

“THE CURIOUS CAT AND THE ENCHANTED OASIS”

Thinuli Wickramaarachchi

THE CURIOUS CAT AND THE ENCHANTED OASIS

Author - Thinuli Wickramaarachchi

Illustrator – Thinuli Wickramarachchi

MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE KANDY

To – *my loving family*

2023/11/15

Preface

The primary goal of the current educational system is to mould a productive citizen and a caring family member who is equipped with knowledge and skills. The main responsibility of the school is to identify and recognize children's talents, as well as to sharpen their skills to meet the needs of the nation and the world.

Our Alma Mater is constantly guiding and assisting children who are creative. This project has been an ongoing process at our school for many years, particularly in terms of writing books. Many skilled and enthusiastic young writers participated in this exercise for years, producing novice writers to field of literature. We regard this as a great victory and a national need at this hour.

To continue this effort, we have adopted digital technologies and an e-book project this year. I am confident that this unique event provided youngsters with valuable experience and challenges that will benefit them in the future.

The Ministry of Education has hailed the project as an important step toward motivating young authors in schools. As principal of Mahamaya Girls' College, I am grateful to all of the students throughout the country who contributed to this endeavor. I commend and applaud all of the young authors of these-books for their perseverance and devotion in this difficult task.

I would like to thank our school management committee, employees, parents, for my students, administrators, and teachers from other schools who encouraged students to take part in this worthwhile effort.

Ms. Shashikala Senadheera

Principal - Mahamaya Girls College – Kandy
2023. 11. 10

Contents

1) Whisker's and the shadowed paths	...1
2) A trail of floral whispers	...2
3) A friend of silver light	...2
4) Endless journey	...5



1) *Whisker's and the shadowed paths*

Once upon a time, in a quiet, picturesque village nestled between rolling hills and lush green meadows, there lived a cat named Whiskers. Whiskers was not an ordinary cat; he was a sleek, black feline with bright, emerald eyes that seemed to hold secrets of the world. Whiskers was known throughout the village for his mysterious ways. He was not just a common house cat; he was an adventurer at heart. Every evening, he would embark on a new journey, venturing into the unknown. His escapades took him through the cobblestone streets, across rooftops, and into the nearby forest, where he would disappear into the shadows.

Whiskers' journeys brought joy and wonder to the villagers, and his tales of discovery were told around the fireplace during the long winter nights. The children would listen with wide-eyed fascination, imagining the far-off lands and hidden treasures that Whiskers had surely encountered.

One warm, summer's eve, Whiskers set out on an adventure like no other. He followed his curious nose through the village, past the bakery that filled the air with the aroma of freshly baked bread, and into the town square, where people gathered to chat and enjoy the evening breeze. Whiskers gracefully wove his way between the legs of villagers, receiving gentle pats and loving strokes.

2) *A trail of floral whispers* That night, he decided to follow the sweet scent of blooming flowers that wafted through the village. It led him to a garden hidden behind an ancient stone wall. This garden was known by few, a secret sanctuary filled with vibrant roses, delicate lilies, and fragrant lavender. It was a place of unparalleled beauty, where time seemed to stand still.

3) *A friend of silver light*

As Whiskers wandered through the garden, he discovered a hidden pond surrounded by weeping willows. The water was still and clear, reflecting the moon's soft glow. At the edge of the pond, he saw something extraordinary: a small, silver fish glimmering with an otherworldly light.

Entranced, Whiskers dipped his paw into the water, and the fish swam to him. They shared a moment of silent connection, and the fish whispered tales of underwater kingdoms and lost treasures. The cat and the fish became fast friends, and they spent hours together, sharing stories of their respective worlds.



As dawn approached, Whiskers reluctantly left his newfound friend and returned to the village, his heart filled with wonder. The villagers could hardly believe the story he told about the magical garden and the silver fish. They gathered together and followed Whiskers back to the hidden garden, where they, too, were enchanted by its beauty and the shimmering fish.

From that day on, the hidden garden became a cherished secret of the village. It was a place of peace and wonder, where the villagers could escape the hustle and bustle of daily life. Whiskers had brought something truly magical into their lives, and he continued to be a source of inspiration for all.

Whiskers, the adventurous cat, had not only explored the world beyond the village but had also brought a piece of that world back to his community. He proved that sometimes, the most incredible adventures are right in our own backyard, waiting to be discovered by those with curious hearts and open minds.

In the following weeks and months, the villagers continued to visit the hidden garden, each visit revealing new wonders. They tended to the flowers and watched as the silver fish thrived in their newfound sanctuary. The garden became a place of solace and reflection, a spot where the villagers could escape the stresses of daily life.

Whiskers' fame grew far beyond the borders of the village. Travelers from distant lands came to hear his stories and see the enchanted garden. They marveled at the mystical connection between the cat and the silver fish, and the garden's reputation spread like wildfire.

Soon, the village became a hub of activity, with tourists and adventurers flocking to witness the magic that had been discovered in their very midst. The villagers, once isolated from the outside world, now embraced new friendships and opportunities for trade and exchange. The village prospered, thanks to Whiskers' curious nature and his magical discovery.

