

The Strawberry Telescope



Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN

The Strawberry Telescope

Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN



Mia loved two things more than anything: strawberries and her grandfather's stories. Every Saturday, she helped Grandpa Leo in his garden, wearing her yellow raincoat-style dress and red sneakers. Her curly black hair bounced in two puffy buns as she searched for the ripest berries. Grandpa Leo always said, 'Looking closely is the first step to science, Mia.' She never quite knew what he meant, but she nodded anyway.



One sunny morning, Grandpa Leo handed Mia a brass telescope with a shiny strawberry-red lens cap. 'This was mine when I was your age,' he said, his white moustache twitching with a smile. 'It helps you see things you might otherwise miss.' Mia's hazel eyes grew wide. She hugged the telescope and promised to take good care of it. Then she ran off to find the perfect strawberry.



Mia picked a plump, red strawberry and set it on the garden table. She held her new telescope to her eye and peered at the fruit. At first, she saw only the bumpy surface and the tiny seeds. But then she twisted the lens, and wow! The strawberry seemed to open up like a tiny world. 'Grandpa!' she gasped. 'There's something inside!'



Through the lens, Mia saw tiny gardens growing between the seeds. Little green sprouts waved in a breeze she couldn't feel. Paths of strawberry fiber wound like roads. And there, right in the middle, stood a tiny creature no bigger than her thumb! Mia blinked and looked again. The creature was real, and it was waving at her.



The tiny creature had pale green skin and leaf-shaped hair. It wore a woven grass tunic and an acorn-cap hat. In its hand was a watering can made from a berry. 'Hello!' Mia whispered. The creature jumped, then smiled shyly. 'I'm Pip,' it said in a squeaky voice. 'I take care of the seed gardens. Would you like to see?'



Mia nodded so hard her puffy buns bounced. Pip led her through the strawberry's tiny world, where each seed was like a little house. 'Every seed holds a secret,' Pip said, pointing with the berry watering can. 'Watch.' Pip watered a seed, and it split open. A tiny green shoot curled out, reaching for light. Mia gasped with delight.



Pip showed Mia how roots grow down and stems grow up. 'Seeds need water, warmth, and light,' Pip explained. 'Then they can grow into big plants.' Mia watched a root wiggle deeper into the strawberry's flesh. She saw tiny leaves unfold like tiny hands. She felt like a real scientist, observing every detail through her telescope.



Mia noticed that some seeds were sleeping and some were sprouting. Pip told her that each seed has its own time to wake up. 'Just like you and me,' Pip said with a giggle. Mia laughed too. She watched a seed that had just begun to crack. It was slow, but Pip said, 'Patience is part of science.' Mia nodded and kept watching.



As Mia looked closer, she saw tiny bees buzzing around the seed flowers. They carried pollen from one tiny bloom to another. 'Without bees, no strawberries,' Pip said. Mia remembered Grandpa Leo's beehives. She realized that even the smallest creatures have important jobs. She watched the bees dance and felt lucky to see it all.



Mia spent the whole morning exploring the strawberry's secret world. She saw seeds sprout, roots reach, and leaves unfold. She watched Pip water the gardens with tiny drops. Every new discovery made her smile wider. She couldn't wait to tell Grandpa Leo everything. 'This is the best science ever!' she whispered to Pip.



Suddenly, Mia heard Grandpa Leo calling her for lunch. She didn't want to leave. 'Will you come back?' Pip asked, looking worried. Mia smiled her gap-toothed smile. 'Of course!' She carefully lifted the telescope from her eye. The tiny world faded, and the strawberry looked ordinary again. But Mia knew the secret was still there.



Mia ran to Grandpa Leo, her words tumbling out. 'There are tiny gardens inside the strawberry! And a little friend named Pip!' Grandpa Leo laughed warmly. 'You've discovered the secret of seeds,' he said. 'Observation leads to discovery.' Mia hugged him. 'You were right, Grandpa,' she said. 'Looking closely is the first step to science.'



That afternoon, Mia and Grandpa Leo planted strawberry seeds together. Mia told him all about Pip and the seed gardens. Grandpa Leo listened with twinkling eyes. 'You're a true scientist, Mia,' he said. 'You observed, and you learned.' Mia beamed. She couldn't wait to look at other fruits and vegetables with her telescope. Who knew what tiny worlds were waiting?



Mia placed her telescope on her bedside table that night. She thought about Pip and the seed gardens. She realized that small things can hide big surprises. She promised herself to always look closely, to be patient, and to keep asking questions. She fell asleep dreaming of tiny worlds and the science waiting to be discovered.



The next day, Mia returned to the garden with her telescope. She found another strawberry and peered through the lens. New tiny worlds appeared, full of sprouting seeds and busy creatures. She didn't see Pip, but she knew he was there, tending his gardens. Mia smiled and whispered, 'Hello, tiny world.'



Mia learned that curiosity is a key that opens hidden doors. With Grandpa Leo's telescope and her own patience, she discovered that science is everywhere—even inside a strawberry. And she knew that as long as she kept looking closely, there would always be more to see. Tiny worlds were waiting, and Mia was ready to explore them all.