

TEN WORD TALES No. 3

# The Long and the Short of it

by The Story Spinner

## CHAPTER 3



Max had a good friend called Lina. She had not been at Ben's party because she had been ill, as she often was, but she had heard about it. She knew that Max would not be rude about a beautiful birthday cake and she looked up the word "delectable" in an old dictionary.

She was sitting in her garden, recovering in the sunshine, while her mum was gardening. She told her mum about Max's problem with long difficult words.

“Hmmm,” said her mum, tying a long purple flower to a tall stick.  
“Tricky. I understand what’s happening. Max’s friends feel stupid when he uses long words. They feel despised.”

“What do you mean?” asked Lina.

“His big words make them feel small.”

“That’s just it,” agreed Lina.

“If I said I had saved a *delphinium ranunculaceae* from certain death with a piece of string, would you know what I meant or does it make you feel stupid?”

“Not really,” said Lia. “I can guess. I can see what you are doing and you still have the string in your hands. That’s a clue. You are a purple-flower-rescuer.”

Lina’s mum smiled. “You need a plan to help Max,” she said.

“I need to make Max’s words smaller.”

“Or,” said her mum. “You need to change people’s minds about long ones.”

***Watch out for Chapter 4 tomorrow!***