But Whiskers' adventures didn't stop there. He continued to explore the world around the village, always returning with new tales of wonder. He ventured deep into the nearby forest, where he discovered hidden glens and ancient trees that whispered secrets of the ages. He climbed the tallest rooftops in the village, gazing at the starry night sky and dreaming of the endless possibilities that lay beyond.

As the seasons changed, Whiskers' fur grew thick and glossy, and his emerald eyes seemed to hold even more mysteries. He had become not just a hero of the village but a symbol of the power of curiosity and exploration.

One crisp autumn day, Whiskers encountered a group of children who were building a magnificent treehouse in the tallest oak tree in the forest. They looked up to him with awe and admiration and asked if he would like to join them in their lofty project. With a graceful leap, Whiskers ascended the tree and began to assist the children. Together, they created a treehouse that seemed to touch the sky, a place where they could watch the changing leaves and catch glimpses of distant lands.

From that day forward, the treehouse became a gathering spot for the children of the village, a testament to the spirit of adventure and exploration that Whiskers had instilled in them. The treehouse was a place where dreams took flight, where they could look out over the world and imagine all the wonders that awaited them.

Whiskers had a special bond with the children, and he became their mentor and friend. He taught them about the constellations in the night sky, the songs of the birds, and the hidden paths in the forest. He inspired them to follow their own curiosity and explore the world with open hearts and open minds.

As the years passed, Whiskers grew older and wiser, but his spirit remained as adventurous as ever. He continued to embark on his nightly journeys, exploring new horizons and sharing his discoveries with the village. His stories were now legendary, passed down through generations, and the children who had once played in the treehouse had become the storytellers of their time.

Whiskers' tales had a lasting impact on the village and its people. The spirit of curiosity and adventure that he had instilled in them continued to shape their lives. The village thrived, not just in material wealth, but in the richness of the experiences and knowledge they had gained through their travels and explorations.

The village that had once been a quiet, picturesque hamlet had transformed into a bustling center of culture and discovery. It had become a place where people from all walks of life came to seek inspiration, to share their stories, and to bask in the magic of the hidden garden and the wisdom of Whiskers, the adventurous cat.

And so, the legacy of Whiskers lived on, not just in the village but in the hearts of all who had been touched by his spirit. His story was a testament to the power of curiosity, the magic of exploration, and the wonders that could be found in the most unexpected places. Whiskers had shown the world that adventure was not just about traveling to distant lands; it was about embracing the unknown and following one's heart.

In the end, Whiskers, the adventurous cat, had left a profound mark on the world. History had grown into an epic tale, a fable of curiosity, courage, and the boundless potential of the human spirit. Like the villagers who had followed his example, we too can embrace curiosity and venture into the unknown, discovering the magic that awaits us in the most unexpected places.

So, let Whiskers' story be a reminder to us all: embrace your curiosity, explore the world with open eyes and open hearts, and be prepared to be amazed at the wonders and mysteries that await. With every step into the unknown, you may uncover a piece of the world's magic and, in doing so, leave your own mark on the tapestry of life.

Whiskers' story taught us that life is an incredible journey, filled with hidden treasures waiting to be discovered. It reminded us that the world is full of mysteries, big and small, and that the most profound adventures often begin with a simple step outside our comfort zone.

So, like Whiskers, the adventurous cat, let his spirit of curiosity inspire you. Embrace the unknown, for it is a world filled with wonder and endless possibilities. Explore the depths of your own backyard, and

you'll be amazed at the magic you can uncover in the most unexpected places. Keep exploring, keep dreaming, and let your curiosity be your guide to a life enriched by the beauty of the world around you.

4) Endless journey

As Whiskers' tales continued to captivate the village and beyond, a group of scholars and storytellers came together to document his adventures and lessons in a collection of volumes. These volumes were known as "The Chronicles of Whiskers," and they became an enduring legacy, passed down through generations.

"The Chronicles of Whiskers" were filled with vivid descriptions of the places Whiskers had visited, the creatures he had encountered, and the wisdom he had gained. They were illustrated with exquisite paintings and maps that brought the worlds Whiskers had explored to life. The volumes became treasured possessions in the village, often read by candlelight on long winter nights.

One winter evening, as the snow fell gently outside, the villagers gathered around the fireplace to hear a tale from "The Chronicles of Whiskers." The story was about a magical forest Whiskers had discovered during his travels, where the trees sang songs that revealed the secrets of the universe. The children listened with wonder, and their eyes shone with dreams of embarking on their own adventures one day.

The villagers had learned that adventure wasn't solely about venturing into the physical world but also about exploring the boundless landscapes of the mind and the heart. Whiskers' stories encouraged them to embrace not only the mysteries of the external world but also the infinite possibilities within themselves.

Over time, the village established a school dedicated to the teachings of Whiskers, where children were nurtured not only in traditional subjects but also in the arts of imagination and exploration. The school's motto was, "In the spirit of Whiskers, we explore, we dream, and we uncover the magic of learning."

