

Down the Snake

Kiran, Aran and Jen are exploring the new park when they find a huge Snakes and Ladders board. They have great fun playing the game until Kiran goes down a snake... and the snake turns into a twisting slide that shoots Kiran below ground! Aran and Jen quickly follow, but they find themselves in a maze of tunnels with no clear way out. Can they figure out the clues and find their way home?



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Chapter Readers



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This book is Brown Band/Level 12

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Jill Atkins

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Written by
Jill Atkins

Illustrated by
Izzy Evans

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'Down the Snake'

An original concept by Jill Atkins

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Illustrated by Izzy Evans

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Chapter 1

As soon as his dad had parked the car, Kiran climbed out and ran in through the iron park gates. He stood staring around him in amazement.

The new park was enormous! He'd been waiting all week to come here. It was still early morning so there was no one about. They had it all to themselves!

"Look at this!" he shouted over his shoulder as his brother, Aran, and cousin, Jen, caught him up.

"We're going to have a great day!"

Aran and Jen stood beside him for a moment.

"The play area looks great," said Aran.

Jen pointed into the distance. "I can't wait to climb those trees," she said.



“Me neither,” said Aran.

“Let’s explore first,” said Kiran.

At that moment, Kiran’s dad and Uncle Liam joined them. They all walked further into the park. They chose a spot to make a base. It was on the edge of a steep slope.

Kiran shaded his eyes as he peered down the slope.

“I wonder what’s down there,” he said. “There are lots of lines drawn on the ground.”

“And they’re all different colours,” said Aran.

“Let’s go and see,” said Jen.

Leaving their dads sitting on the grass, they raced down the slope. When they reached the bottom, they stopped and stared.

A large flat area was covered in lines criss-crossing each other, making up a set of squares.

“This is cool,” said Jen as they ran into the middle of the area. “The squares are numbered... up to one hundred.”

Kiran felt a shiver of excitement. He was beginning to understand what this might be.

“Look at these squares,” said Aran. “There’s a ladder painted across them.”

“And I can see snakes,” shouted Jen.

Kiran laughed. “It’s a giant Snakes and Ladders board!” he shouted. “Let’s play!”

They searched for a dice and counters.

“Here’s the dice,” Jen called as she fetched a huge white cube from behind a bush. She brought it over for the boys to see. She turned it over and over to show them the black spots on each side.

“But we don’t have any counters,” said Aran.



“Yes, we do,” said Kiran. “We’re the counters. You’re the youngest, Aran, so you can go first.”

They raced to stand on square number 1. Aran took the dice from Jen and rolled it.

“Four!” he shouted and ran along to the right number.

Jen rolled a six and raced to her new square. “I’m in the lead!” she shouted.

Kiran was surprised at how light the dice was. It rolled a long way before stopping on a three.

“Aha!” he cried, running to the third square. “A ladder! Up I go!”

The ladder was quite long, and Kiran landed on square 45. They each had several turns. Aran went up a short ladder on his third go, but no one went down a snake.