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Maya loved her garden more than any place in the world. Every morning, she pulled on her red sneakers and ran outside to see what was new. Her yellow t-shirt with the leaf print always made her feel like part of the garden. Around her neck hung a small magnifying glass on a string, ready for discoveries. Today, Maya was sure, something wonderful was waiting.

And it was! On the warm stone wall, a tiny gecko sat perfectly still. It was about the length of Maya's finger, with pale green skin and soft orange spots. Its big amber eyes blinked slowly, watching her right back. Maya held her breath and crept closer. The little gecko didn't run away. It seemed just as curious as she was.

Every day after that, the gecko came to visit. Maya named it Little Green and watched it climb the smooth garden wall. Up it went, quick and sure, its wide flat toes sticking to the stone. Then, amazing! It hung upside down under the roof edge without falling. Maya gasped. How could such a tiny creature do something so big?

'Hello, Little Green,' Maya whispered, holding up her magnifying glass. Through the lens, she saw the gecko's toes up close. They were wide and flat, with tiny ridges like little hills. The gecko tilted its head, as if to say hello back. Maya smiled. She had a hundred questions, and she knew just where to find answers.

That afternoon, Maya rushed to the library with her notebook. She read about geckos and their amazing feet. The tiny ridges on their toes are called setae, and they are smaller than a hair. They use a special kind of sticking power that works on almost any surface. Maya's dark brown eyes grew wide. 'So that's how you do it!' she said.

Back in the garden, Maya tested what she had learned. She watched Little Green climb a shiny leaf, then a rough brick, then the smooth glass of the window. Each time, the gecko stuck perfectly. Maya drew pictures in her notebook, labeling the toe pads and the tiny ridges. Her curly buns bounced as she worked. Science was everywhere in her garden!

One day, Maya brought her friend Sam to see. 'Look!' she whispered. Little Green was hanging upside down, catching a tiny fly. Sam blinked. 'How does it not fall?' he asked. Maya grinned and showed him her drawings. 'Its feet have tiny hairs that stick to things,' she explained. 'It's like magic, but it's science!' Sam was amazed.

Maya decided she wanted everyone to know about Little Green. She thought about her school science fair. 'I could do my project on geckos!' she told her mom. Her mom smiled. 'That sounds fascinating,' she said. Maya began to plan. She would draw the gecko's feet, write about setae, and show how geckos stick to walls. She couldn't wait to share.

At school, Maya told Ms. Reyes about her idea. Ms. Reyes wore her round glasses and blue cardigan, and she listened with a warm smile. 'What a wonderful discovery, Maya,' she said. 'I'd love for you to present your gecko project to the class.' Maya's heart did a happy jump. She would be brave and share her science with everyone.

Maya worked hard on her project. She made a big poster with drawings of Little Green and its sticky toes. She wrote simple facts: geckos have tiny hairs called setae, and they can stick to almost anything. She even built a model of a gecko foot using felt and tiny yarn hairs. Her magnifying glass hung around her neck as she worked.

The day of the presentation arrived. Maya stood in front of her class, her poster behind her. Her hands felt a little shaky, but she took a deep breath. 'This is Little Green,' she began. 'It visits my garden every day. It can climb walls and hang upside down because of its amazing feet.' The class leaned in, curious.

Maya showed her model and explained how the tiny setae work. 'They're so small you need a microscope to see them,' she said. 'But they help the gecko stick to almost anything.' She passed around her magnifying glass and a photo of Little Green. Her classmates oohed and aahed. Even Ms. Reyes looked impressed.

When Maya finished, the room was quiet for a moment. Then Ms. Reyes clapped, and everyone joined in. 'Thank you, Maya,' Ms. Reyes said. 'You've shown us that even the tiniest creatures can do big, fascinating things.' Maya's freckled face broke into a huge smile. She felt proud and happy. Her gecko had taught her so much.

That afternoon, Maya went back to the garden. Little Green was waiting on the wall, as if it knew. 'You're famous now,' Maya whispered. The gecko blinked its big amber eyes and climbed up the wall, showing off. Maya laughed. She knew she would never stop watching and wondering about the tiny, wonderful world around her.

Maya sat on the warm grass and opened her notebook. She drew a picture of Little Green hanging upside down, with a big smile on its gecko face. Under it, she wrote: 'Even tiny animals are fascinating.' She looked at her magnifying glass and smiled. There were so many more discoveries to make, right there in her own garden.

And from that day on, Maya kept exploring. She watched ants carry crumbs and spiders spin webs. But Little Green the gecko always held a special place in her heart. Every time she saw it climb the smooth wall, she remembered: you don't have to be big to do amazing things. Sometimes, the smallest creatures teach the biggest lessons.