The village's young minds thrived under this philosophy, and the school became a beacon of creativity and innovation. Graduates went on to become inventors, artists, scientists, and explorers, carrying the spirit of adventure with them to the farthest corners of the world.

One of the school's most exceptional graduates was a young woman named Elara. Her heart brimmed with curiosity and a burning desire to uncover the unknown. Elara had always been captivated by Whiskers' stories, and she had dreamed of becoming an explorer just like him.

With the village's support, Elara embarked on her own adventures, taking to the seas in search of uncharted islands and braving the depths of dense jungles to discover rare and exotic flora and fauna. She traveled to remote villages and learned about different cultures, embracing the diversity of the world.

5

Elara's tales of exploration and discovery were added to "The Chronicles of Whiskers," alongside the adventures of the legendary cat himself. She emphasized that Whiskers had not only inspired her but an entire generation of adventurers.

As the years passed, the village's fame grew even more significant, as it became known not just for the enchanted garden and the cat Whiskers but as a hub of knowledge, exploration, and innovation. The village was a center of commerce, culture, and education, welcoming visitors and scholars from around the world.

The village's library, named the "Whiskers Archive," was filled with books, manuscripts, and artifacts from every corner of the globe. It served as a repository of knowledge, a place where people could delve into the mysteries of the world, explore new horizons, and uncover the answers to questions that had eluded them for centuries.

One of the most cherished pieces in the Whiskers Archive was an ancient map, said to have been drawn by Whiskers himself during one of his adventures. The map depicted a series of symbols and riddles, hinting at uncharted territories and hidden treasures. Scholars and adventurers alike would study the map, hoping to follow in the pawprints of the adventurous cat.

In the heart of the village, a grand statue of Whiskers stood tall, a testament to his enduring legacy. Visitors from far and wide would come to pay their respects, often leaving small tokens of appreciation at the statue's base. It had become a symbol of inspiration, a reminder that adventure was not confined to a single lifetime but could be passed down through the ages.

The village's annual Whiskers Festival had grown into a grand celebration, with parades, exhibitions, and lectures on a myriad of topics. Scholars, artists, and explorers from all over the world would converge on the village to share their knowledge and discoveries, celebrating the spirit of curiosity and the joy of exploring the unknown.

As the village reached the zenith of its prosperity and cultural significance, there was a profound realization among its citizens. They understood that while Whiskers, the adventurous cat, had set the course for their remarkable journey, the true magic lay within themselves.

The villagers realized that Whiskers had not only inspired them to explore the external world but also to delve into the depths of their own hearts and minds. Each individual possessed their unique spark of curiosity and the potential to be an adventurer in their own right.

With this newfound understanding, the villagers began to see the world through Whiskers' emerald eyes, recognizing the beauty, wonder, and endless possibilities that existed in every moment. They understood that life itself was the greatest adventure, and each day was an opportunity to uncover the magic of existence.

The village's prosperity, its culture, and its legacy continued to grow, with each generation building upon the foundation laid by Whiskers. "The Chronicles of Whiskers" became an ever-expanding saga, a testament to the enduring power of exploration and the timeless allure of curiosity.

And so, as time flowed on, the village's spirit of adventure remained undiminished. It served as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come, a reminder that curiosity was a force that could shape destinies and illuminate the world.

The village and its enchanted garden continued to thrive, and the magic of Whiskers' legacy lived on in the hearts of those who dared to follow in his pawprints. For the true adventure, they discovered, was not found in distant lands or hidden treasures but in the uncharted territories of the soul, where the mysteries of the world and the boundless wonders of the heart could be uncovered.

And so, like Whiskers, the adventurous cat, let his spirit of curiosity inspire you. Embrace the unknown, for it is a world filled with wonder and endless possibilities. Explore the depths of your own backyard, and you'll be amazed at the magic you can uncover in the most unexpected places. Keep exploring, keep dreaming, and let your curiosity be your guide to a life enriched by the beauty of the world around.

And so, let this story of Whiskers be a reminder to us all: embrace your curiosity, explore the world with open eyes and open hearts, and be prepared to be amazed at the wonders and mysteries that await. With every step into the unknown, you may uncover a piece of the world's magic and, in doing so, leave your own mark on the tapestry of life.

Afterword

As modern technology permeates the social and economic arenas, students tend to distance themselves from the creative process, relying

more and more on technological tools. To reduce this risk and help aspiring young writers produce their own books, I sought and presented a research proposal to the Ministry of Education in 2014. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to showcase their enthusiasm and knowledge. The students of Mahamaya Girls' College achieved a record for the most books written, paving the way for a new level of innovation. The e-book project will enable the students to reach international readers, and I am confident that they have gained new experiences and challenges that will enable them to face the future with resolve.

I wish all of the young writers the best of luck in their future endeavors

Senevirathna Mahalekm

Founder of Books Publishing Project Among School Children

2023 10 20