Zara, Pip, and the Seaside Garden

From a story told by Vijay





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Nightlight Press



In Fernhush Bay, the morning smelled of salt and warm toast. Zara waved to Grandma, whose shiny bionic arm gleamed in the sun. “Someone new moved in next door!” she said.



A small robot peeked out. “I’m Pip,” he said, very softly. Zara smiled. “Would you like to help us plant a garden by the sea?” Pip’s star glowed a little brighter.



Pip rolled closer, then stopped. “May I join you?” he asked. “Yes,” said Zara. Grandma nodded. Together they followed the smooth path toward Shellstep Shore.



At the shore, Zara made little holes in the soft garden bed. Grandma held the seedlings in her shiny bionic hand. Pip watched the leaves sway and blinked his friendly eyes.



“How do you see the leaves?” Zara asked. “My sensors notice light and shapes,” said Pip. “They help me know where things are.” A sunbeam made his star twinkle.



Grandma showed Pip how she cradled each seedling. “Would you like to try?” Pip asked. “Of course,” Grandma said. He lifted one gently, then set it into Zara’s little hole.



“Soft as a sleepy leaf,” Zara whispered. Pip gave a tiny, proud beep. He patted the soil too firmly, then paused. “Shall I try more gently?” “Yes,” said Zara.



Soon neighbors came along the path. Zara asked if they wanted to plant, and everyone chose a spot. Grandma and Pip passed seedlings along while children tucked them into the earth.



By evening, the whole street was planting side by side. The new garden dotted the shore with green. Pip’s star glowed warmly as the sea whispered, “Well done.”



Zara walked home with Grandma and Pip. “Tomorrow we’ll see how the seedlings are,” said Grandma. Pip yawned a quiet beep. Under leafy branches, warm windows welcomed them in.

Learn about robots

Three true things to wonder about together



Many robots use cameras or other sensors to notice things around them.



Some robots help people in factories, hospitals, farms, and homes.



People teach AI examples so it can spot patterns, but people still make important choices.

The End

Sweet dreams.

When shy Pip moves in next door, Zara and Grandma invite him to plant a garden by the sea. As Pip learns to handle tiny seedlings gently, the whole street joins in, one little plant at a time.

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