


# Alex

8 Firefly Crescent
Wattle Bay NSW 2487

FROM: GRANDMA JOAN


THE LITTLE POST
Alex's Tiny Kingdom

Dear Alex,

When your mum was small — about as small as you are now — we found a snail on the back step after the rain. She named him Gerald, built him a house out of a teacup and three leaves, and checked on him every single morning. He'd always moved somewhere new in the night, and she'd laugh and laugh.

Here's something I've learned, Alex: the best things in the world are usually the small ones, and they're easy to miss if you're in a hurry. So go slowly. Look closely. Turn over the leaves and see who's living underneath.

You have a real gift for noticing — I've seen it. Keep it, and the whole world stays full of surprises. Now go and explore your Tiny Kingdom, and show me everything you find.

All my love,
Grandma

THE LITTLE POST


Four kingdoms fit inside one patch of garden — smaller than your welcome mat.
4 tiny kingdoms
GRASS FOREST
PUDDLE SEA
7 spots on Betty — she checks every morning
1,000 ants could stand on a single leaf
PEBBLE MOUNTAIN
LEAF CANOPY
1 the whole map is smaller than a dinner plate
Which kingdom would you visit first?

# A BLADE OF GRASS AS TALL AS A BUILDING.



Shrink down to the size of an ant, and a single blade of grass in your garden would tower over you like a ten-storey building. The Tiny Kingdom isn't far away — it's all around you. You're just usually too big to notice it.

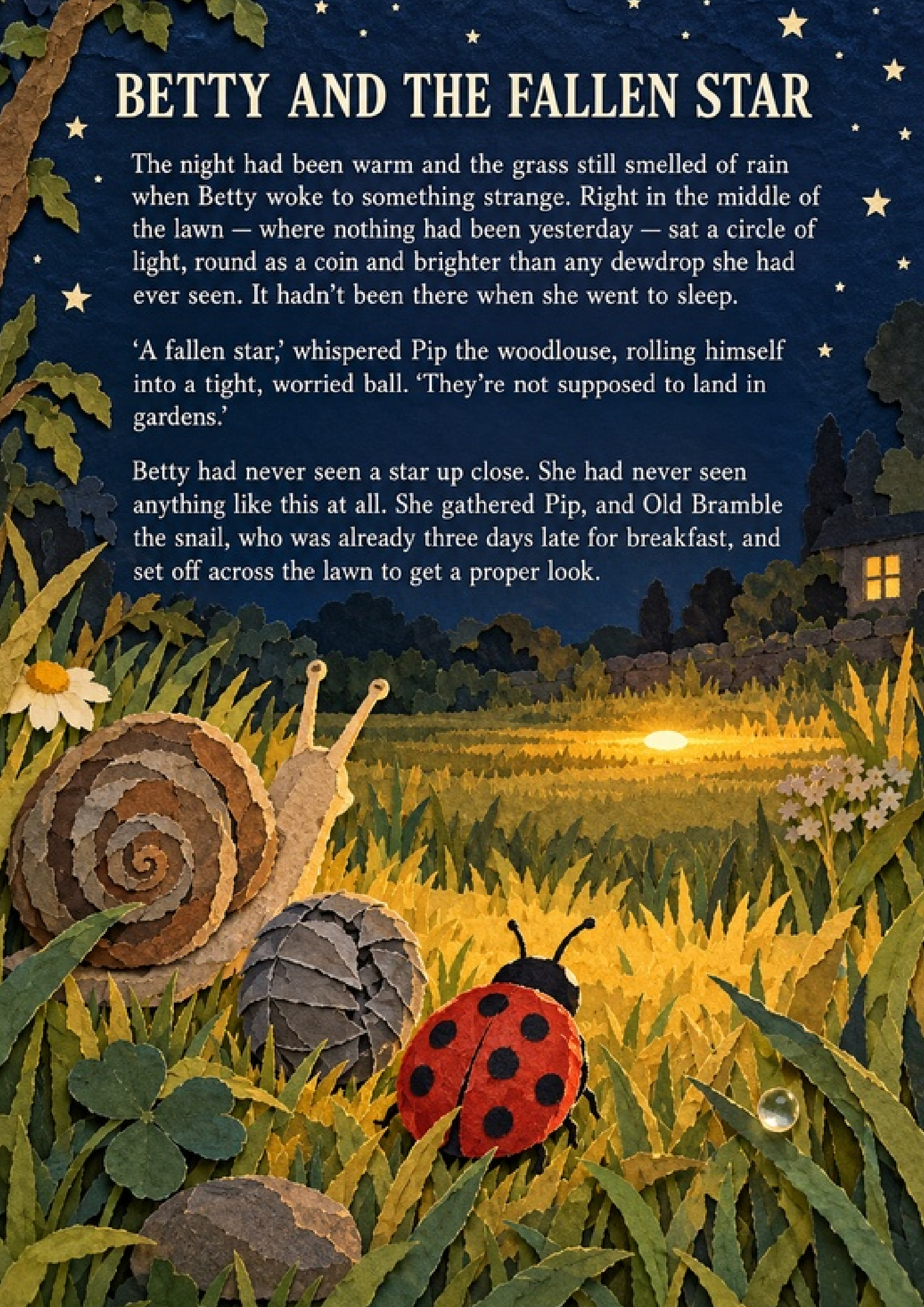
Your turn: next time you're outside, find the biggest thing near you — a tree, a fence, a wall. Now imagine you're as tiny as an ant. How enormous would it be then?

