

Daisy's Petals

There once was a white and yellow daisy growing in a meadow. Every morning when the sun rose, the flowers in the meadow lifted their sleepy heads and soaked up water with their roots. Slowly and with great care the flowers would then open up their petals so bees and butterflies could sip the sweet nectar and collect the pollen the flowers had made for them.

The flowers looked forward to this special time of day...all except one. Daisy did not enjoy waking up because she didn't know how to open up her petals. With her head hanging low, she whispered "I'm not good at being a flower. I just can't do this."

When the bright red poppy next to her heard what Daisy had whispered, she said "But you are a good flower. You are so smart. You will figure out how to open up your petals."

Other flowers in the meadow joined in with words of encouragement but sadly, they only made Daisy more and more sad because she knew she couldn't do it and would only disappoint them.

Just then a honey bee came buzzing by and said, "I see you are working very hard soaking up water with your roots. That will give you energy to open up your petals."

Honey bee flew down to Daisy's stem. "I can hear the water traveling up your stem," she said as she listened. *Yes, I AM working hard*, thought Daisy and raised her head a little higher towards the morning sun.

"I will be back tomorrow," Honey Bee said and off she flew.

The following morning, Honey Bee returned to the meadow and flew straight to Daisy. Right away, she noticed that one of Daisy's petals had opened up.

"Well, look at that," Honey Bee said. "You must have worked hard for that one petal to open up."

"I did. I worked so hard but I couldn't get all my petals to open up. And this one just flopped down. It doesn't look right. I'm not good at this," whimpered Daisy.

"Oh, that must be frustrating. You worked so hard and it didn't work out as you had hoped," replied Honey Bee.

"Yes, I tried so hard to open up the first petal and then I was going to work on the others but it didn't work," Daisy explained.

"Aaaah, you tried something and it didn't work. That's wonderful!" Honey Bee said cheerfully.

Daisy and the other flowers in the meadow looked at the bee in confusion. *How can it be a good thing when something doesn't work? Why would Honey Bee say such a thing?*

Honey bee could tell that the flowers didn't understand what she meant. So she explained, "You see, when you make a mistake, you get another turn at trying to get it right. That's called learning. And the more we learn, the more we can do. Oh, it's a wonderful thing."

The flowers thought about this as they watched Honey Bee fly back to her hive at the other end of the meadow.

The next day, Honey Bee returned to the meadow once again and when she reached Daisy she smiled. Right in front of her were Daisy's white petals....beautifully spread out. Honey Bee could see the puffy yellow pollen waiting for her inside.

"Look! I did it," Daisy cheered. "This morning, I soaked up lots of water with my roots and then waited patiently for the water to flow into each one of my petals. I held my head high towards the sun and then I slowly opened them."

"You worked so hard and were so patient!" replied Honey bee happily.

"Some petals are still kind of floppy," Daisy said, "and some are still closed too much. But I think you have enough room to fly inside and collect my pollen. I will practice opening my petals again tomorrow."

As Honey Bee collected the pollen, Daisy was filled with joy knowing that she was helping the bees collect the pollen they needed to feed their baby bees.

The other flowers admired Daisy for her hard work and from that day forward they all worked a little bit harder themselves. As time passed, the meadow became more beautiful than ever before. And its flowers were full of sweet nectar and delicious pollen for all the bees and butterflies.



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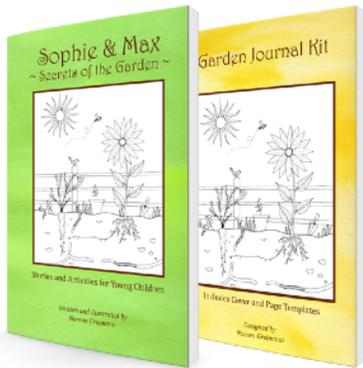
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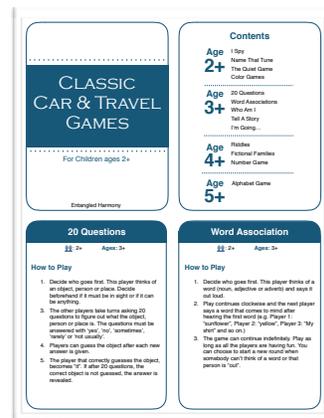
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