

## Chapter 3

# Amazing Daisy and Her Flower Family

**T**he next day at school, Cora, Campbell, and Chandra could not contain their excitement. They wanted to care for the garden, but they didn't know how. They huddled at lunch and talked. At recess, they talked some more. Finally, they decided what to do. They would clean up the weeds around that smiling white daisy. That would be a good start.

As soon as school let out, they raced to the garden. They ran right through the garden gate. But what a surprise! The old, weedy garden was . . . gone!

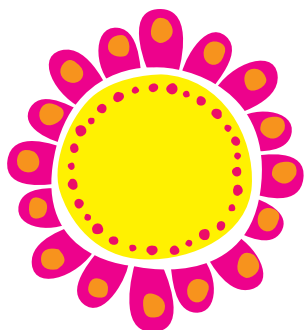


Instead, **mounds** and **mounds** of flowers waved in front of them. These new flowers all looked a little like that first happy daisy. But they were different, too. And they were in every color of the rainbow.

The girls looked around. They didn't know what to think. Suddenly, they saw the little golden bee buzzing toward them.

"The bee," whispered Chandra.

But Cora and Campbell didn't hear Chandra. They were down on their hands and knees, looking at the flowers. Cora looked up at Chandra. "This flower has eyes, Chandra."

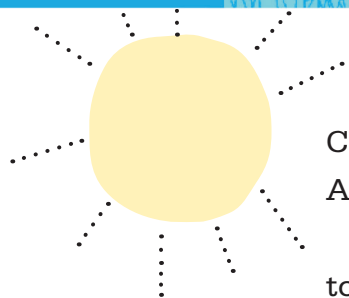


## WORDS FOR THE WISE!

What is a mound?

A mound is a pile. A mound could weigh a pound. But a mound of flowers would be much lighter than a pound of flour.



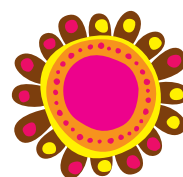


"What do you mean? Flowers don't have eyes."

Campbell stood up quickly. "Yes, it does. It has eyes. And . . . and . . ."

"A mouth, too!" Cora and Campbell said together.

Chandra got down on her knees to look at the little white daisy, the same daisy she had first seen through the garden gate. She looked right in the middle of the daisy's white petals. What she saw made her laugh.





A happy, smiling yellow face was peeking out from those beautiful white petals. And instead of just green leaves on her flower stem, this daisy had tiny, leafy arms poking out. The daisy smiled and waved at Chandra.

"Hi," the daisy said in her small daisy voice.

"Did you just say, 'Hi?'" asked Chandra.

"Yes. Hi," said the daisy. "My name is Amazing Daisy."

Cora and Campbell sat down next to Chandra.

"You are amazing," said Cora.



"Not really," Daisy said with a laugh. "You are the ones who brought me to life, just like Daisy Gordon Low did so many years ago! I'm so sorry I didn't say hello on your last visit. I always try to be friendly, but it was sooo late in the day. I'm a daisy, you know, so I close my petals when the sun starts to go down. I need to get to bed early and get my rest. But I know you met Honey, my buzzing bee friend. I'll tell you more about her later. First, come meet my three favorite cousins."



## All About Daisies!

A daisy is really hundreds of tiny flowers surrounded by big petals. Those petals are called rays. Daisies like a lot of sun, and they're very strong. Just like Amazing Daisy, real daisies can get by with very little attention. And they *really do* close their petals at night.



Daisy waved her little leafy hand, and three flowers swayed over to her. One of them was tall and important-looking.

"This is Sunny, the sunflower," Daisy said. "She's my cousin from Great Britain. She's always friendly and helpful."

"How do you do?" Sunny, the sunflower, said.

"There's Zinni, too. She's the most considerate and caring friend I have," Daisy said. "She's my cousin from Mexico."

"Mexico! That's where my family is from," said Cora.



The spring-green flower smiled and waved.  
“My full name is Zinnia, but I like to be called Zinni,” she said.

“And Mari, the marigold—she’s a cousin, too. She’s from Africa and has family in France, Central America, and Mexico. She’s older and very responsible. She’s especially good at keeping bugs out of our garden.”  
The bright-orange flower bowed and said hello.

Amazing Daisy turned to her three cousins and pointed to the girls. “Meet Chandra, Cora, and Campbell.”





## Daisies, Daisies Everywhere!

Daisies are part of the largest flower family in the world. Sunflowers, zinnias, dahlias, chrysanthemums, marigolds, and asters are all in the same flower family.



