

# THE WORLD NEXT DOOR



BY [CHILDBOOK.AI](#)

Pip was six years old and smaller than a fly. She lived in a garden that felt as huge as the whole world. Every morning, she climbed a blade of grass to watch the sun rise. She had never wondered what lay beyond the tall green stems. To Pip, the garden was everything there was.



One day, Pip hopped across smooth stones after rain. Splash! Her foot slipped, and she tumbled into a puddle. "Help!" she cried, paddling in water taller than her head. She grabbed a floating leaf and held tight. Slowly, she paddled to the edge and climbed out, dripping and surprised. "That puddle felt like an ocean," she whispered.





Shivering, Pip looked up and gasped. Beyond the grass stood towering flowers, taller than houses. A giant shadow moved above her, and the ground shook with heavy footsteps. "The world is so much bigger than I thought," Pip said softly. Her tummy fluttered with both fear and wonder as she stared at everything new.



A small voice called, "Are you lost?" Pip turned to see a friendly ant with shiny black eyes. "I'm Dot," the ant said, waving two legs. "I know this garden well. Want a friend to show you around?" Pip smiled, relief washing over her. "Yes, please! I'm Pip, and I could really use one."





Dot led Pip to a fallen twig stretched over a ditch. "This is our bridge," Dot explained, scurrying across easily. Pip wobbled, arms out for balance. Halfway across, wind rattled the twig, and she froze. "Don't look down, just walk!" Dot called. Taking a breath, Pip finished crossing, proud and a little braver.



Near the flowerbed, a round pebble blocked their path. "It's too heavy," Pip sighed, pushing with all her strength. Dot whistled, and three more ants appeared, lining up beside her. Together, they all pushed, and the pebble rolled aside. "Teamwork," Dot said proudly. Pip grinned, amazed at what many small helpers could do.





Under a leaf, they found a beetle with a glossy red shell. "This is Bea," Dot said. "She knows secret paths through the garden." Bea tipped her shell in greeting. "Want to see the underground tunnels?" she asked. Pip's eyes widened with excitement. "Yes! I never knew there was more to explore down here!"



Bea led them through cool, dark tunnels beneath the roots. Pip touched the smooth dirt walls, amazed at the twisting paths. "How do you not get lost?" she asked. "Practice," Bea chuckled. Suddenly, the tunnel narrowed, and Pip squeezed through nervously. On the other side, sunlight poured in through a hidden gap in the soil.





Dark clouds rolled overhead, and fat raindrops began to fall. "We need shelter, fast!" Dot shouted. Bea spotted an overturned flowerpot and waved them inside. They squeezed together as rain drummed loudly above. Pip hugged her knees, a little scared, until Dot patted her shoulder. "We're safe together," Dot said, and Pip believed her.



When the storm passed, they crawled out to a sparkling, wet world. Raindrops hung like giant jewels on every leaf. "It's so beautiful," Pip whispered, spinning slowly to see it all. Bea polished her shiny shell in the sunlight. Dot smiled, watching Pip's wonder. "There's always something amazing after a storm," Dot said warmly.





Back at Dot's anthill, they drew a map using tiny pebbles and twigs. "Here's the puddle, the twig bridge, and Bea's tunnels," Pip said, placing each marker carefully. "And here's somewhere new to explore tomorrow," Dot added, pointing beyond the fence. Pip felt proud of how much of the big world she now understood.





The next morning, Pip stood at the garden's edge, looking at the wide world beyond the fence. Dot and Bea stood beside her, ready for whatever came next. "Ready for a new adventure?" Dot asked. Pip nodded, grinning wide. "With friends like you, I'm ready for anything," she said, stepping forward into the unknown.





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