# BETTY AND THE FALLEN STAR

The night had been warm and the grass still smelled of rain when Betty woke to something strange. Right in the middle of the lawn — where nothing had been yesterday — sat a circle of light, round as a coin and brighter than any dewdrop she had ever seen. It hadn't been there when she went to sleep.

'A fallen star,' whispered Pip the woodlouse, rolling himself into a tight, worried ball. 'They're not supposed to land in gardens.'

Betty had never seen a star up close. She had never seen anything like this at all. She gathered Pip, and Old Bramble the snail, who was already three days late for breakfast, and set off across the lawn to get a proper look.



Up close, the star didn't look like Betty expected. It was flat and smooth and caught the light in a hundred tiny rainbows, like nothing that grew in the garden and nothing that fell from the sky either. Old Bramble pressed one eye-stalk against it and pulled back, startled. 'It's warm,' he said. 'Stars aren't meant to be warm.' The Spinner arrived, trailing silk, and studied it with her eight sharp eyes. 'I've seen its cousins before,' she said slowly. 'On the path where the big ones walk.' Betty leaned closer. One edge of the star had lifted slightly off the grass, just enough to see underneath — and underneath, something was glinting. Betty reached out one leg toward the gap. 'Should we look?' she asked. Nobody answered. Everybody leaned in.



# MEET THE LOCALS

Say hello — you'll be bumping into this lot all over the Tiny Kingdom.




MORE OF THE LOCALS
I'm Nib. I can carry fifty times my own weight — and I never, ever do anything alone.
I'm Glim. I make my own light. When the grass goes dark, just follow my glow.
I'm Dart. I'm the fastest flyer in the whole kingdom — and I can see almost all the way around at once.


Betty's hiding somewhere in the garden.
Can you spot her seven spots among all the others?
bee
butterfly
grasshopper
Your turn: go outside and see how many real ladybirds you can spot today.


Look closely – can you find all six of these tiny things hiding in the garden?
mushroom
feather
spider
Your turn: pick one of these six things and go find the real version outside today.

# STRANGE & SMALL FACTS



A single teaspoon of honey is the life's work of about twelve bees.

**Your turn:** next time you have honey, say thank you to twelve bees.



Some spider silk is stronger, gram for gram, than steel.

**Your turn:** look for a spiderweb today and see if you can spot where it's strongest.



Ants can carry up to 50 times their own body weight.

