

## “The Forgotten Portal”

Finn had woken up **very early** that morning because he **had felt** a strange vibration under his bed. When he got up, he realized that Jake **had already disappeared**. The Tree Fort was **unusually** quiet; Finn **had never experienced** such silence before.

He **quickly** grabbed his golden sword and rushed outside. The sky **had suddenly turned** green, and the air smelled like burnt sugar. Finn remembered that Princess Bubblegum **had just warned** them the night before about unstable magical portals.

When he reached the Candy Kingdom, he discovered that several citizens **had already vanished** without a trace. Peppermint Butler, who **had bravely remained** at the gates, explained that a portal **had opened** near the Gumdrop Forest.

Finn ran toward the forest and found Jake stuck in glowing candy vines. Jake said he **had followed** a mysterious humming sound and **had been trapped** before he could escape. He **had never seen** vines move by themselves.

Finn **carefully** cut the vines and helped Jake stand. Together, they approached the portal, which **had almost collapsed**. Just then, a shadowy figure appeared inside. It was *The Lich*.

But before it could step out, the portal **had already begun** to explode inward. Finn and Jake **instantly** jumped back. With a final roar, the portal vanished **completely**.

Back at the Tree Fort, Jake admitted that he **hadn't listened** to Princess Bubblegum when she told him to stay away from strange sounds. Finn sighed but laughed. They knew this adventure **had only just begun**.



## Open-Ended Questions

1. **Why do you think Finn had felt something strange before waking up? (Use your imagination and refer to the past events.)**
2. **What could have happened to the missing citizens before Finn arrived at the Candy Kingdom?**
3. **Why do you think Jake had followed the mysterious sound even after the warning?**
4. **What do you believe the shadowy figure (The Lich) had planned to do if he escaped the portal?**
5. **How do you think Finn and Jake would act differently if something like this happened again?**
6. **Describe a moment in the story where the past perfect helped explain something that happened earlier. Why is it important?**