As Rebecca listened to the distant singing of birds and the wind brushing the windows, she didn't realize that Maggie had taped a Post It Note to her door. When she bustled outside to
see what was making so much racket, she noticed the sign her friend had written. "COME FIND ME", it said in big glossy words that were gleaming with bright orange, showing off the new gel pens Maggie had bought. Rebecca knew what this meant... Hide and go seek!

Rebecca searched behind the hose, in the bushes...everywhere! But Maggie didn't seem to be anywhere. As she sat down and thought about giving up, she saw muddy footprints going into the woods. Next to the mysterious footprints, she saw drawn arrows pointing to the deep trees that loomed over the narrow trail that was winding its way into the darkness. No, no, no... Rebecca thought. But she couldn't just leave Maggie all alone.

She began walking through the windy trail, wincing at the sound of one twig breaking under her foot. As she peered through a pile of leaves, she saw the chestnut colored hair of Maggie.

“You found me finally! What took you so long? Did you not see the note? Didn't you see the footprints? Did you...” exclaimed Maggie.

“Okay, okay I get it. You might be an expert at hide-and-go-seek, but I still beat you on relay races,” retorted Rebecca.

As they argued, they soon heard a distant rumbling and smelled smoke in the air. They saw an area of flat land covered in mud and leaves that had dropped off the branches of trees which had fallen with great force. Rebecca and Maggie's smile was suddenly wiped off their faces as they saw some great pine trees tumbling to the ground, one after the other. Birds screeched as they spread their wings and flew away from their home. Rabbits and chipmunks ran into bushes as the humans drove their machines to various places.

This seemed all wrong. Animals had been driven out of their homes because humans were being greedy and wanted their land. It wasn't fair. Suddenly, an idea popped into Rebecca's mind.

“Let's start a club called The New Beginning to support the animals that had to leave their homes and to help the animals that are going to live here in the future,” Rebecca said happily.

“That is such a great idea! Where did you get so smart? Did you get your smartness from your mom? Or did you just learn it on your own?” Maggie chittered chattered.

“Okay just stop talking!” Rebecca shouted.

As they walked home they brainstormed ideas for the new club. Rebecca and Maggie decided to make club membership forms for their new club. A few days later, Rebecca and Maggie walked around the school taping up signs that said, “SUPPORT ANIMALS! THEY NEED YOU! YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!”

As crowds started piling up to see the signs, they swiftly made their way to Maggie as she was handing out the forms.
“You can make a difference!” Maggie said encouragingly.

As the sun set, Rebecca and Maggie were still counting the forms that people had filled out.

“Including us, it is fourteen people in The New Beginning Club! WOW!” squeaked Maggie.

At the first club meeting, everyone decorated signs to tape around the town. The beautifully decorated signs would definitely catch a worker’s eye. Maybe, just maybe, the New Beginning Club would save the forest.

A couple weeks later, Rebecca and Maggie decided to take a walk in the woods. As they walked they could hear the shouts and chants of people. When they made their way through the dark trees that were blocking their view, they suddenly realized that the huge crowd was in front of a sign they had made and that the giant crowd was screaming their names!

REBECCA! MAGGIE!

As they drew near, the crowd roared!

REBECCA! MAGGIE!

Then the crowd swept them off their feet and passed them through the air. They felt small and large hands holding them up as they were moved onto the stage.

“Well, I wasn't really expecting this but, um... Thank you for all your support!” started Maggie. The crowd went wild.

“I owe an apology,” grumbled a voice. All eyes went to a weary old man who was standing in front of the stage. “I didn't realize that this forest was that important to you guys... and um.... we are very sorry and I promise we'll stop,” said the old man.

The crowd went bananas!

A few days later, as the workers planted new tree seeds, Rebecca put her arms around Maggie and said "We CAN make a difference....and a new beginning!"