**Your turn:** find something you think you could never lift — now imagine lifting 50 of you.

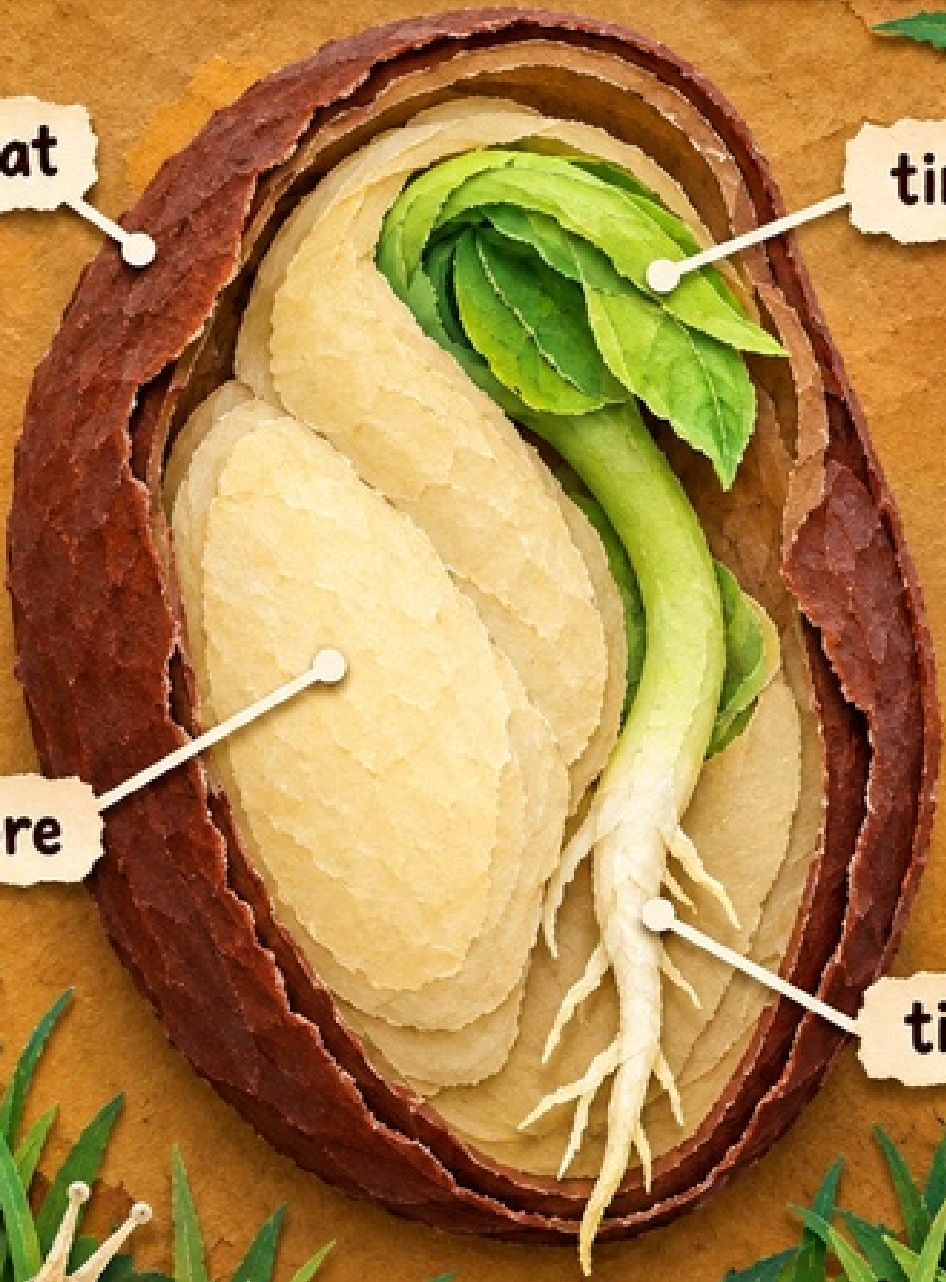


A ladybird can eat up to 50 aphids in a single day.

**Your turn:** count to 50 right now — that's a lot of breakfast.

# INSIDE A SEED

Crack one open (carefully!) and you'll find a whole plant, folded up and waiting.




Your turn: next time you eat a sunflower seed or a bean, look closely before you eat it — can you find the parts from this page?

# INSIDE A DROP OF DEW

Look closely at a drop of dew and the whole garden bends inside it — upside down, glowing, and strange. Some drops even carry a tiny floating passenger.



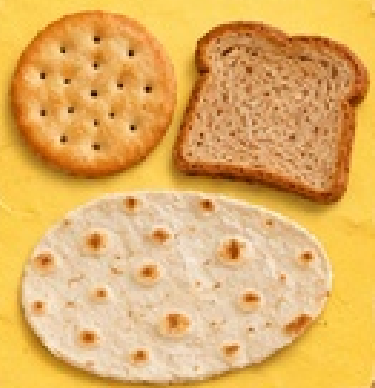

**Your turn:** can you spot Glim glowing inside the drop? Then put a drop of water on a spoon or a window and look through it — does the world bend, grow, or turn upside down?

# TINY KINGDOM SNACK GARDEN

Build a whole Tiny Kingdom you can eat, from whatever's in your kitchen.



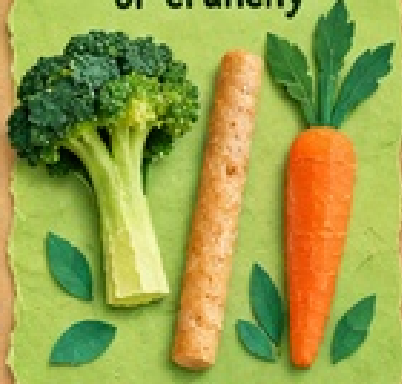
**GROUND –** anything flat



**POND –** anything round



**TREE –** anything tall or crunchy



**PATH –** little bits Betty can walk along



Once it's built, you're the tour guide.
Find someone at home and give them the whole tour.

