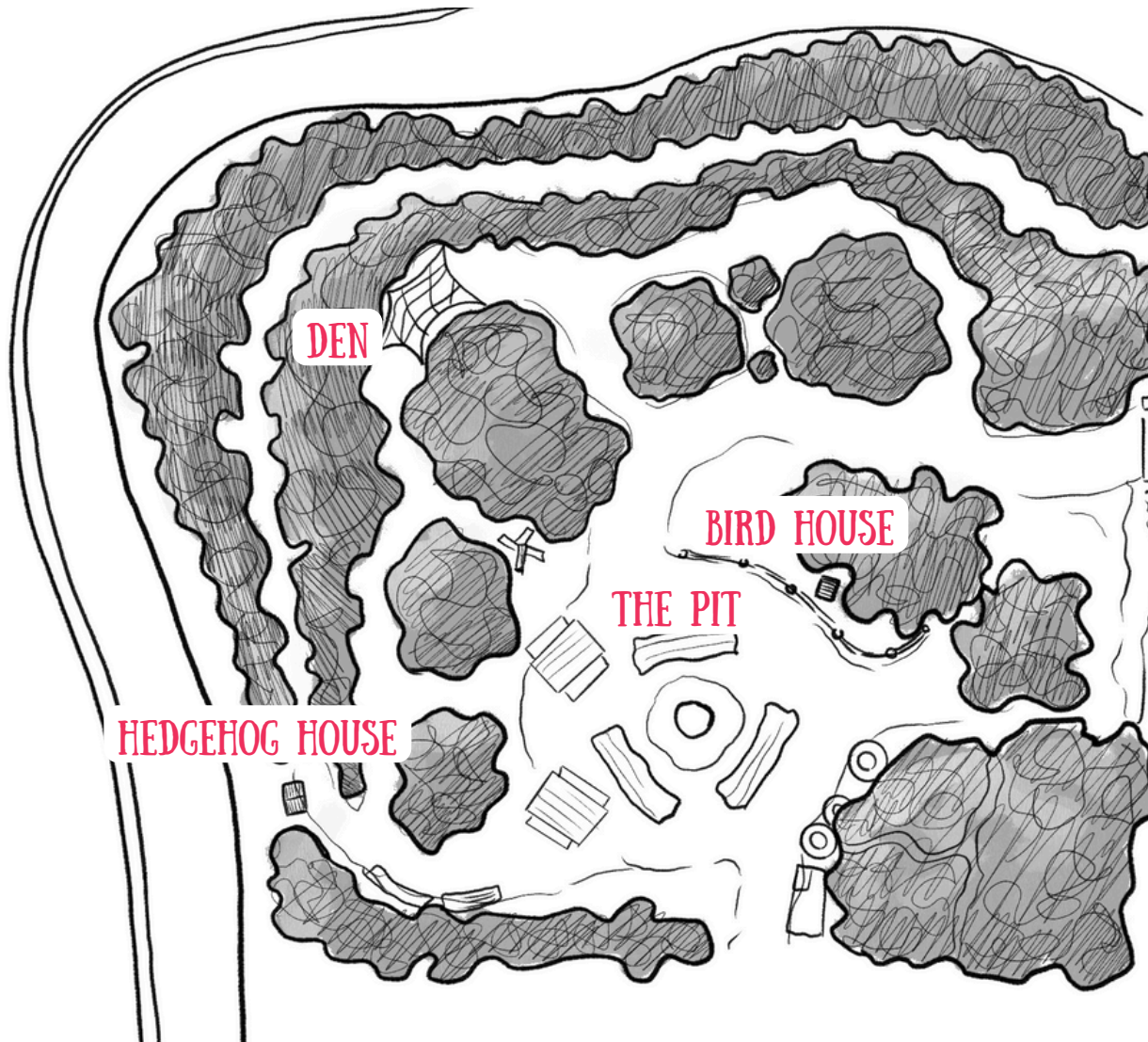
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JULY 2025



DISCOVER - THE PLACE

THIS IS A MAP OF
THE FOREST SCHOOL
IN MY SETTING,
NESTLED QUIETLY,
HIDDEN IN THE
CORNER OF OUR
SCHOOL.



MAIN GATE

WHY HERE?