Daisy



Sunflower



Zinnia



Dahlia



Chrysanthemum

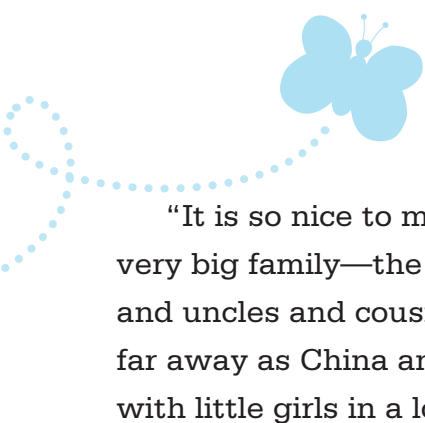


Marigold



Aster





“It is so nice to meet you,” said Mari. “We are a very big family—the Daisy family. We have aunts and uncles and cousins all over the world, even as far away as China and Japan. But we haven’t talked with little girls in a long time.”

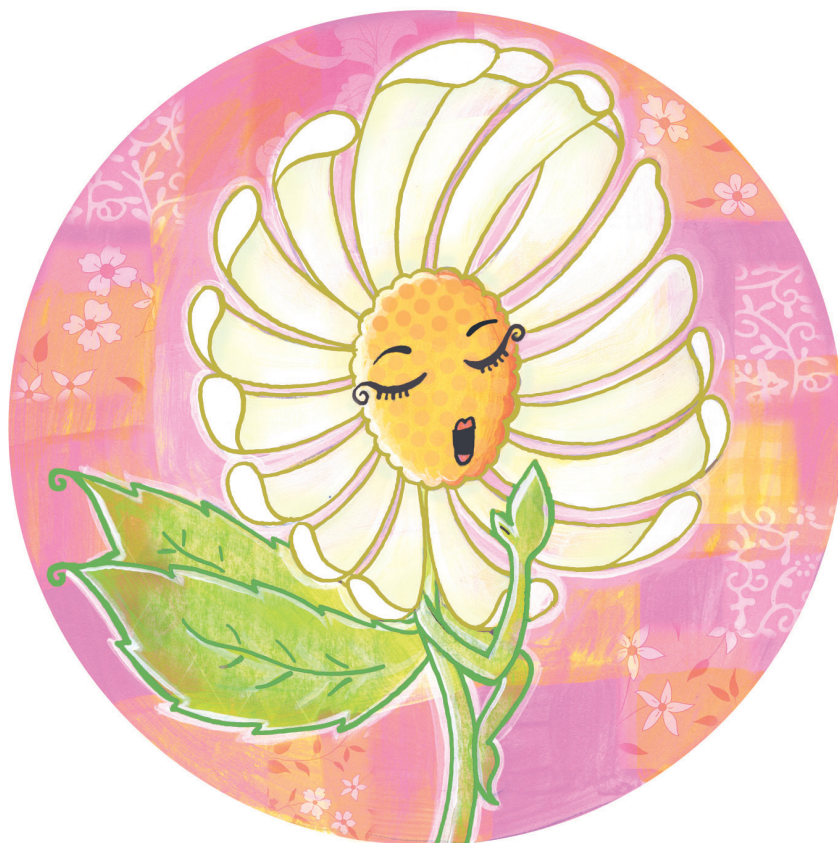
“That’s why Daisy Gordon Low was so special to us,” said Daisy. “She knew so many Girl Scouts. She believed in having friends all over the world. “Girl Scouting,” she used to say, “can be the magic thread that links the youth of the world together.”

“And our Daisy family is like a magic thread that links the flowers of the world,” added Mari.



Suddenly, Zinni perked up. “Speaking of flowers of the world, we really miss all the flower friends we knew when Daisy Gordon Low was around. We have photos of all of them. I so miss Gloria, the morning glory. She always woke up first every morning. And she made the best blueberry pancakes.”

“Well, our little garden world would certainly be better if we could see all our flower friends again,” Daisy said. And then, Daisy’s petals started to fold together, as if she were yawning. “My goodness, I guess it’s time for me to go to sleep.”





"It *is* late," said Cora. "We should get home."

Campbell sighed. "Darn. I wish we could stay."

The girls waved at the flowers. And the flowers all waved back.

"Bye," the girls said. "We'll come back tomorrow. Maybe we can help you find your flower friends again."

The girls walked slowly out of the garden. They were all thinking that tomorrow couldn't come soon enough.

