**The Red Balloon**

A red balloon floated in the sky. A little girl, with a twinkle in her eye, saw the balloon and chose to follow it as it floated past her in the crisp breeze. No one knew where it came from, or where it would go; but as it went further away, the curious little girl decided to follow it. The balloon floated past a soft flowing stream dancing with butterflies. Past a quiet old abandoned house in the middle of a sunflower field. Through a forest filled with berry bushes and tall green trees that glistened in the sun. Across a bridge, into a field of colorful roses. Suddenly, the balloon’s string got caught on a thorn, and the red balloon, that had travels a great distance, popped! Only then did the little girl realize that she was lost, and didn’t know which way to go. The sky grew darker, and still, the little girl remained lost. The sun had set, and the little girl could no longer see. So she sat and waited for the light of the new day. But the light never came; and the little girl never saw another red balloon.

By, Danielle Retterer