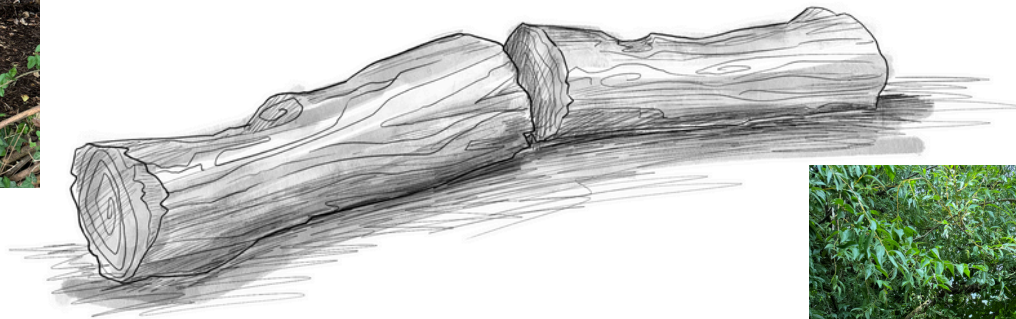
ITS HIDDEN
PARADISE WITHIN A
CONCRETE CITY,
MYSTERY, AWE,
WONDER... WHAT
BETTER PLACE TO
EXPLORE?

DISCOVER - THE PLACE



AS I WALK INTO OUR SCHOOL'S FOREST SCHOOL, THE NATURAL WORLD IMMEDIATELY GUIDES ME. THE TREES, THE FOOTPATHS, THE TEXTURES OF BARK AND LEAVES.

IT'S A WORLD WITHIN A WORLD, TUCKED INTO THE CENTRE OF THE CITY.



I CHOSE THIS PLACE BECAUSE IT OFFERS A STARK CONTRAST TO THE CONCRETE, FUMES, AND NOISE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN TRULY FEEL A SENSE OF PEACE AND CURIOSITY.



EXPLORE - OBSERVING AND SENSING

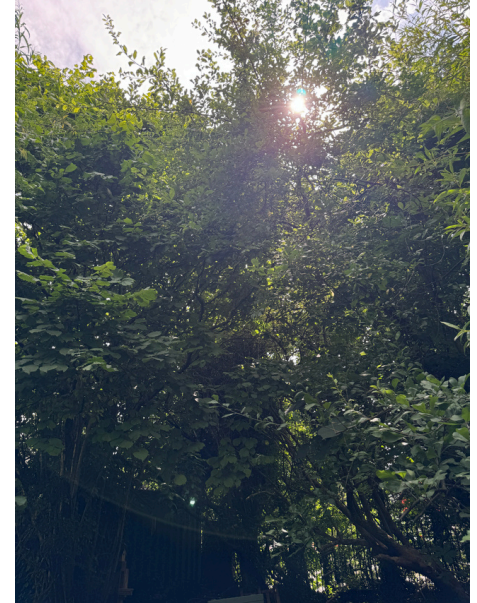


AT FIRST, THE CITY DIDN'T LET GO, I
COULD STILL HEAR ENGINES, SIRENS,
THE SHARP SCENT OF PETROL. BUT
SLOWLY, THE WORLD SHIFTED. I
BEGAN TO HEAR BIRDSONG.



THE NOISE FADED
AND NATURE SPOKE,
I FEEL AT PEACE
AND LONG TO
REVISIT

THE WIND RUSTLED THE LEAVES
ABOVE ME. I NOTICED THE GOLDEN
SPECKLED LIGHT BLINDING ME
THROUGH THE TREES.



"The golden speckled light was so strong, it dazzled me.."

EXPLORE - OBSERVING AND SENSING



"A forgotten web shimmered in a quiet corner..."

SO MANY
POSSIBILITIES, SO
MANY STORIES

MY SHOULDERS DROPPED. I FELT MY BODY RELAX. THE DEEPER I WENT, THE MORE ALIVE EVERYTHING FELT.

SPIDER WEBS SHIMMERED UNDISTURBED. WORM TRACKS CURVED THROUGH DARK, RICH SOIL. LEAVES CRUNCHED BENEATH MY FEET.

I WAS CAREFUL NOT TO DISTURB ANYTHING — I FELT LIKE A VISITOR IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME.



EXPLORE - OBSERVING AND SENSING



HIDEOUTS, SAFE
HAVENS, THINGS TO
DISCOVER



THIS PLACE MADE ME FEEL LIKE A CHILD AGAIN, PLAYFUL, IMAGINATIVE. I IMAGINED DENS, FORTS, AND SECRET HIDEOUTS.

EACH LEAF AND STONE FELT LIKE A CLUE. EACH HIDDEN TRAIL, AN INVITATION.

