

## **MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 15**

Moving to a new neighbourhood in Trinidad was a little scary but also exciting. Our new house had a big mango tree in the backyard, which was way cooler than our old place. My mom said it was important to meet our neighbours, so one sunny afternoon, I took a deep breath and walked over to the house next door.

I smoothed down my shirt and knocked on the bright blue door. Instead of a grown-up, the door creaked open to reveal... a bunch of tiny people with sparkly wings! They were no bigger than my action figures, and they all had serious looks on their little faces. One of them, who had a crown made of shiny leaves, pointed a tiny stick at me. “You have entered the Fairy Realm!” he declared in a surprisingly loud voice. Suddenly, a whole bunch of other fairies, some carrying what looked like sharp thorns and others with tiny ropes made of grass, surrounded me. I was so surprised I couldn’t even say “Hello!”

“You are now our captive!” another fairy with bright pink wings chirped. Before I knew it, they were gently but firmly pushing me inside their house. It was way bigger on the inside than it looked from the outside! There were mushroom tables, flower petal chairs, and glowing fireflies lighting up the rooms. They led me to a room with walls made of smooth stones and made me sit on a mossy stool. The leaf-crowned fairy, who I guessed was their leader, hopped onto a toadstool in front of me. “Why have you come to our land, Giant?” he asked, his voice stern.

I finally found my voice. “Um, I just moved next door? My mom said I should say hi?” The fairies looked at each other, their tiny faces confused. “Giant... says hi?” the pink-winged fairy repeated. The leader fairy stroked his tiny leafy beard. “Hmm, perhaps you are not an enemy. But we must be careful! Giants can be clumsy.” For the rest of the afternoon, the fairies kept a close eye on me. They made me promise not to stomp on any flowers and showed me their tiny gardens and their glow-worm lanterns. They even shared some dewdrops that tasted like sweet nectar.

As the sun started to set, the leader fairy said, “Okay, Giant. We believe you mean no harm. But you must promise to always be careful around our home.” I promised, and they let me go. When I got back to my house, my mom asked how meeting the neighbours went. I just smiled and said, “It was... magical!” She probably thought I meant they were nice, but I knew the real story. I had been a captive of a tiny, sparkly army, and it was the most amazing first day in a new neighbourhood ever!