Grown-up note: ask for help with any cutting.

# HOW SMALL IS SMALL?

Everything here is measured in Betty-lengths — how long one Betty is. Find three tiny things around your house or garden, hold each one against the ruler, and count how many Betty-lengths long it is. Then draw it in a box and write the number.

10 Betty-lengths

9 Betty-lengths

8 Betty-lengths

7 Betty-lengths

6 Betty-lengths

5 Betty-lengths

4 Betty-lengths

3 Betty-lengths

2 Betty-lengths

1 Betty-length



= 1 Betty-length

_____ Betty-lengths long

_____ Betty-lengths long

_____ Betty-lengths long

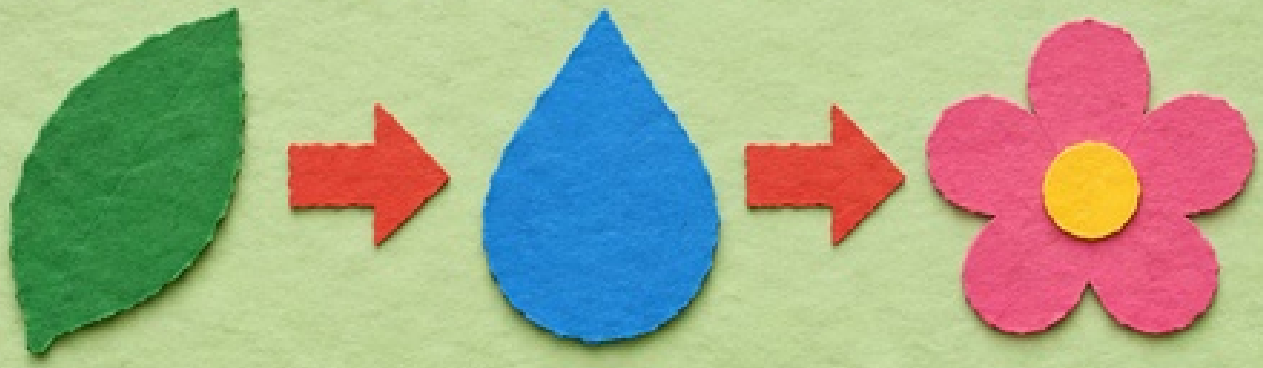
# BETTY'S GARDEN, THREE WAYS

Betty is hiding at the end of one path. Check your Mission Card, then follow the matching picture at every fork to find her.



# YOUR MISSION CARD

## Follow these, in this order:



## All the signs you might see:



## Now make your own mission:

Draw a tiny map of one room in your house. Mark three spots with your own three signs, then give it to someone and see if they can follow it.

