

The Friendship Garden

A Story from The Little World Changers Series



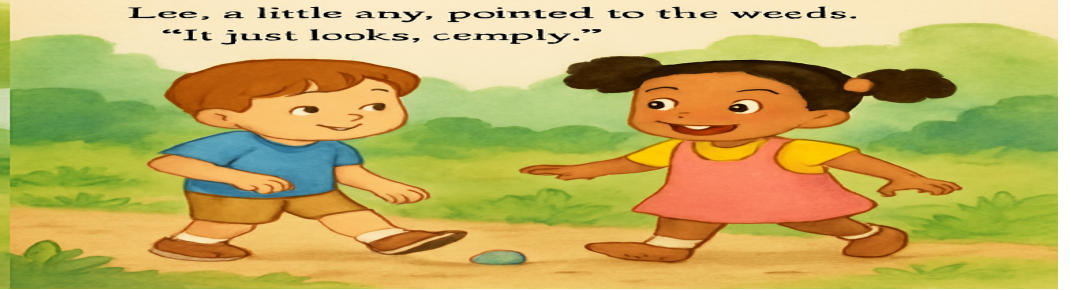
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Leo was new in Sunny Meadow.
He missed his old friends and his old
garden where juicy red strawberries grew.
Now, all he saw from his window was
a forgotten, weedy patch of land next to
the old oak-tree at the end of his street.
It looked a bit sad.



One sunny morning, while Leo was kicking
a small stone near the weedy patch, a girl,
full of energy with bright, curious eyes,
bounced up to him.

"Hi, I'm Mia!" she said, her pigtails dancing.
"What are you looking at?"
Leo, a little shy, pointed to the weeds.
"It just looks, empty."



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Leo, a little shy, pointed to the weeds. "It just looks... empty."

Mia's eyes lit up. "Empty? It's full of possibilities! We could make it a garden! A super-duper friendship garden."



Just then, another boy, Sam, who was always tinkering with bits of wood and string, walked by, and overheard Mia and grinned.

Leo had never built a garden with new friends before. It sounded exciting!

"I know how to grow strawberries!" he offered, a small smile appearing on his face.



"Perfect!" cheered Mia. "Leo, you're the strawberry expert. Sam, you're our super builder. And I know all about flowers that butterflies love!"

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"Perfect!" cheered Mia. "Leo, you're the strawberry expert. Sam, you're our super builder. And I know all about flowers that butterflies love!"

Their first job was a big one: clearing the weeds. It was hard work! The sun was warm, and the weeds were stubborn. Leo pulled, Mia dug, and Sam gathered the pulled weeds into a pile.



Mrs. Gable, who lived nearby, saw them working. She came out with a pitcher of lemonade and three big cookies. "My, my! What are you busy bees up to?" she asked with a kind smile. "We're making a friendship garden!" explained Mia, taking a big sip of lemonade.



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"What a wonderful idea!"
Mrs. Gable said, "I have some
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And perhaps some sunflower
seeds? They grow ever so tall!"



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Sam got to work building a little fence from some old wooden planks he found (with his dad's help, of course!). He even made a tiny gate that creaked when you opened it. Leo carefully showed Mia where the sunniest spots were, perfect for his precious strawberry plants.

Mia planted colorful flower seeds – zinnias, marigolds, and the tall sunflowers from Mrs. Gable. She hummed a happy tune as she worked, imagining all the butterflies and bees that would soon visit.

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The weedy patch didn't look sad anymore. It was becoming a rainbow of green shoots, colorful flowers, and happy faces. Leo wasn't shy anymore. He laughed and chatted with his new friends as they worked together.

Soon, the first tiny green strawberries appeared on Leo's plants. The sunflowers stretched towards the sky, and butterflies danced among Mia's flowers.



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One afternoon, all the children gathered in their friendship garden.
They shared the first-ripe, juicy strawberries.
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Leo looked around at the buzzing bees, the tall sunflowers, the colorful painted rocks, and his smiling new friends. Sunny Meadow felt like home now. And it all started with an empty patch of land and a little bit of teamwork.

Let's Talk and Play!

What can you do to make a place in your neighborhood more beautiful or friendly?

Talk about a time you worked with friends to do something fun!