The Land of Even and Odd

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Lance and a little girl named Laurie who were just about your age. Lance and Laurie were the best of friends and loved to play together. Every morning after they had finished breakfast, they would meet beside Lance’s barn to plan the day’s adventure. Sometimes they would jump and play in the haystack in the barn or pretend they were orphans and had to live in Laurie’s attic. But, by far, their favorite thing to do was to play in the grove of trees, which grew beside a nearby stream.

One day as Lance was getting dressed he overheard his older brothers talking about a magical land, which could be found by crossing the old stone bridge and following a path of stones. Lance thought that it would be great fun to surprise Laurie by taking her to this magical land. So he grabbed two fresh blueberries muffins, put them in a sack and stuffed two apples into his pockets and ran off to meet her.

Always ready for a surprise adventure, Laurie took her snack from Lance they were off. After they had been walking for some time, they came upon an old stone bridge. Once they were half way over the bridge, Lance stopped, for all he could see on the opposite bank was a mass of blackberry bushes; they seemed to have taken over everything in sight! Certainly there didn’t seem to be anything magical about them.

Thinking that the path must be hidden somehow among the bushes, Lance grabbed Laurie’s hand and led her to the far side of the bridge. As soon as they stepped off the bridge, the thick tangle of blackberry branches seemed to magically part and there in front of them was a path of shining stones leading through a wood. The children were so excited by this that they immediately began following the path. They hadn’t gone too far into the woods when the trial veered off to the left and they found themselves being led into a meadow; the most amazing meadow they had ever seen. Wherever they looked they saw rabbits and deer and squirrels scampering about. And the flowers and the birds were of every color imaginable. But, perhaps the most amazing sight were the trees that ringed the meadow- instead of green leaves, these trees had leaves of gold that shimmered like jewels in the sunlight.

Thinking that this would be a wonderful place to eat their snack, Laurie and Lance sat down on a golden log and looked around them. "Look", Laurie exclaimed, "how strange; everywhere you look everything is in pairs. The flowers grow two to a stem, all of the trees grow in pairs, and the animals run side by side two at a time. I wonder why?"

Then from behind them, two little voices answered her in unison, "Because you are in Evenland, of course. Here we share everything evenly and no one is ever alone."

Laurie and Lance jumped at the sound of the voices behind them; when they turned around they saw two children, who were dressed alike and had their arms linked
together. "Who are you?" said Lance, relaxing a little as he saw the kind smiles on
the two children's faces. "I'm Timothy Two and he's Frankie Four" said the taller of the two boys. "And who might you be?" Lance introduced himself and Laurie and then asked Timothy to tell them about this strange new place called Evenland.

As Timothy and Frankie talked, Laurie and Lance discovered that they were in a land where everything came in twos or fours or sixes. Children were always born as twins, houses had two front doors and two backdoors, the faces of their clocks only had 2,4,6,8,10, and 12 on them. And the children only had birthday's every two years.

After hearing about Evenland, Laurie and Lance followed the two boys to the edge of the meadow, where there stood an old stone well. "What about this well?" asked Laurie," There is only one well," "Yes", this is the equal well," said Frankie, "It is the only single thing in all of Evenland, it is where we throw anything that there is only one of or anything which is left over. For we share everything equally and if ever there should be something leftover we throw it into the equal well....

At this point have the children come up with things they would find in Evenland (things that have 2,4, 6, etc. as part of their makeup). Also think of things we have that would have to be thrown in the well- for example, a unicycle with only one tire...then you can finish the story.