# Invent a Creature

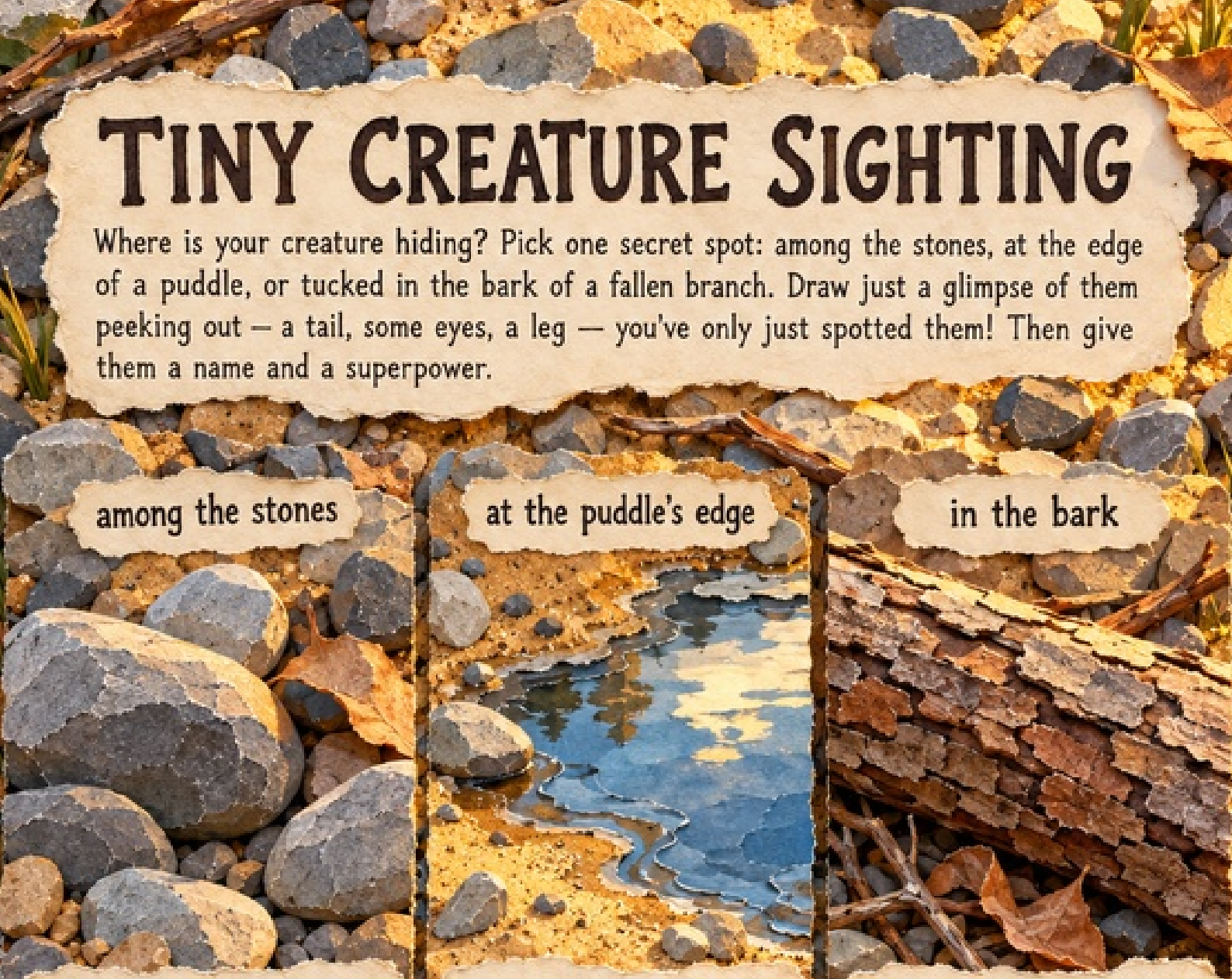
Something has been nibbling holes in the leaves and leaving tiny glittery footprints — and nobody has ever seen it. Look: even the ferns and pebbles are waking up around the edges! Now invent your own creature and draw it here. Too many legs? Wings? A shell? What does it eat — leaves, dewdrops, or sunshine? You decide.

NAME: _____

IT CAN: _____

# Tiny Creature Sighting

Where is your creature hiding? Pick one secret spot: among the stones, at the edge of a puddle, or tucked in the bark of a fallen branch. Draw just a glimpse of them peeking out — a tail, some eyes, a leg — you've only just spotted them! Then give them a name and a superpower.



### among the stones

Name: _____

Superpower: _____

### at the puddle's edge

Name: _____

Superpower: _____

### in the bark

Name: _____

Superpower: _____

Tonight: introduce your creature to someone in your house — tell them its name and its superpower out loud.

# BETTY'S FIELD JOURNAL

This is how I do it. Now you try — your journal's on the next page!



I found: a silvery trail on a stepping stone

It was made by: Old Bramble the snail, slow and steady

It looked like: a tiny road made of moonlight

# YOUR FIELD JOURNAL

Go exploring today. Find three real tiny things, draw them here, and give each one a name.

Something SMALLER than your fingernail. I'll call it:

Something that MOVES. I'll call it:

Something you've NEVER really looked at before. I'll call it:

I'm sorry I'm late for my own show. I've been on my way here since Tuesday.
TONIGHT ONLY: OLD BRAMBLE, LIVE (VERY SLOWLY).
Knock knock— oh wait, I don't have a door. I have silk.
That's the funniest thing I've heard all week — and I've been rolled up the whole time!
I carry my house on my back and I'm never in a hurry.
What am I?
A snail. (Obviously. It's Bramble.)



Dear Alex,

I still haven't looked underneath the fallen star. I keep meaning to, and then I don't quite dare. But you — you found every hidden thing in this whole kingdom today. Six tiny things in the grass, my trail through the garden, even me, hiding in plain sight with my seven spots. I think you're exactly the sort of person who could lift that star and look underneath without blinking.

So I've left something for you at the edge of the garden — a little more of the Tiny Kingdom, waiting for whenever you're ready. Go on. I'll keep watch over the star until you come back.

Betty.

Scan this — there's more of the Tiny Kingdom waiting for you.

THE LITTLE POST

# Alex

There's another kingdom waiting — even smaller, even stranger, even closer than you think.

Watch for it.



Don't forget to send your Tiny View postcard back to someone who loves you.

Edition 1

## THE LITTLE POST