Rumblestar: Chapter 3

Note: Faraway is the UK and the rest of the world as we know it.

The Unmapped Kingdoms are the secret, magic, unmapped kingdoms hidden in the world. This is where Rumblestar is.

Q1: What are the marvels that Utterly talks about?

Utterly shook Casper by the shoulders and he snapped out of his thoughts. 'And how *can* you be scared to go up into Rumblestar when you've been nosing around and tampering with our marvels for the past few weeks?' Her face darkened. 'Do you have *any* idea how hard it is to catch marvels? They may look like ordinary old marbles but they're flighty and fidgety – they're the purest droplets of rain, snow and sunlight after all!'

'I haven't been nosing around anywhere!' Casper cried. 'I've been at school trying my best to hand in homework on time and avoid being hurled into a bin. I know absolutely *nothing* about this ridiculous-sounding Rumblestar.'

Utterly gasped at the insult, then her words tumbled out, hot and angry. 'Ridiculous? RIDICULOUS? I'll have you know that without Rumblestar, the Unmapped Kingdoms would crumble! And then who do you think would send sunlight to Crackledawn, rain to Jungledrop and snow to Silvercrag? The other kingdoms might *write* the weather

Q2: Casper thinks he hears thunder, but what is it he actually hears?

And then his gaze ... ... in front of him. It curved away into the distance on both sides and from where he stood, Casper could just make out several arches carved into the stone in either direction and torrents of water gushing through them. *So it wasn't thunder I heard earlier,* he thought. *It was sky-tumbling waterfalls!* He looked at the large door in front of him. It was domed and wooden and criss-crossed with gold metal. *There can't possibly be a kingdom beyond this door responsible for the weather in my world. Can there?* He thought of his mum out buying the groceries. Had there been another hurricane while he'd been gone? And what if it had ripped through the village and the school and his mum had been caught in the middle of it? He felt suddenly very sick indeed.