Lila and the Not-Yet Answer

Some questions need an honest wait.



AGES 4-7 | AN ORIGINAL MIMOMANGO STORY



Lila found a striped feather on the path beside Mum. "Which bird dropped it?" she asked. Mum looked at the trees, then at the feather. "I don't know yet."



Lila loved quick answers. She imagined a tiger-striped bird with enormous wings. "Maybe a jungle eagle!" Mum smiled. "That's an idea. It isn't something we have checked."



They left the feather where it lay and drew it in a notebook. Lila counted the dark bands. Mum helped write where they had seen it and the day's date.



At home, they looked in a local bird guide. Several feathers had bands. Some pictures looked close, but none gave them a clear enough answer.



Lila wanted to choose the prettiest bird. Mum shook her head gently. "Choosing would make an answer, but it might not make a true one." Lila sighed.



They watched birds through the window. A small brown bird hopped beside a flowerpot. A larger grey bird landed on the fence. Neither kindly introduced its feathers.



Lila drew a question mark beside her feather sketch. Then she wrote what she did know: light, striped, found beside the park path. The page was not empty.



The next day, they asked a nature-club leader about the drawing. She could suggest possibilities, but the sketch did not show enough detail to identify the bird confidently.



"So we still don't know?" Lila asked. "That's right," the leader said. "And you made careful observations." Lila looked at her page again. Careful was something she could be.



On their next walk, Lila noticed birds' tails and wings. She did not catch birds or collect feathers. She watched from a distance, with Mum beside her.



She added new questions to the notebook. Some had answers underneath. Some still had question marks. The pages began to look like a conversation that was not finished.



When Dad asked about the striped feather, Lila opened the book. "We don't know which bird yet," she said. "But I can tell you exactly what we noticed."

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

What was the difference between a guess and a checked answer?

What useful things did Lila learn without naming the bird?

Choose a favourite moment and draw what happened next.

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