

The Girl and the Wildlife Journal



Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

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Maya was a curious girl with warm brown skin and curly black hair in two puffs. She always carried a spiral notebook and a pencil tucked behind her ear. Every day after school, she walked through the park near her house, watching for animals. She wrote down everything she saw in her special wildlife journal. 'The world is full of secrets,' she whispered, 'and I want to find them all.'



In spring, Maya put on her mustard-yellow rain jacket and green rubber boots. She sat quietly by the pond and watched a robin gather twigs for its nest. The robin flew back and forth, building a cozy home for its eggs. Maya drew a picture of the nest and wrote, 'Robin's nest has three blue eggs.' She felt proud of her careful notes. Observing was like solving a puzzle.



One morning, Maya's best friend Theo joined her. He wore his orange hoodie and round glasses, and he carried a canvas satchel for collecting leaves and acorns. 'What are you doing?' he asked. 'I'm keeping a wildlife journal,' Maya said. 'I write about every animal I see.' Theo's eyes grew wide. 'Can I help?' he asked. Maya smiled her gap-toothed smile. 'Of course!'



All summer, Maya and Theo explored together. They spotted busy bees buzzing around flowers. Maya drew a bee with fuzzy stripes and wrote, 'Bees carry pollen on their legs.' Bright butterflies fluttered past, and Theo tried to catch one in his hands. 'Don't touch,' Maya said gently. 'Just watch.' They sat still, and a butterfly landed on Theo's knee. He giggled. 'This is amazing!'



Maya's friend Priya noticed them watching. Priya had a long black braid and a small camera around her neck. 'What are you two up to?' she asked. Maya showed her the journal. Priya's dark eyes sparkled. 'I love taking pictures of nature,' she said. 'Maybe I can photograph the animals you write about.' Maya nodded. 'That's a great idea!' Now there were three observers.



In fall, the air turned crisp and the leaves turned gold. Maya, Theo, and Priya visited the park after school. Squirrels dashed up trees, gathering nuts for winter. 'Look at that one stuff its cheeks!' Theo laughed. Maya wrote, 'Squirrels hide nuts in the ground.' Priya snapped a photo of a squirrel with a acorn in its mouth. 'We make a good team,' Priya said.



Theo told his friends at school about the wildlife journal. Soon, other kids wanted to join. 'Can we see the journal?' they asked. Maya showed them her drawings and notes. 'You can start your own journal,' she said. 'Or we can all share what we see.' Theo jumped up. 'Let's start a nature club!' Everyone cheered. Maya felt warm inside. Her journal was bringing people together.



The nature club met every Saturday. Maya, Theo, and Priya led the way. They explored the park, the woods, and the pond. Each member carried a notebook or a camera. They shared their sightings: a rabbit hiding in the grass, a woodpecker tapping a tree, a frog leaping into the water. Maya wrote everything down. 'We're learning so much,' she said. The club grew bigger each week.



In winter, snow covered the ground. Most animals hid, but Maya still went outside. She wore her mustard jacket and green boots, and she looked for footprints. 'Look!' she called. 'Tiny tracks!' Theo and Priya hurried over. The tracks led to a bush. 'Maybe a mouse,' Maya said, sketching the prints. 'Or a vole,' Priya added. They followed the trail, learning from every mark.



One cold day, the club met at the park. Maya showed them a page from her journal. 'I've been watching a fox,' she said. 'It comes out at dusk.' The kids waited quietly. Soon, a red fox trotted across the snow. Everyone held their breath. The fox paused, then disappeared into the trees. 'That was magical,' Priya whispered. Maya wrote, 'Fox seen at dusk, red fur, white tip on tail.'



Maya's careful notes helped the club understand nature better. They learned which birds stayed for winter and which flew south. They learned how animals found food under the snow. 'Your journal is like a treasure map,' Theo said. Maya smiled. 'It's just careful watching,' she said. 'Anyone can do it.' Priya took a photo of the group. 'We should make a club journal,' she suggested. Everyone agreed.



The club started a big shared journal. Each member drew pictures and wrote notes. They pasted Priya's photos on the pages. They wrote about the robin's nest, the busy bees, the squirrels, and the fox. Maya looked at the filled pages and felt proud. 'We've observed so much,' she said. 'And we've only just begun.' The club journal sat on a special table in the classroom.



One day, Maya's teacher asked her to share the journal with the class. Maya stood up, her spiral notebook in hand. She told them about the wildlife journal and the nature club. 'We learn by watching closely,' she said. 'The world outside is full of surprises.' Her classmates clapped. Some asked to join the club. Maya's gap-toothed smile stretched wide. She had inspired others to observe.



By the next spring, the nature club had twenty members. They met every week, rain or shine. Maya, Theo, and Priya taught the younger kids how to watch quietly and take notes. They explored new places and found new animals. 'Remember,' Maya said, 'every animal has a story.' The club members nodded, their notebooks open and pencils ready. They were all observers now.



Maya looked back at her first journal. The pages were worn and smudged, but every drawing and note held a memory. She had watched birds build nests, bees gather pollen, squirrels hide nuts, and a fox cross the snow. 'I couldn't have done this alone,' she said. Theo and Priya smiled. 'We're a team,' Priya said. 'And we'll keep watching together.'



The nature club still meets today. Maya keeps writing in her wildlife journal, and now her friends keep journals too. They share their sightings and learn from each other. 'Careful observation makes the world bigger,' Maya says. And everyone agrees. Because when you watch closely, the world outside is full of wonderful surprises.