CONSERVE - WHAT I DID TO HELP

INSPIRED BY THE SENSE OF LIFE AND STORY ALL AROUND ME, I DECIDED TO CREATE HOMES FOR CREATURES I COULDN'T SEE, BUT KNEW WERE THERE.



I BUILT A BIRD HOUSE AND A HEDGEHOG HOUSE TO GIVE LOCAL WILDLIFE A SAFE PLACE TO REST AND FEED.

THESE SHELTERS WILL STAY IN THE FOREST SCHOOL AS A PERMANENT WAY TO CARE FOR AND CONNECT WITH NATURE.

CONSERVE - WHAT I DID TO HELP

THESE ACTIONS FELT SMALL, BUT IMPORTANT. THEY REMIND ME THAT EVEN IN THE CITY, WE CAN MAKE SPACE FOR THE WILD.



I HOPE THE CHILDREN WHO PLAY HERE WILL LEARN TO RESPECT AND WONDER ABOUT THE WORLD BEYOND THEMSELVES.

WHY?

TO ALLOW VISITORS TO
TAKE SANCTUARY, THEY
BELONG TO BE HERE
JUST AS WE DO.

SHARE - TELLING THE STORY

I'LL BE SHARING THIS EXPERIENCE THROUGH MY PHOTOS AND THIS SCRAPBOOK. I WANT OTHERS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG CHILDREN, TO FEEL WHAT I FELT: WONDER, CALM, CURIOSITY.



SPREADING THE MESSAGE

I'VE DISCUSSED THIS WITH MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, SOCIAL MEDIA AND IN PERSON.

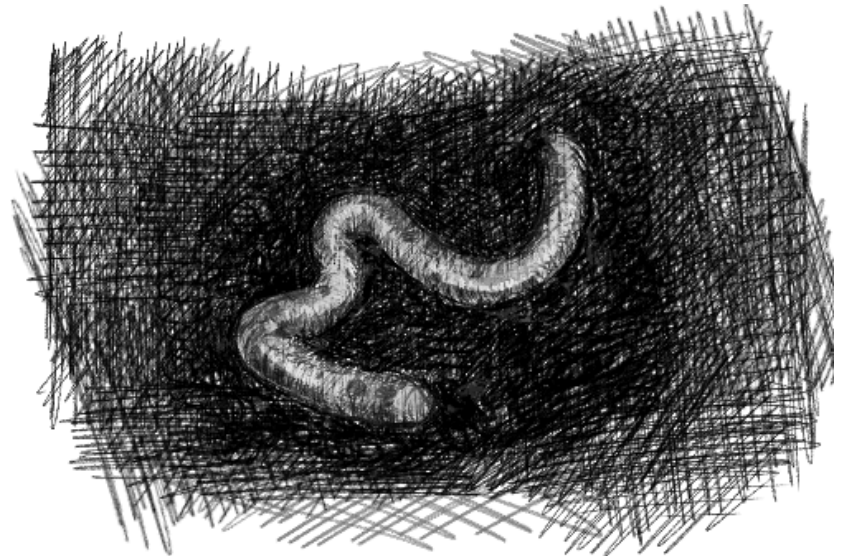
I WANT THEM TO LOOK CLOSELY, TO LISTEN DEEPLY.

SHARE - TELLING THE STORY



IF ONE CHILD STOPS TO NOTICE A
WORM, OR ASKS WHY A BIRD NEEDS
A HOUSE, THEN THAT'S WHERE IT
BEGINS.

THAT'S HOW WE REGAIN PARADISE
— ONE CONNECTION AT A TIME.



DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



PHOTO CREDIT: BBC 2022

“NO ONE WILL PROTECT
WHAT THEY DON'T
CARE ABOUT.”

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH HAS SPENT HIS LIFE HELPING PEOPLE SEE AND
CARE ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD.

HIS STORYTELLING HAS OPENED UP WHOLE ECOSYSTEMS TO THOSE
WHO'VE NEVER STEPPED INTO A FOREST.

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



PHOTO CREDIT: ANGUS YOUNG / © ATLANTIC PRODUCTIONS / PBS

I CHOSE HIM BECAUSE HIS
WORK SHOWS THAT AWE
LEADS TO ACTION. LIKE HE
ONCE SAID:

“NO ONE WILL PROTECT
WHAT THEY DON'T CARE
ABOUT; AND NO ONE WILL
CARE ABOUT WHAT THEY
HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED.”

THIS PROJECT IS ABOUT HELPING CHILDREN HAVE THOSE EXPERIENCES
— TO SEE NATURE NOT AS A BACKGROUND, BUT AS A LIVING WORLD
THEY'RE PART OF.